

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

June 02, 2021

HDRC CASE NO: 2021-254
ADDRESS: 223 S ALAMO ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 14016 BLK 9 LOT 14(0.082AC), 16(0.335AC), & S IRR 409.04 FT OF 15(0.36AC)
ZONING: D, H, RIO-3
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
LANDMARK: Hilton Palacio de Rio Hotel
APPLICANT: Andrew Douglas/Douglas Architects
OWNER: Gregory Schry/PALACIO DEL RIO INC
TYPE OF WORK: Landscaping, ADA modifications, patio modifications, stone wall removal and modifications, storefront modifications
APPLICATION RECEIVED: May 13, 2021
60-DAY REVIEW: Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders
CASE MANAGER: Edward Hall
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting conceptual approval to:

1. Remove two sections of an existing stone wall that is located parallel to the pathway at the River Walk.
2. Install a new patio trellis and landscaping elements within the existing patio space.
3. Extend the existing patio at the river level to the north and remove a section of stone wall within the patio space. The northern extension of the patio will also require the remove of a wall perpendicular to the stone wall that runs parallel to the River Walk path.
4. Modify the existing storefront system at the river level to feature new and wider entrances.
5. Install new wall sconces at the river level.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Unified Development Code Section 35-676. - Alteration, Restoration and Rehabilitation.

In considering whether to recommend approval or disapproval of an application for a certificate to alter, restore, rehabilitate, or add to a building, object, site or structure, the historic and design review commission shall be guided by the National Park Service Guidelines in addition to any specific design guidelines included in this subdivision.

(a)Every reasonable effort shall be made to adapt the property in a manner which requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, object, or site and its environment.

(b)The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, object, or site and its environment, shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features shall be avoided when possible.

(c)All buildings, structures, objects, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance are prohibited.

(d)Changes that may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, object, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.

(e)Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship, which characterize a building, structure, object, or site, shall be kept where possible.

(f)Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should reflect the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications of

features, substantiated by historical, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.

(g)The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building's materials shall not be permitted.

(h)Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archaeological resources affected by, or adjacent to, any project.

(i)Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural or cultural material, and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood or environment.

(j)Wherever possible, new additions or alterations to buildings, structures, objects, or sites shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the building, structure, object, or site would be unimpaired.

Unified Development Code Section 35-673. - Site Design Standards.

This section focuses on the design concepts for an individual site and helps create a cohesive design that recognizes the unique opportunities of developing a site near the river or creek. These include building placement, orientation and setbacks, and the design of the outdoor space.

- (a) **Solar Access.** The intent of providing and maintaining solar access to the San Antonio River is to protect the river's specific ecoclimate. The river has a special microclimate of natural and planted vegetation that requires certain levels and balanced amounts of sunlight, space and water. Development must be designed to respect and protect those natural requirements, keeping them in balance and not crowding or altering them so that vegetation does not receive more or less space and water, but particularly sunlight, than is required for normal expected growth. Properties in RIO-7 are exempt from Solar Access requirements.

- (1) **Building Massing to Provide Solar Access to the River.** Building massing shall be so designed as to provide direct sunlight to vegetation in the river channel as defined:

- A. The area to be measured for solar access shall be a 30-foot setback from the river's edge or from the river's edge to the building face, which ever is lesser, parallel to the river for the length of the property.
- B. The solar calculations shall be measured exclusive to the applicant's property; that is, shades and shadows of other buildings shall not be included in the calculations. The solar calculations shall only measure the impact of new construction and additions. The shading impact of historic buildings on the site may be excluded from the calculations.
- C. The defined area shall receive a minimum of five and one-half (5.5) hours of direct sunlight, measured at the winter solstice, and seven and one-half (7.5) hours of direct sunlight, measured at the summer solstice.
- D. Those properties located on the south side of the river (whose north face is adjacent to the river) shall only be required to measure the sunlight in the 30-foot setback on the opposite bank of the river.
- E. Those properties within the river improvement overlay district not directly adjacent to the river are still subject to the provisions of this section with the exception of RIO-7. To determine the solar access effect of these buildings on the river the applicant must measure the nearest point to the river of an area defined by a 30-foot setback from the river's edge, parallel to the river for the length of their property that would be affected by their building. For those buildings on the south side of the river, the 30-foot setback shall be measured only on the opposite bank.
- F. However, in those cases where the above conditions cannot be met due to the natural configuration of the river, existing street patterns, or existing buildings, the HDRC may approve a buildings mass and height as allowed by Table 674-2.
- G. If there is a conflict with this section and another section of this chapter this section shall prevail.

- (2) **Prohibition of Structures, Buildings, Roofs or Skywalks Over the River or Creek Channel.** No structure, building, roof or skywalk may be constructed over the river or creek channel, or by-pass channel with the exception of structures for flood control purposes, open air pedestrian bridges at ground or river level, and street bridges. The river channel is the natural course of the river as modified for flood control purposes and the Pershing-Catalpa ditch. The creek channel is the natural course of San Pedro Creek as modified for flood control purposes between the flood control tunnel Inlet at I-35 to the confluence with Apache Creek.
- (b) **Building Orientation.** Buildings should be sited to help define active spaces for area users, provide pedestrian connections between sites, help animate the street scene and define street edges. Consideration to both the street and river or creek side should be given. The placement of a building on a site should therefore be considered within the context of the block, as well as how the structure will support the broader design goals for the area.
- (1) **Two (2) or More Buildings on a Site.**
- A. Cluster buildings to create active open spaces such as courtyards along the street and river or creek edges. Site plazas and courtyards, if possible, so that they are shaded in the summer and are sunny in the winter.
- (2) **Primary and Secondary Entrances (see Figure 673-1).**
- A. Orient a building's primary entrance toward the street with subordinate entrances located on the river or creek side and/or the interior of the property. On a major thoroughfare street it is acceptable to provide the primary entrance through a common courtyard and then to a street.
- B. The primary entrance shall be distinguished by architectural features such as, but not limited to: an entry portal; change in material or color; change in scale of other openings; addition of columns, lintels or canopies.
- C. Secondary entrances shall have architectural features that are subordinate to the primary entrance in scale and detail. For purposes of this division subordinate means that the entrance is smaller in height and width, and has fewer or simpler architectural elements.
- (c) **Topography and Drainage.** The natural contours of occasional hillsides and river or creek banks contribute to the distinct character of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek and shall be considered in site designs for new development. Site plans shall minimize the need for cut and fill. It should be considered as an opportunity for positive enhancements through the creative use of terraces and retaining walls. Sites abutting the creek must comply with subsection 35-673(c)(8) San Antonio River Authority Consultation.
- (1) **Visual Impacts of Cut and Fill.** Divide a grade change of more than ten (10) vertical feet into a series of benches and terraces. Terrace steep slopes following site contours. When creating site benches, using sloped "transitional areas" as part of the required landscaping is appropriate.
- (2) **Minimize the Potential for Erosion at the Riverbank or Creekbank.** Grade slopes at a stable angle not to exceed four to one (4:1) and provide plant material that will stabilize the soil such as vigorous ground covers, vines or turf planting that are native and noninvasive species as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department. Use of stabilizing materials such as geo-web or geo-grid is permitted as long as plant material is used to conceal the grid.
- Use of terraced walls is permitted when there is a slope of more than four to one (4:1).
- (3) **Retaining Walls.** Limit the height of a retaining wall to less than six (6) feet. If the retaining wall must exceed six (6) feet, a series of six-foot terrace walls is acceptable. Walls at dams, water detention gates, and locks are excluded from this requirement. If in the opinion of the historic preservation officer a higher wall is consistent with the adopted conceptual plans of the river and creek, a higher wall (not to exceed twelve (12) feet) is allowed. Materials used for the walls may include limestone, stucco, brick, clay, tile, timber, or textured concrete. In RIO-7, new retaining walls should use similar material of nearby existing retaining or channel walls but should not imitate historic walls. Contemporary craft and building techniques should be used. Materials used for the walls may include limestone, concrete, or bio-engineered vegetative walls. (see Figure 673-2)

- (4) **Enhance or Incorporate Acequias Into The Landscape Design and Drainage Scheme of the Site.** Where archeological evidence indicates a site contains or has contained a Spanish colonial acequia, incorporate the original path of the acequia as a natural drainageway or a landscape feature of the site by including it as part of the open space plan, and a feature of the landscape design.
- (5) **Design of Stormwater Management Facilities to be a Landscape Amenity.** Where above ground stormwater management facilities are required, such facilities shall be multi-purpose amenities. For example, water quality features can be included as part of the site landscaping and detention facilities can be included as part of a hardscape patio. Using an open concrete basin as a detention pond is prohibited (see Figure 673-3).
- (6) **Walls and Fences at Detention Areas.**
- A. When the topography of the site exceeds a four to one (4:1) slope and it becomes necessary to use a masonry wall as part of the detention area, use a textured surface and incorporate plant materials, from the plant list maintained by the parks department, that will drape over the edge to soften the appearance of the structure.
 - B. The use of solid board or chain link fence with or without slats is prohibited. A welded wire, tubular steel, wrought iron or garden loop is permitted.
- (7) **Roof Drainage into the River and Creek.**
- A. All roof drainage and other run-off drainage shall conform to the Transportation and Capital Improvements department standards so that they drain into sewer and storm drains rather than by overland flow. Drainage of this type shall not be piped into the river or creek unless the outlet is below the normal waterline of the river at normal flow rates.
 - B. All downspouts or gutters draining water from roofs or parapets shall be extended underground under walks and patios to the San Antonio River or San Pedro Creek edge or stormwater detention facility so that such drainage will not erode or otherwise damage the public path, landscaping, creek or river retaining walls.
 - C. All piping and air-conditioning wastewater systems shall be kept in good repair. Water to be drained purposely from these systems, after being tested and adjudged free from pollution, shall be drained in the same manner prescribed in subsection (7)A. above.
- (8) **San Antonio River Authority Consultation.** Consultation with the San Antonio River Authority regarding direct access adjacent to the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek within RIO-1, RIO-2, RIO-4, RIO-5, RIO-6, and RIO-7, landscaping and maintenance boundaries, and storm water control measures as required in Sections 35-672, 35-673, and 35-678, as applicable, is required prior to a submission for a certificate of appropriateness from the Office of Historic Preservation or plat approval, as applicable, to allow for review and comment by SARA for properties that fall within the RIO Overlay District as defined in UDC 35-338. This section shall apply to newly developed properties and redevelopment of properties.
- A. Access to the San Antonio River within RIO-1, RIO-2, RIO-4, RIO-5, RIO-6, and RIO-7 shall comply with the following:
 - i. All tie in points shall provide plans sufficient to show materials and grading for review by SARA;
 - ii. Removal of existing park trail hardscape shall require SARA approval;
 - iii. Development shall make it clear for users of the park to discern public access points from private access points;
 - iv. If during construction the park trail must be temporarily closed, an alternative engineered route shall be identified and temporary signage in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) provided and maintained for the duration of the project;
 - v. Acceptance of park trail access point(s) shall be the responsibility of SARA.
 - B. Landscaping and maintenance boundaries are defined in accordance with a final maintenance agreement (the "Maintenance Agreement") entered into between the developer and SARA, which may occur independently from HDRC review. The maintenance agreement will set out the respective rights

and responsibilities of the parties. The purpose of the maintenance agreement is to protect the public investment that has been made in the RIO districts and to ensure public use of the public resources. The maintenance agreement will be designed to maintain and enhance the aesthetics of the property and the function of the hydrology in keeping with the design objectives provided in section 35-670 of this chapter and shall generally conform to best management practices as documented in Appendix E Recommended Plant List and section 35-210 of this chapter.

C. Developments shall manage site storm water through LID components consistent with section 35-210 of this chapter and shall also comply with the following:

- i. Storm water runoff shall pass to the river through discharge pipes or outfalls that are below water level or through an approved LID feature. Overland flow onto the park is discouraged and shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Modification of this subsection shall require approval by SARA and the director of transportation and capital improvements, or their designee;
- ii. Open concrete chutes shall be prohibited;
- iii. Runoff from pools or other non-storm water producing sources shall be treated prior to discharging into the river or creek.

(d) **Riverside and Creekside Setbacks.** Riverside and creekside setbacks for both buildings and accessory structures are established to reinforce the defined character of the specific river improvement overlay district and help to define an edge at the river pathway that is varied according to the relationship of the river, creek, and the street. In the more urban areas, buildings should align closer to the river or creek edge, while in more rural areas the buildings should be set farther away.

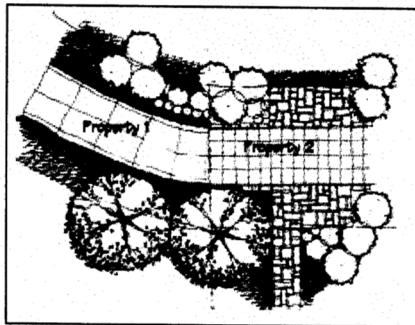
(1) Minimum setback requirements are per the following Table 673-1a and 673-1b.

(2) Designation of a development node district provides for a minimum riverside setback of zero (0) feet.

(e) **Landscape Design.** Lush and varied landscapes are part of the tradition of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek. These design standards apply to landscaping within an individual site. Additional standards follow that provide more specific standards for the public pathway along the river or creek and street edges.

(1) **Provide Variety in Landscape Design.** Provide variety in the landscape experience along the river or creek by varying landscape designs between properties. No more than seventy-five (75) percent of the landscape materials, including plants, shall be the same as those on adjacent properties (see Figure 673-4).

Figure 673-4



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(2) **Planting Requirements in Open Space Abutting the River or Creek.** On publicly-owned land leased by the adjoining property owner, if applicable, and/or within privately owned setbacks adjacent to the river or creek, a minimum percentage of the open space, excluding building footprint, lease space under bridges and parking requirements, are required to be planted according to Table 673-2.

A. Planting requirements in RIO-4, RIO-5, RIO-6, and RIO-7e should continue the restoration landscape efforts along the river or creek banks. Planting in these RIO districts is to be less formal so as to maintain the rural setting of the river.

Table 673-2

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6	RIO-7a	RIO-7b	RIO-7c	RIO-7d	RIO-7e
Required Planting	60%	50%	25%	60%	60%	70%	50%	25%	25%	50%	60%

B. In "RIO-3," if existing conditions don't meet the standards as set out in Table 673-2, the owner or lessee will not have to remove paving to add landscaping in order to meet the standards until there is a substantial remodeling of the outdoor area. Substantial remodeling will include replacement of seventy-five (75) percent of the paving materials, or replacement of balcony and stair structures.

(f) **Plant Materials.** A number of soil conditions converge in the San Antonio and San Pedro Creek area to create unique vegetation ecosystems. Soil conditions vary greatly along these waterways and therefore native and indigenous plants will vary accordingly. Landscaping should reflect the unique soil characteristics of the specific site.

- (1) **Incorporate Existing Native Vegetation.** Extend the use of native landscape materials, including plants, shrubs and trees that are used in the public areas of the river or creek onto adjacent private areas to form a cohesive design.
- (2) Use indigenous and noninvasive species characteristic of the specific site as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department or the Unified Development Code Plant List found in Appendix E.

In "RIO-3," plantings of tropical and semi-tropical plants with perennial background is permitted.

- (3) **Install Trees to Provide Shade and to Separate Pedestrians From Automobile Traffic.** Install street trees along the property line or in the ROW abutting all streets according to minimum requirement standards established in subsection 35-512(b), except where this conflicts with existing downtown Tri-Party improvements in "RIO-3." In "RIO-3" the owner has the option of placing trees at the property line, or along the street edge.

(g) **Paving Materials.** An important San Antonio landscape tradition is the use of decorative surfaces for paving and other landscape structures. Paving materials and patterns should be carefully chosen to preserve and enhance the pedestrian experience.

- (1) **Vary Walkway, Patio and Courtyard Paving to Add Visual Interest on the River or Creekside of Properties Abutting the River or Creek.** Pervious paving is encouraged where feasible and appropriate to the site.

A. A maximum of six hundred (600) square feet is allowed for a single paving material before the paving material must be divided or separated with a paving material that is different in texture, pattern, color or material. A separation using a different material must be a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches wide, the full width of the pathway.

B. A maximum of one hundred (100) lineal feet is allowed in a walkway before the pattern must change in districts "RIO-2," "RIO-3," and "RIO-4." A maximum of five hundred twenty-eight (528) lineal feet is allowed before the pattern must change in districts "RIO-1," "RIO-5" and "RIO-6." The change of material at five hundred twenty-eight (528) lineal feet will define and delineate one-tenth-mile markers.

C. In "RIO-3," the Riverwalk pathway shall be delineated by using a separate material that is clearly distinguished from the adjacent patio paving materials. If the historic Hugman drawings indicate a sidewalk width and pattern on the site, that paving pattern and material shall be replicated.

D. In RIO-7 paseos, terraces, courtyards, and patios that connect to the High Bank Paseo are encouraged to match the public pathway paving material, color, or pattern to form a more seamless connection between public pathway and on-site open spaces.

- (h) **Site Walls and Fences.** Site walls and fences are used to help divide spaces, screen unsightly objects and provide privacy. However, the character of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek is such that walls shall not be erected in such a way as to block views of the river or creek from public spaces.
- (1) **Use of Site Walls to Define Outdoor Spaces.**
- A. Use of low scale walls (twenty-four (24) inches to forty-eight (48) inches) to divide space, create a variety in landscaping and define edges is permitted.
 - B. Solid walls (up to seventy-two (72) inches) are permitted to: screen mechanical equipment, garbage receptacles and other unsightly areas; and provide privacy at the back of lots up to the front building face.
- (2) **Site Wall and Fence Materials.**
- A. On properties abutting the river or creek, site walls and fence materials may be constructed of: stone, block, tile, stucco, wrought iron, tubular steel, welded wire or a combination of masonry and metal, cedar posts and welded wire or garden loop or other materials having similar characteristics. All other properties, not abutting the river or creek may use the above listed materials plus wood fencing.
 - B. All chain link fences are prohibited for properties abutting the river or creek. For properties that do not abut the river or creek chain link is only allowed in the rear yard if not readily visible from the right-of-way. Barbed wire, razor wire, and concertina are prohibited in all RIO districts.
- (i) **Street Furnishings.** Street furnishings are exterior amenities, including but not limited to, tables, chairs, umbrellas, landscape pots, wait stations, valet stations, bicycle racks, planters, benches, bus shelters, kiosks, waste receptacles and similar items that help to define pedestrian use areas. Handcrafted street furnishings are particularly important in San Antonio, and therefore this tradition of craftsmanship and of providing street furniture is encouraged.
- (1) **Prohibited Street Furnishings in Riverwalk Area and San Pedro Creek Improvements Project.** The following street furnishings are prohibited within the publicly owned portion of the River Walk area and SPCIP, whether or not the property is leased, and on the exterior of the river or creek side of buildings directly adjacent to the publicly owned portion of the river or creek:
- A. Vending machines.
 - B. Automatic teller machines.
 - C. Pay phones.
 - D. Photo booths.
 - E. Automated machines such as, but not limited to, penny crunching machines, blood pressure machines, fortune-telling machines, video games, animated characters and other machines that are internally illuminated, or have moving parts, or make noise, or have flashing lights.
 - F. Inanimate figures such as horses, kangaroos, bears, gorillas, mannequins or any such animal, cartoon or human figure. This section does not affect public art as defined in Appendix "A" of this chapter.
 - G. Monitors (i.e., television screens, computer screens, digital displays, and video boards) except those permitted as part of a performing arts center digital display monitor pursuant to a specific use authorization.
 - H. Speakers, except those permitted as part of a performing arts center digital display monitor pursuant to a specific use authorization.
- (2) **Street Furnishing Materials.**
- A. Street furnishings shall be made of wood, metal, stone, terra cotta, cast stone, hand-sculpted concrete, or solid surfacing material, such as Corian or Surell.
 - B. Inexpensive plastic resin furnishings are prohibited.
- (3) **Advertising on Street Furnishings.**

- A. No commercial logos, trademarks, decals, product names whether specific or generic, or names of businesses and organizations shall be allowed on street furnishings.
 - B. Product or business advertising is prohibited on all street furnishings.
 - C. Notwithstanding the restrictions above, applications may be approved for purposes of donor or non-profit recognition.
- (4) Street furnishings, such as tables and chairs may not be stored (other than overnight storage) in such a way as to be visible from the river or creek pathway.
- (j) **Lighting.** Site lighting should be considered an integral element of the landscape design of a property. It should help define activity areas and provide interest at night. At the same time, lighting should facilitate safe and convenient circulation for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Overspill of light and light pollution should be avoided.
- (1) **Site Lighting.** Site lighting shall be shielded by permanent attachments to light fixtures so that the light sources are not visible from a public way and any offsite glare is prevented.
- A. Site lighting shall include illumination of parking areas, buildings, pedestrian routes, dining areas, design features and public ways.
 - B. Outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river or creek right-of-way shall have average ambient light levels of between one (1) and three (3) foot-candles with a minimum of one-half (0.5) foot-candles and a maximum of six (6) foot-candles at any point measured on the ground plane. Interior spaces visible from the river or creek right-of-way on the river or creek level and ground floor level shall use light sources with no more than the equivalent lumens of a 100-watt incandescent bulb. Exterior balconies, porches and canopies adjoining and visible from the river or creek right-of-way shall use light sources with the equivalent lumens of a 60-watt incandescent bulb with average ambient light levels no greater than the lumen output of a 100-watt incandescent light bulb as long as average foot candle standards are not exceeded. Accent lighting of landscape or building features including specimen plants, gates, entries, water features, art work, stairs, and ramps may exceed these standards by a multiple of two and one-half (2.5). Recreational fields and activity areas that require higher light levels shall be screened from the river or creek hike and bike pathways with a landscape buffer.
 - C. Exterior light fixtures that use the equivalent of more than 100-watt incandescent bulbs shall not emit a significant amount of the fixture's total output above a vertical cut-off angle of ninety (90) degrees. Any structural part of the fixture providing this cut-off angle must be permanently affixed.
 - D. Lighting spillover to the publicly owned areas of the river or creek or across property lines shall not exceed one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of one (1) foot-candle measured at any point ten (10) feet beyond the property line.
- (2) **Provide Lighting for Pedestrian Ways That is Low Scaled for Walking.** The position of a lamp in a pedestrian-way light shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height above the ground.
- (3) **Light Temperature and Color.**
- A. Light temperature and color shall be between 2500°K and 3500°K with a color rendition index (CRI) of eighty (80) or higher, respectively. This restriction is limited to all outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way and from the interior spaces adjoining the river right-of-way on the river level and ground floor level. Levels shall be determined by product specifications.
 - B. Unique lighting methods, including LED or colored lights, are allowed in RIO-7 in order to enhance architectural elements provided such lighting installations do not conflict with any other requirement in this section.
- (4) **Minimize the Visual Impacts of Exterior Building Lighting.**
- A. All security lighting shall be shielded so that the light sources are not visible from a public way.
 - B. Lighting (uplighting and downlighting) that is positioned to highlight a building or outdoor artwork shall be aimed at the object to be illuminated, not pointed into the sky.

- C. Fixtures shall not distract from, or obscure important architectural features of the building. Lighting fixtures shall be a subordinate feature on the building unless they are incorporated into the over-all design scheme of the building.

(5) Prohibited Lighting on the Riverside or Creekside of Properties Abutting the River or Creek.

- A. Flashing lights.
 - B. Rotating lights.
 - C. Chaser lights.
 - D. Exposed neon.
 - E. Seasonal decorating lights such as festoon, string or rope lights, except between November 20 and January 10.
 - F. Flood lamps.
- (6) Minimize the visual impacts of lighting in parking areas in order to enhance the perception of the nighttime sky and to prevent glare onto adjacent properties. Parking lot light poles are limited to thirty (30) feet in height, shall have a 90° cutoff angle so as to not emit light above the horizontal plane.

(k) Curbs and Gutters.

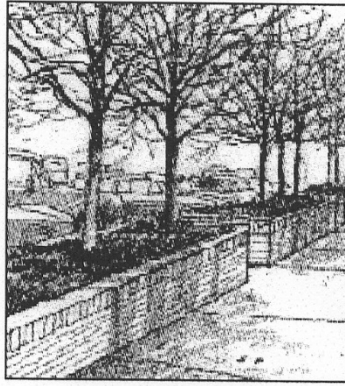
(1) Construct Curb and Gutter Along the Street Edge of a Property.

- A. Install curbs and gutter along the street edge at the time of improving a parcel.
- B. In order to preserve the rural character of RIO-5 and RIO-6, the HPO in coordination with public works and the development services department may waive the requirement of curbs and gutters.

- (l) **Buffering and Screening.** The manner in which screening and buffering elements are designed on a site greatly affects the character of the river districts. In general, service areas shall be screened or buffered. "Buffers" are considered to be landscaped berms, planters or planting beds; whereas, more solid "screens" include fences and walls. When site development creates an unavoidable negative visual impact on abutting properties or to the public right-of-way, it shall be mitigated with a landscape design that will buffer or screen it.

- (1) **Landscape Buffers Shall be Used in the Following Circumstances:** To buffer the edges of a parking lot from pedestrian ways and outdoor use areas, (such as patios, and courtyards), and as an option to screening in order to buffer service areas, garbage disposal areas, mechanical equipment, storage areas, maintenance yards, equipment storage areas and other similar activities that by their nature create unsightly views from pedestrian ways, streets, public ROWs and adjoining property.
- (2) **Screening Elements Shall be Used in the Following Circumstances:** To screen service areas, storage areas, or garbage areas from pedestrian ways.
- (3) **Exceptions for Site Constraints.** Due to site constraints, in all RIOs and specifically for "RIO-3" where there is less than ten (10) feet to provide for the minimum landscape berm, a screen may be used in conjunction with plantings to meet the intent of these standards. For example a low site wall may be combined with plant materials to create a buffer with a lesser cross sectional width (see Figure 673-8).

Figure 673-8



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- (4) **Applicable Bufferyard Types.** Table 510-2 establishes minimum plant materials required for each bufferyard type. For purposes of this section, type C shall be the acceptable minimum type.
- (5) **Applicable Screening Fence and Wall Types.** Screening fences and walls shall be subject to conditions of subsection 35-673(h), Walls and Fences.
- (m) **Service Areas and Mechanical Equipment.** Service areas and mechanical equipment should be visually unobtrusive and should be integrated with the design of the site and building. Noise generated from mechanical equipment shall not exceed city noise regulations.
 - (1) Locate service entrances, waste disposal areas and other similar uses adjacent to service lanes and away from major streets and the river or creek.
 - A. Position utility boxes so that they cannot be seen from the public Riverwalk or San Pedro Creek path, or from major streets, by locating them on the sides of buildings and away from pedestrian and vehicular routes. Locating them within interior building corners, at building offsets or other similar locations where the building mass acts as a shield from public view is preferred.
 - B. Orient the door to a trash enclosure to face away from the street when feasible.
 - C. Air intake and exhaust systems, or other mechanical equipment that generates noise, smoke or odors, shall not be located at the pedestrian level.
 - (2) Screening of service entrance shall be compatible with the buildings on the block face.
 - A. When it would be visible from a public way, a service area shall be visually compatible with the buildings on the block face.
 - B. A wall will be considered compatible if it uses the same material as other buildings on the block, or is painted a neutral color such as beige, gray or dark green or if it is in keeping with the color scheme of the adjacent building.
- (n) **Bicycle Parking.** On-site bicycle parking helps promote a long term sustainable strategy for development in RIO districts. Bicycle parking shall be placed in a well lit and accessible area. UDC bicycle parking requirements in UDC 35-526 can be met through indoor bicycle storage facilities in lieu of outdoor bike rack fixtures.
- (o) **Access to Public Pathway Along the River.** These requirements are specifically for those properties adjacent to the river to provide a connection to the publicly owned pathway along the river in RIOs 1 through 6. The connections are to stimulate and enhance urban activity, provide path connections in an urban context, enliven street activity, and protect the ambiance and character of the river area.
 - (1) A stair, ramp or elevator connecting the publicly owned pathway at the river to private property along the river is allowed by right at the following locations:
 - A. At all street and vehicular bridge crossings over the river.
 - B. Where publicly owned streets dead end into the river.

- C. Where the pedestrian pathway in the Riverwalk area is located at the top of bank and there is a two-foot or less grade change between the private property and the pathway.
- (2) If there is a grade change greater than two (2) feet between the private property and the publicly owned pathway at the river then the following conditions apply:
 - A. Access to the publicly owned pathway is limited to one (1) connection per property, with the exception that connections are always allowed at street and vehicular bridge crossings. For example if one (1) property extends the entire block face from street crossing to street crossing the owner would be allowed three (3) access points if the distance requirements were met.
 - B. The minimum distance between access points shall be ninety-five (95) feet. Only street and vehicular bridge connections are exempted. Mid-block access points must meet this requirement.
 - C. Reciprocal access agreements between property owners are permitted.
- (3) Clearly define a key pedestrian gateway into the site from the publicly owned pathway at the river or creek with distinctive architectural or landscape elements.
 - A. The primary gateway from a development to the publicly owned pathway at the river shall be defined by an architectural or landscape element made of stone, brick, tile, metal, rough hewn cedar or hand-formed concrete or through the use of distinctive plantings or planting beds.
- (p) **Access to the Public Pathway Along the Creek (RIO-7).** These requirements are specifically for those properties adjacent to the creek to provide a connection to the publicly owned pathway along the creek. The connections are to stimulate and enhance urban activity, provide path connections in an urban context, enliven street activity, and protect the ambiance and character of the creek area.
 - (1) Connections from private property to the publically owned pathway must maintain the functionality of publically installed Low Impact Development features like bioswales.
 - (2) At the High Bank Paseo a connection is allowed where there is a grade change of less than two (2) feet.
 - (3) Where bio-swales separate the publicly owned pathway from private property, the maximum length of a connection between the pathway and private property is twelve (12) feet.
 - (4) For properties abutting the creek along the Low Bank Paseo, a publicly accessible path should be built at street level along the creek.
 - A. The path may be a walkway, a series of connected patios or terraces, arcade, canopied walkway, or other connected open spaces provided access from one street-creek intersection to the next street-creek intersection.
 - B. Pathways may be paved with hard-surfaces like concrete, masonry pavers, stone, or compacted material like decomposed granite, gravel, or cement-stabilized-dirt. Paving should be appropriate to the context of the site and use of the path.
 - C. Subject to approvals of San Antonio River Authority and City, the path may connect to the high bank paseo on the opposite bank via a pedestrian bridge. Locating pedestrian bridges at building paseos is encouraged. Pedestrian bridges must be a minimum of two hundred seventy (270) feet apart.
 - D. A stair, ramp or elevator connecting the publicly owned Low Bank Paseo to a publicly accessible path or, when the grade change is more than two (2) feet, the High Bank Paseo to an On-site Open Space is allowed when approved by the San Antonio River Authority. Stairs, ramps, and elevators must be installed outside of the SPCIP right-of-way or easement on private property.
- (q) **On-site Open Space.** San Pedro Creek offers a unique opportunity to create privately owned, publicly-accessible spaces along the creek. These spaces expand the park space, provide additional connections to the adjacent neighborhoods, mark the intersection of the creek with the surrounding streets, and create additional amenities enhance the creek experience. One or more of the following must be incorporated into a site design pursuant to Table 673-3.

- A. **Forecourt**— An open space that is part of the building's creek-side entrance. A forecourt shapes the ground floor plan into a 'U' shape. The length along the creek of a forecourts should be at least thirty (30) percent of the length of the building. Forecourts should be at least fifty (50) percent deep as their creek-side length.
- B. **Courtyard**— An outdoor space primarily surrounded by a building. Courtyards may be gated but must be visible from the creek through a gate, vision panel, or open-air corridor. Courtyards that are not visible from the creek are allowed but do not count as a mandatory On-Site Open Space.
- C. **Mid-Block Paseos**— See Downtown Design Guidelines, chapter 6, paragraph 2.
 - i. Connect from a public street to another public street, public alley or San Pedro Creek.
 - ii. Be at least fifteen (15) feet wide and should be located in the middle one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of a block.
 - iii. Be open to the public during normal business hours.
 - iv. Have a clear line of site from the street to the creek or other street.
 - v. Be at least fifty (50) percent open to the sky or covered with a transparent material. Connected courtyards and forecourts maybe used as part of this calculation
 - vi. Be lined with some ground floor spaced designed for retail, restaurant, office, or cultural institution uses for at least twenty-five (25) percent of its frontage.
 - vii. Include at least one gathering place with a fountain or other focal element.
 - viii. Add effective lighting to enhance visibility and safety.
- D. **Arcade**— A covered pedestrian passage-way defined by a building wall on one-side and columns or arches on the remaining sides.
- E. **Canopy**— A covered pedestrian passage-way defined by a building wall on one-side and open on the remaining sides. Canopies may encroach into creek-side setbacks.
- F. **Pedestrian Oriented Mid-Block Service Drives and Fire Lanes**— Mid-block driveways providing access to parking garages, loading docks, and other service areas or fire lanes required to meet life safety requirements may be required in some development patterns. Where service drives or required fire lanes are visible from the creek, the following landscape features are required:
 - i. A pedestrian path with a clear walking path of six (6) feet is provided.
 - ii. The sidewalk connects the creek to a street or connects two (2) parallel streets.
 - iii. Both sides of the service drive are planted with street trees no more than forty-five feet (45'-0") on-center. Trees may be medium height tree but allow for un-obstructed headroom along the sidewalk.
 - iv. Street trees not protected by a curb must be protected from traffic with bollards, low walls, or other landscape features.
 - v. The view from the sidewalk to dumpsters, service yards, and transformers, and other service and utility areas are screened with a six-foot (6'-0") high wall or landscape buffer.
 - vi. Parallel parking spaces may be provided along the service drive but are not required.
 - vii. Where mid-block service drives or fire lanes are not visible from the creek, connecting them to the creek with a paseo is encouraged but the service drive must have an eight-foot wide, tree lined sidewalk continuing the pedestrian path of the paseo.
- G. **Creek and Street Intersection.** The intersection of the creek with cross streets is a unique opportunity to provide access to the creek, improve pedestrian access and movement, mark the creek's location in the surrounding neighborhood, expand open space, and the amenity provided by the park.
 - i. Provide a publicly accessible open space of at least six hundred twenty-five (625) square feet at street-creek intersections.
 - ii. Provide a hardscape connection to paseos that are no lower than two (2) feet vertically at street intersections. The minimum dimension of this hardscape intersection is twelve (12) feet by twelve (12) feet.

- iii. Create a distinctive architectural element such as a tower, change in fenestration, building entrance, multi-level porch, or deep arcade to mark the location of the creek-street intersection.
- (r) RIO-7 Mid-Block Crosswalks and Mid-Block Paseos or Mid-Block Pedestrian Paths are required to provide pedestrian connections from the commercial streets on either side of the creek to the creek in blocks over five hundred fifty (550) [feet] long. New streets or publicly accessible drives and pedestrian paths may be used to meet this requirement.
 - (1) Mid-block crosswalks should be provided on all blocks five hundred fifty (550) feet or longer subject to approval by San Antonio Public Works and or Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) if State ROW.
 - (2) Mid-Block Paseos or other mid-block pedestrian access paths should be provided in all blocks five hundred fifty (550) feet or longer adjacent to the creek. Mid-block paseos or paths should connect the creek to mid-block crosswalks, streets that dead-end into the creek, nearby civic buildings, parks, cultural or historic sites as listed in subsection 35-670(b)(4)G, Design Objectives for RIO-7. Alternate path alignments may be allowed by the historic preservation officer if the alternate path meets the goals of subsection 35-670(b)(4)G, Design Objectives for RIO-7.
- (s) **New Elevator and Building Access.** In order to prevent queuing and inhibition of pedestrian flow on the Riverwalk pathway, a landing that is at minimum six (6) feet in depth shall be provided between an elevator or building access point or doorway and the Riverwalk pathway. The width of the landing shall further comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and/or TAS (Texas Accessibility Standards) requirements.

(Ord. No. 95352 § 3 Attachment 2) (Ord. No. 2010-06-24-0616, § 2, 6-24-10) (Ord. No. 2010-11-18-0985, § 2, 11-18-10) (Ord. No. 2011-03-31-0240, § 2, 3-31-11) (Ord. No. 2011-08-18-0673, § 2, 8-18-11) (Ord. No. 2014-05-29-0377, § 2, 5-29-14)(Ord. No. [2015-12-17-1077](#), § 2, 12-17-15; Ord. No. [2016-10-13-0798](#), § 1(Att. A), 10-13-16)

FINDINGS:

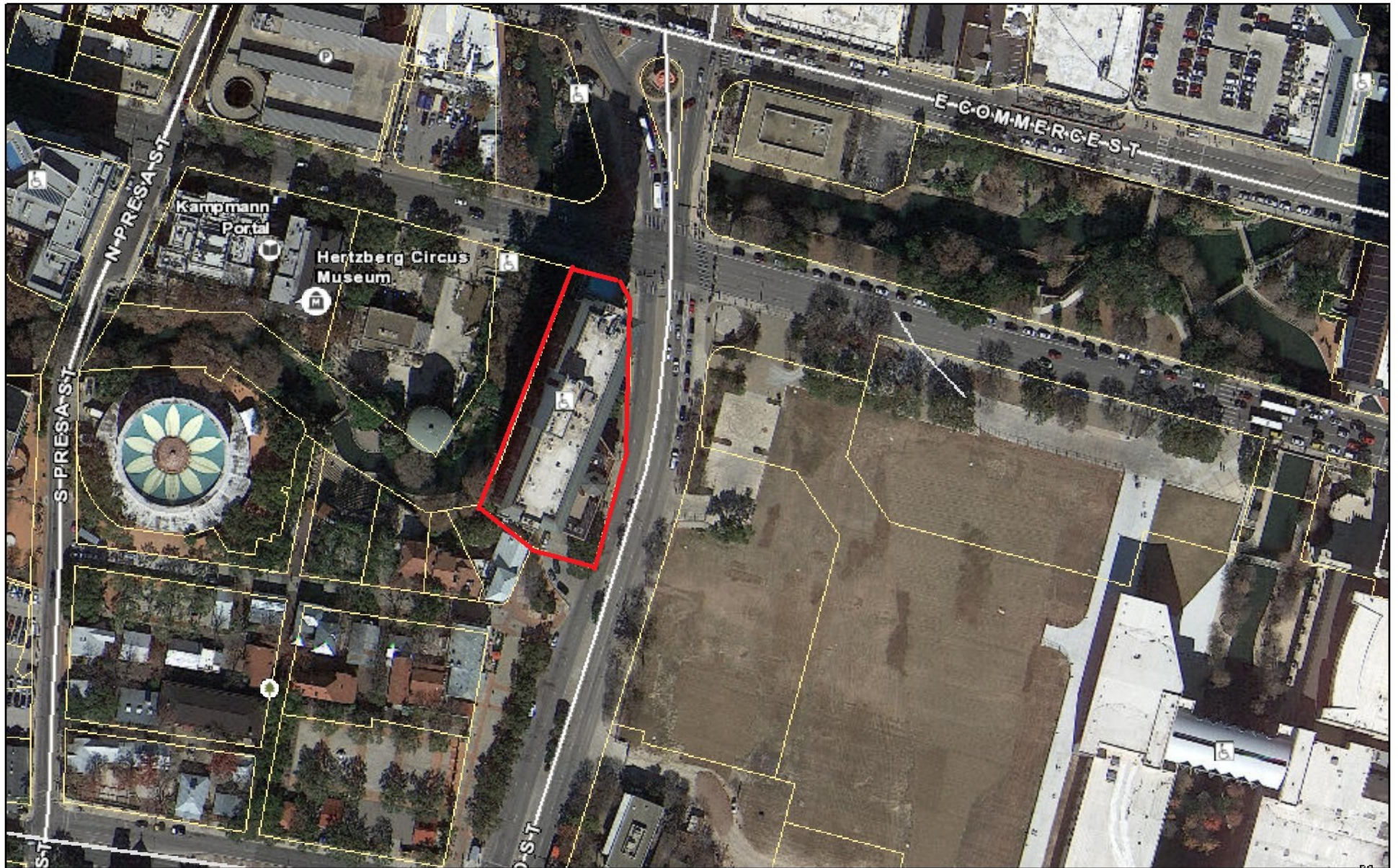
- a. The applicant is requesting conceptual approval to perform various river level modifications at 223 S Alamo, the Hilton Palacio del Rio. Within this request, the applicant has proposed landscaping modifications, the removal of an existing stone wall, an extension of the existing patio space, modifications to the pathway at the public right of way and storefront system modifications.
- b. DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE – This request was reviewed by the Design Review Committee on May 25, 2021. At that meeting committee members discussed the proposed modifications and noted that the existing wall provided a traditional separation at the River Walk level.
- c. STONE WALL REMOVAL – The applicant has proposed to remove two sections of an existing, low grade stone wall that is located parallel to the pathway at the River Walk. The existing wall that is proposed to be removed feature two sections which are currently separated by a river level pedestrian entrance into the existing patio. This wall is not found on the Hugman construction documents for the Improvement of the San Antonio River; however, staff finds both sections of the wall to relate to the Hugman design as they serve as both a physical and visual barrier between with River Walk path and the existing patio. Staff finds that given the design and materials of the existing wall, it should be preserved to maintain the existing context and relationship to the Hugman Design.
- d. PATIO MODIFICATIONS – The applicant has proposed a number of patio modifications that include the removal of the existing trellis and the installation of a new trellis, landscaping modifications, modifications to the existing patio paving and finished floor height. Generally, with the exception of the removal of the existing stone wall elements that are parallel to the River Walk Path, staff finds the proposed modifications to the existing patio to be appropriate.
- e. PATIO EXTENSION – The applicant has proposed to extend the existing patio at the river level to the north and remove a section of stone wall within the patio space at the southern end of the property. The northern extension of the patio will also require the remove of a wall perpendicular to the stone wall that runs parallel to the River Walk path. Generally, staff finds the proposed patio extension as well as the removal of the northern wall and modification to the southern wall to be appropriate, as these walls are not believed to be original Hugman elements and their removal will not immediately impact the pedestrian experience at the River Walk path.

- f. STOREFRONT MODIFICATIONS – The applicant has proposed to modify the existing storefront system at the River Walk level by replacing the existing storefront system with one that will be operable. Staff finds the proposed modifications to be appropriate.
- g. RIVER LEVEL WALL SCONCES – The applicant has proposed to install new river level wall sconces. Staff finds the installation of these to be appropriate.

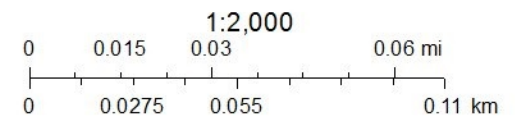
RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Staff does not recommend approval of item #1, the removal of two sections of existing wall that are located parallel to the River Walk path. Staff recommends that given the design and materials of the existing wall, it should be preserved to maintain the existing context and relationship to the Hugman Design, as noted in finding c.
- 2. Staff recommends approval of item #2, the installation of a new patio trellis and landscaping elements within the existing patio space with the stipulation that the existing stone walls parallel to the River Walk path be preserved, based on finding d.
- 3. Staff recommends approval of item #3, the extension of the patio as well as the removal and modifications to two stone walls that are perpendicular to the stone wall at the River Walk path, based on finding e.
- 4. Staff recommends approval of item #4, storefront system modifications as submitted based on finding f.
- 5. Staff recommends approval of item #5, the installation of wall sconces as submitted based on finding g.

City of San Antonio One Stop



May 28, 2021





CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**OFFICE OF HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Historic and Design Review Commission
Design Review Committee Report

DATE: May 25, 2021

HDRC Case #: 2021-254

Address: 223 S Alamo

Meeting Location: Webex

APPLICANT: Andrew Douglass/Chris Tschirhart – Douglass Architects

DRC Members present: Jeff Fetzer, Curtis Fish, Gabriel Velasquez, Monica Savino
(Conservation Society)

Staff Present: Edward Hall

Others present: Greg Schry (Hilton Palacio del Rio), Jeff Russell/Douglass Architects

REQUEST:

COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

CT: Overall presentation of project

GV: Hilton defines this section of the river walk, the low stone walls are one with the river.

CF: What is the rationale for removing the low stone wall that is adjacent to the right of way at River Walk

CF: Concerns regarding wholesale removal of low stone walls. They are established elements and would be best to remain.

CF: Questions regarding change in grade.

CF: Why can't change in grade be within property and not in right of way? How much sidewalk modification is required.

JF: Creating a sloped walk in River Walk to accommodate entrance would also impact the wall adjacent to the river (between sidewalk and river)

GV: The better argument is for the respect of the context of the existing environment. The hotel defines this area of the River Walk.

GF: The presentation should begin with the idea of extending the existing vocabulary of the history of the area and hotel, including the wall.

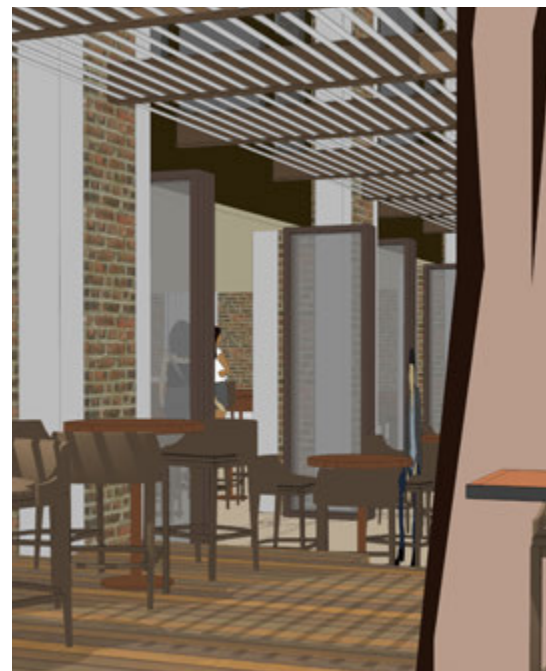
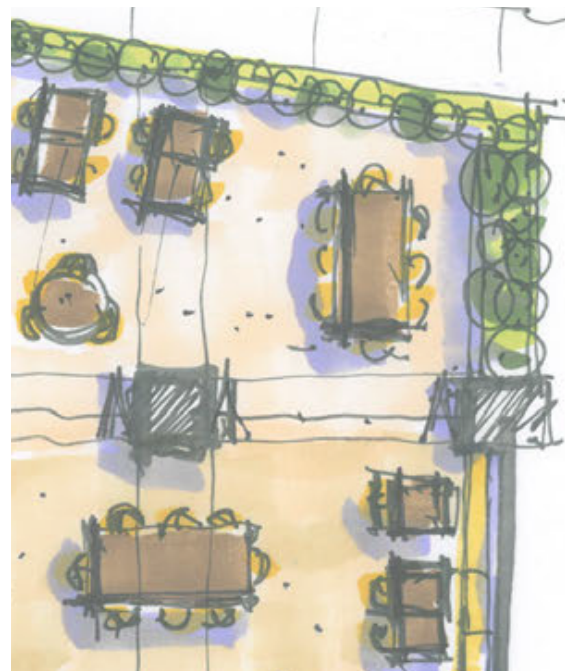
JF: How wide is planting bed? (18 inches) - a planting bed that narrow adjacent to a major walking surface will not be successful.

MS: The existing patio benefits from elevation change as it separates the public space from private

JF: What would help to understand the project are cross sections beginning at the north end of the terrace to the river level. Submit site sections as well to show the relationship from interior to exterior dining to sidewalk to river. Also determine the extent of the sloped walk. How long based on existing grades.

CF: Is the new trellis overhanging the River Walk – is this correct? No, trellis will not enter the River Walk.

OVERALL COMMENTS:



HILTON PALACIO DEL RIO - WINE BAR

HDRC - CONCEPTUAL REVIEW - UPDATE

MAY 27, 2021

DOUGLASARCHITECTS







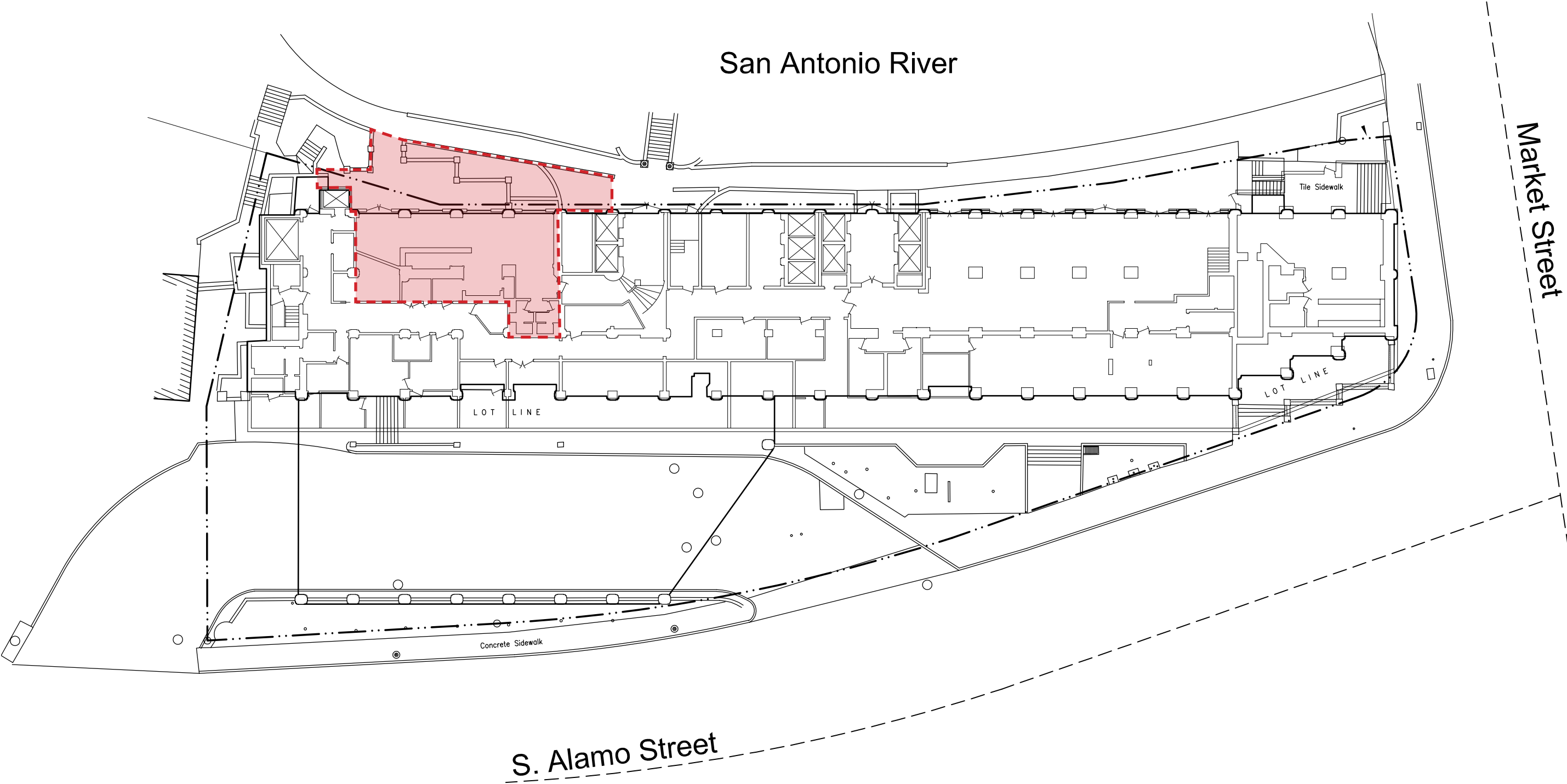


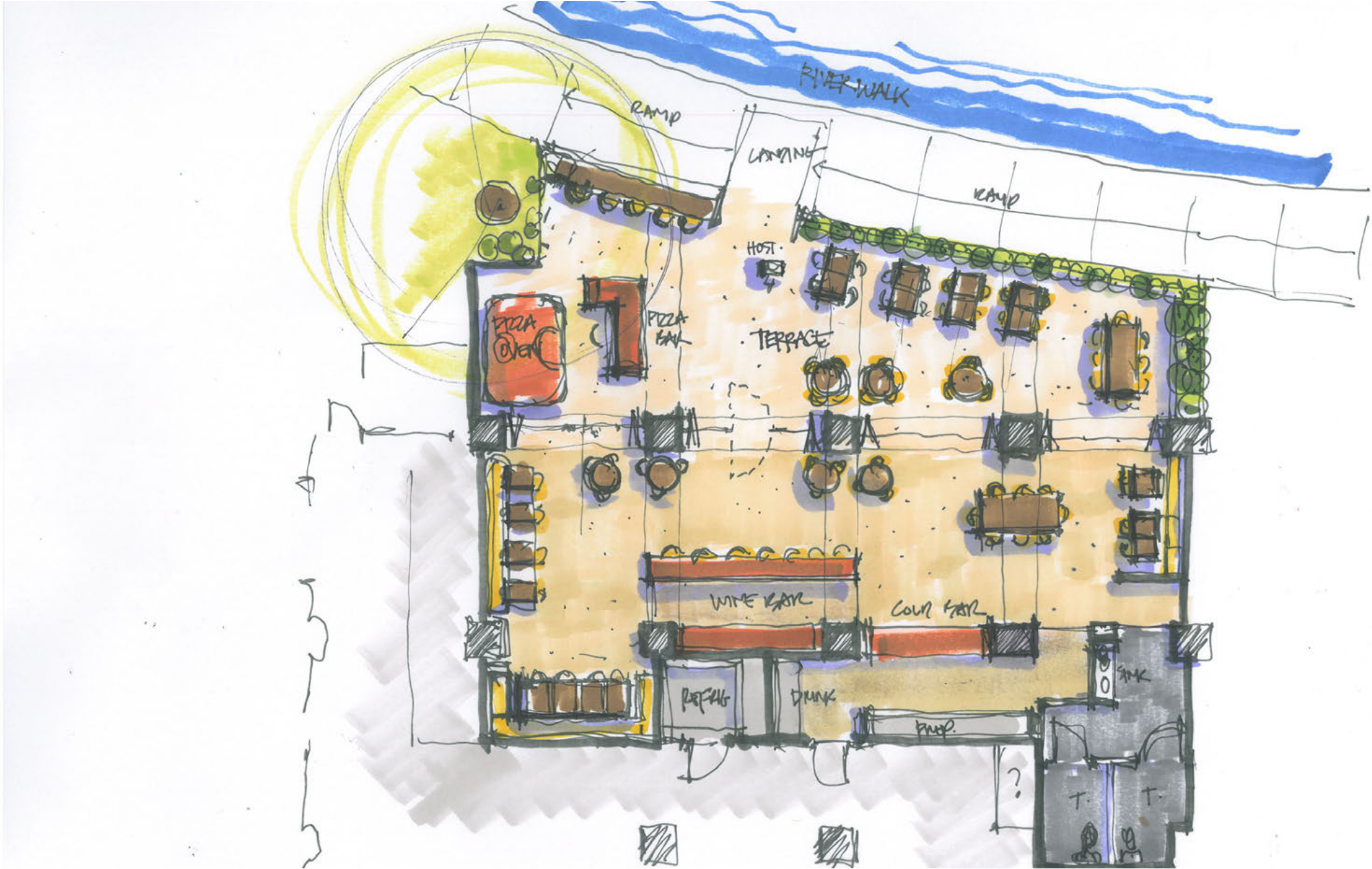




















EXTENSION OF
RESTAURANT

REMOVE STONE
WALL & REPLACE
WITH PLANTING
BED

RE-GRADE
+/- 5' OF RAMP
TO MEET NEW
LANDING HEIGHT

RAISE LANDING
+/- 3" TO MATCH
NEW TERRACE
HEIGHT

RE-GRADE
+/- 5' OF RAMP
TO MEET NEW
LANDING HEIGHT

REDUCE
EXISTING WALL
WIDTH



EXTENSION OF
RESTAURANT

RE-GRADE +/-
5' OF RAMP
TO MEET NEW
LANDING HEIGHT

RAISE LANDING
+/- 3" TO MATCH
NEW TERRACE
HEIGHT

RE-GRADE +/-
5' OF RAMP
TO MEET NEW
LANDING HEIGHT

REDUCE
EXISTING WALL
WIDTH





EXTENSION OF
RESTAURANT

REMOVE STONE
WALL & REPLACE
WITH PLANTING
BED

REVISE SLOPE
TO MEET RAISED
RESTAURANT
TERRACE























Existing Wall Sconce



