



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

Architectural Review Board Staff Report

From: Jonathan Lait, Planning and Development Services Director
Lead Department: Planning and Development Services

Meeting Date: February 16, 2023

TITLE

901 California Avenue [22PLN-00142]: Ad Hoc Committee Review of Previously Approved Project to Review Window Modulation and Details of the Terracotta Material. The Project is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act in Accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Architectural Review Board (ARB) Ad-Hoc Committee take one of the following action(s):

1. Discuss and provide direction, or
2. Confirm the revised project meets the full ARB's direction and recommend the Director find that they meet the approval conditions and align with the approval findings

BACKGROUND

On October 20, 2022, the ARB recommended approval of the subject project. The ARB also recommended that the project return to the ARB Ad Hoc Committee for review of three details. This report summarizes the ARB's Ad Hoc Committee recommendations and the applicant's response to those items.

Link to the October 20, 2022 Architectural Review Board Hearing:

Staff Report: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/agendas-minutes-reports/agendas-minutes/architectural-review-board/2022/arb-10.20.2022-901-s-cal-ave.pdf>

Minutes: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/agendas-minutes-reports/agendas-minutes/architectural-review-board/2022/arb-12.01.2022-minutes-10.20.2022.pdf>

Video: <https://midpenmedia.org/architectural-review-board-10202022/>

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Following is a summary of the ad hoc committee items identified in the previous hearing and the applicant's response to those requests.

Window Modulation at Glass and Terracotta Intersection

The ARB recommended that the applicant consider increasing modulation of window façade where the glass meets the terracotta.

Applicant's Response:

The modulation of the windows on the north and south facades have been further refined with the introduction of a 1'-0 charcoal colored metal panel that interfaces between the glass and terracotta, thereby providing a soft, framed transition between the materials.

Additionally, the applicant has right sized the glazing on the south façade, while retaining the linear aesthetic established on the north facade. This in turn, improves the functionality for the labs that are behind this façade.

See elevations on sheets A3.1, A3.2 and A3.4 and renderings on sheets A6.1, A6.2 and A6.3.

Staff's Analysis:

The applicant's revised details of the window façade and terracotta appear to address the ARB's comments.

Detail of Terracotta Materials Intersecting

The ARB recommended that the applicant provide detail showing how terracotta materials will come together

Applicant's Response:

Details on the different terracotta conditions have been provided on sheets VMD001, VMD002, VMD003 and VMD051. Additionally, the applicant has assembled a small table sized mockup to show the texture and the envelope assembly of a corner condition during the hearing.

Staff's Analysis:

The applicant has provided the requested details.

Terracotta Material Quality

The ARB recommended that the applicant consider richer material for both terracotta, noting that it could be a change in the material or the color.

Applicant's Response:

The applicant considered a more pigmented color for the red terracotta to give the material more richness. The previously suggested color was M9.05, medium combed and the applicant is now proposing M9.09, medium combed which is a deeper red. The applicant will provide large physical samples M7.02 limestone (medium combed), M9.09 red (medium combed) during the Committee meeting to demonstrate the depth of the color.

Staff's Analysis:

The applicant's revised coloring appears to address the ARB's comments.

The ARB Ad-Hoc Committee is encouraged to affirm that these changes address the comments from the October 20, 2022 hearing that have been directed to the Ad Hoc Committee.

Otherwise, the Committee should provide direction to staff and the applicant if the submittal requires further refinement.

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ATTACHMENTS

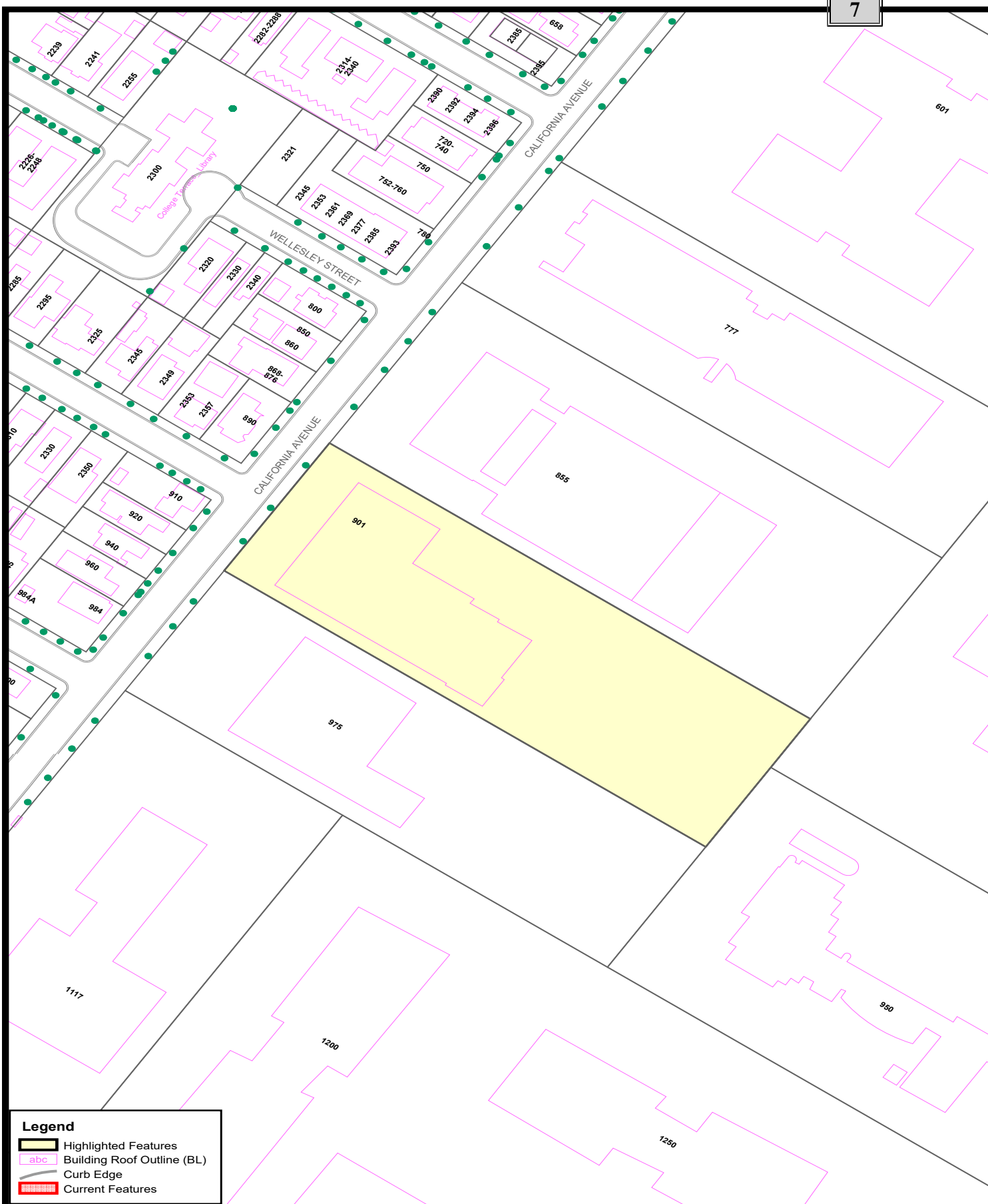
Attachment A: Location Map

Attachment B: Applicant Responses

Attachment C: Project Plans

Report #: 2301-0899

¹ Emails may be sent directly to the ARB using the following address: arb@cityofpaloalto.org



The City of
Palo Alto



This map is a product of the
City of Palo Alto GIS



0' 112'

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January 26, 2023

ARB Comments/Direction	Applicant Response
Consider increasing modulation of window façade where the glass meets the terracotta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The modulation of the windows on the north and south facades have been further refined with the introduction of a 1'-0 charcoal colored metal panel that interfaces between the glass and terracotta, thereby providing a soft, framed transition between the materials. Additionally, we have right-sized the glazing on the south façade, while retaining the linear aesthetic established on the north facade. This in turn, improves the functionality for the labs that are behind this façade. <p>See elevations on sheets A3.1, A3.2 and A3.4 and renderings on sheets A6.1, A6.2 and A6.3.</p>
Provide detail showing how terracotta materials will come together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details on the different terracotta conditions have been provided. See details on sheets VMD001, VMD002, VMD003 and VMD051. <p>Additionally, we have assembled a small table sized mockup to show the texture and the envelope assembly of a corner condition.</p>
Consider richer material for both terracotta, could be material or color.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have considered a more pigmented color for the red terracotta to give the material more richness. The previously suggested color was M9.05, medium combed. We are proposing M9.09, medium combed which is a deeper red from M9.05. <p>See large format of physical samples M7.02 limestone (medium combed), M9.09 red (medium combed).</p>

Attachment C

Project Plans

During Shelter-in-Place, project plans are only available to the public online. Hardcopies of the plans have been provided to Board members.

Directions to review Project plans online:

1. Go to: bit.ly/PAPendingprojects
2. Scroll down to find "901 S. California Avenue" and click the address link
3. On this project specific webpage you will find a link to the project plans and other important information

Direct Link to Project Webpage:

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/News-Articles/Planning-and-Development-Services/901-South-California-Avenue>