



CITY OF PALO ALTO OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

June 4, 2015

The Honorable City Council
Palo Alto, California

Interview of Candidates for the Architectural Review Board

On Thursday, June 4, 2015 the City Council will interview four applicants for one unexpired term (Ballantyne) ending December 15, 2017, on the Architectural Review Board (ARB). Copies of all applications are attached. Some applications may be redacted at the request of the applicant. A full set of non-redacted applications will be provided to Council Members directly.

The City Council is scheduled to vote to appoint candidates for the ARB on June 8, 2015.

Architectural Review Board

2.21.010

There is created an Architectural Review Board consisting of five persons appointed by the City Council, and at least three of whom shall be architects, landscape architects, building designers or other design professionals. The Architectural Review Board shall have the powers and duties specified in this chapter, and shall comply with the procedures specified in this chapter.

(Ord. 5208 § 9, 2013; Ord. 4826 § 2 (Exh. 1 (part)), 2004)

Applicants to be interviewed are as follows: 10 minute interviews

Peter Baltay	6:00 p.m.
Wynne Furth	6:10 p.m.
Kenneth Huo	6:20 p.m.
Flore Schmidt	6:30 p.m.

BACKGROUND

On Monday, May 18, 2015 City Council selected the four applicants to interview for the Architectural Review Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A: ARB Baltay, Peter (PDF)
- Attachment B: ARB Furth, Wynne (PDF)
- Attachment C: ARB Huo, Kenneth (PDF)
- Attachment D: ARB Schmidt, Flore (PDF)

Department Head: Beth Minor, City Clerk

Architectural Review Board Application

Personal Information

CITY OF PALO ALTO, CA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Name: **Peter Baltay**

Address: **450 Kipling Street, Palo Alto CA 94301**

15 MAY -5 PM 2:10

Cell Phone: **415 407-1621**

Home / Office Phone: **650 327-7573**

E-mail: **peter@toposarchitects.com**

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

California state law requires appointed board and commission members to file a detailed disclosure of their financial interests, Fair Political Practices Commission, Conflict of Interest (Form 700).

Do you have an investment in, or do you serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

- 1) engage in business with the City;
- 2) provide products or services for City projects; or
- 3) be affected by decisions of the board or commission you are applying for? Yes No

Excluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Architectural Review Board?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Post |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email from City Clerk | <input type="checkbox"/> City Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Palo Alto Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer |

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

Bachelor of Arts-Columbia University 1984
Master of Architecture- University of Washington 1990
Licensed California Architect since 1995
Owner and Principal Architect of TOPOS Architects since 2000.

Employment

Present or Last Employer: **TOPOS Architects (www.toposarchitects.com)**
Occupation: **Architect and builder**

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

Past member of the San Mateo County Design Review Board
Past member of the Redwood City Architectural Review Board
Member of the Santa Clara County AIA

1. What is it about the Architectural Review Board that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

I am an experienced local architect. I have worked successfully with the Palo Alto Planning and Building Department on many projects. I have served on other design review boards and am familiar with the procedures and practices of public service.

I believe that it is important to "give back" to the community.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Board that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Board meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#).

429 University Avenue is a project meeting the 'objective' requirements (parking, FAR, height) yet still not fulfilling the 'subjective' requirements (compatibility, scale, massing). Much contention could have been avoided had the ARB been more insistent that the project comply with the subjective requirements of the Design Guidelines and Comprehensive Plan, even if it reduced the allowed maximums of the Zoning Code.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Architectural Review Board achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

1. I would like to see the Architectural Review Board be more willing to compromise on the objective standards of the Zoning Code to fulfill the subjective standards of the Design Guidelines and Comprehensive Plan.
2. I would like to see the Architecture Review Board (and City Council, and Planning Staff) provide more concrete feedback to reduce the number of design review cycles and move projects through the review process efficiently.

4. Please identify a project or projects that you find to be examples of good architecture, and explain why. You may attach samples, identify project addresses, or provide links. If you attach samples, staff may request that you bring hard copy print outs to the interviews.

1. 520 Cowper Street (Garden Court Hotel)-a wonderfully pedestrian friendly street front with a spacious and well designed vehicular entrance at the hotel help mask the mass of the building. Careful and playful detailing and lots of balconies provide an attractive link to Palo Alto's architecture heritage.
2. Courthouse Square, Redwood City-sometimes no building is best of all. A well used and loved public space created with lots of community input. Small flanking gazebos enhance the pedestrian nature of the public square.
3. 1600 El Camino, Menlo Park (NE corner of El Camino and Encinal)-a beautifully executed rendition of a Mediterranean style building built in the twentieth-first century. The materials, detailing and massing fit the site and community and, while gently evoking the past, are not reproductions of outdated building techniques.
4. 270 University Avenue (Jos. A Banks store)- a well designed urban storefront that is both of our time (contemporary detailing and sustainable) yet of a scale and massing to fit into the University Avenue streetscape as a good neighbor. Not every building should be this dramatic, yet once in a while it is refreshing.

5. Architectural Review Board Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan [LINK](#)

Zoning Code [LINK](#)

El Camino Real Design Guidelines [LINK](#)

El Camino Real Master Plan Study [LINK](#) and Appendices [LINK](#)

Area Plans such as the South of Forest Avenue (SOFA) I and II Plans [LINK](#)

California Environmental Quality Act [LINK](#)

Permit Streamline Act [LINK](#)

Density Bonus Law [LINK](#)

Secretary of the Interior's Standards [LINK](#)

Consent to Publish Personal Information on the City of Palo Alto Website

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The full code can be read here: [LINK](#)

Read the code, and check only ONE option below:

I give permission for the City of Palo Alto to post to the City's website the attached Board and Commission Application intact. I have read and understand my rights under Government Code Section 6254.21. I may revoke this permission at any time by providing written notice to the Palo Alto City Clerk.

OR

I request that the City of Palo Alto redact my home address, phone numbers, and email address from the attached Board and Commission Application prior to posting to the City's website. I am providing the following alternate information and request that they use the following contact information instead.

Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: Peter Baltay

Digitally signed by Peter Baltay
DN: cn=Peter Baltay, o=TOPOS Architects, ou,
email=peter@toposarchitects.com, c=US
Date: 2015.05.05 12:32:13 -07'00'

Date: 5/5/2015

Architectural Review Board Application

Personal Information

Name: **Wynne Furth**

Address: **216 Everett Avenue Palo Alto 94301**

Cell Phone: **650.444-5888**

Home / Office Phone: **650.326-9313**

E-mail: **wynne.furth@gmail.com**

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

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Do you have an investment in, or do you serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to:

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Excluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Architectural Review Board?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Palo Alto Weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer |

Other: city clerk's office

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

Trained in economics at Stanford (including design course from Matt Kahn); law at Harvard, with a focus on land use, local govt, and legal process; worked with and for California cities, notably Claremont and Palo Alto, advising building officials, planning/transportation/architectural/historic preservation boards and city councils, and in the process received great training from applicants, staff, the board members, and the citizenry on design and its review, land use, architectural history, sustainability, and the need for clarity, civility, study, hardwork, a range of expertises, and integrity in design review. Participated in APA, ULI, and League of California Cities workshops and conferences on land use and design issues.

Employment

Present or Last Employer: **ChangeLab Solutions, Oakland - consulting attorney**

Occupation: **lawyer (last full time employment: Burke Williams; McDonough Holland & Allen**

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

Board member, Palo Alto Woman's Club; member and former Board president, Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto; member, League of Women Voters; participant, Downtown North residential parking permit program working group; co-organizer and leader of Palo Alto Forward field trip exploring multiple-housing residential developments in Downtown Palo Alto from the 1920s to the 1990s.

1. What is it about the Architectural Review Board that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

The ARB is the place where Palo Alto citizens are able to shape the re-development of our city in a way that it considerate of that which already exists, and those who I live and work here now, while allowing new design and ventures to flourish. Those goals aren't incompatible - they support each other. The ARB makes projects better - it is rich in design expertise and dedicated members; I might add some knowledge of local zoning history and ways of articulating the relationship between qualitative standards and a particular project.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Board that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Board meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#).

There is a small project in my immediate neighborhood - at 252 Ramona (I'd be disqualified from participating in a review of it) to replace a single-story house with two three-bedroom units, significant habitable space in a basement, and the code minimum of parking. On one side is a two-story four unit apartment dating back to the 1920s, on the other side and across the street are small, single story homes, with a street scape dominated by greenery. The "big on the corners, small in the middle" pattern, which is as old as the original University Park subdivision, is satisfying. The ARB is putting a lot of thought in to how an additional unit can be accommodated with a design that isn't bigger and more disruptive than it needs to be. I'm grateful. And then there are the zoning issues it bumps up against: who thinks that two spaces will accommodate the likely number of vehicles?

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Architectural Review Board achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

I'd like to see the ARB's detailed experience with the nuts and bolts of the zoning code feed back into suggestions for zoning code modifications, or at least areas of focus and case studies. Perhaps they do this already, but an annual report on "sore spots" could be useful. I'm particularly concerned about issues of context and compatibility.

4. Please identify a project or projects that you find to be examples of good architecture, and explain why. You may attach samples, identify project addresses, or provide links. If you attach samples, staff may request that you bring hard copy print outs to the interviews.

1. 450 Bryant (Avenidas) - a building that holds up wonderfully and saves a block that might otherwise seem bare and hot - though the Bryant Street Garage does a good job of adding levity and greenery as well. An argument for solid materials and good maintenance, and a sense of humor in retaining old design elements. (The adjacent alley frontage is grim.) Good transition from Downtown Commercial to Downtown North.
 2. Woodmark - Channing and Bryant (SOFA II) - a complex community-involved planning process produced multiple-family housing that provides a lovely edge for Heritage Park, the significant number of new units that the City wanted, and a link between Scott Park and the new park that is a pleasure for pedestrians. ARB was a major player in making the Summerhill projects work - demanding good materials that would last. And it enhances, rather than detracting from, the varied older residences in the neighborhood. Again, a good transition between Downtown Commercial and the even leafier environs further south.
-

5. Architectural Review Board Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

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Zoning Code [LINK](#)

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Area Plans such as the South of Forest Avenue (SOFA) I and II Plans [LINK](#)

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Permit Streamline Act [LINK](#)

Density Bonus Law [LINK](#)

Secretary of the Interior's Standards [LINK](#)

I have read (and drafted revisions for) the Comp Plan; worked with the Zoning Code for 8 years, worked with the drafters of the ECR Design Guidelines and Master Plan Study, done the legal work on SOFA I and II, advised on and litigated CEQA issues; advised on PSA and Density Bonus law and the Secretary's Standards.

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Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: Wynne Fuh

Date: 5/15/2015

CHOICE #1

Personal Information

Name: KENNETH HLO
Address: [REDACTED]
Cell Phon [REDACTED]
 Home / Office Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

Are you available and committed to complete the term applied for? Yes No

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Do you have an investment in, or do you serve as an officer or director of, a company doing business in Palo Alto which you believe is likely to;

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Excluding your principal residence, do you own real property in Palo Alto? Yes No

How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Architectural Review Board?

- Community Group
- Daily Post
- Email from City Clerk
- City Website
- Palo Alto Weekly
- Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

- 1998 CALIFORNIA LICENSED ARCHITECT
- 98 TERRITORY OF GUAM LICENSED ARCHITECT
- 92 UCLA/CAL BERKELEY - MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE & URBAN PLANNING
- 90 U. OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR - MASTER OF ARCH. & URBAN PLANNING
- 86 TAMKANG U, TAIWAN - BACHELOR OF ARCH. & URBAN PLANNING

Employment

Present or Last Employer: KENNETH HLO, ARCHITECT
Occupation: ARCHITECT

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

OFFER 26 YEARS DIVERSIFIED & COMBINED PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION INTERESTS, VOLUNTEERISM, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN ARCHITECTURE, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY BUILDING, PUBLIC ART, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FROM SF TO SJ, FROM USA TO ASIA, FROM LOCAL TO P.C. ON THE PENINSULA, IN SAN MATEO & SANTA CLARA COUNTY - LOCALLY & INTERNATIONALLY.

09-20-14

1. What is it about the Architectural Review Board that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

"POWER & GRACE UNDER PRESSURE!" REFLECTING, SCALING, GROWING SHALL BE THE COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE. PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED AS ARCHITECT-PLANNER, PLAN REVIEW ENGINEER WITH DIVERSIFIED, COMBINED ARCHITECTURE, BLDG./ZONING, COLLEGE TEACHING, CROSS CULTURE EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE. THE ARB SHALL BE 100% COMPATIBLE WITH MY PURSUIT IN A WIDE RANGING CULTURAL GROUNDING.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Board that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Board meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#)

AS THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS VOLUNTEER OWN TIME TO BE IN THE FRONT & CENTER FOR PROVIDING OPINIONS TO THE PUBLIC, IN DIRECTING DIRECTION OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT STYLE, WE SHALL KEEP IN MIND: TO SHIFT VIEW FROM DESIGNING FOR TO DESIGNING WITH; CULTIVATE EMPATHY; DEFER JUDGEMENT.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Architectural Review Board achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

WITH A FRESH PERSPECTIVE & EXPERTISE IN GROWING & SCALING CONSENSUS IN THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW PROCESS. I SHALL CONTRIBUTE TO AN INFORMED DECISION-MAKING BUSINESS MODEL BY MOTIVATING OVERALL ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS A BROAD RANGE OF AREAS. ADVOCACY FOR AGELESS DESIGN! W/NO STYLE!!

4. Please identify a project or projects that you find to be examples of good architecture, and explain why. You may attach samples, identify project addresses, or provide links. If you attach samples, Staff may request that you bring hard copy print outs to the interviews.

GOOD ARCHITECTURE OCCURS WHERE OPENESS, SENSE & SENSIBILITY, WELCOMING GESTURE OVERULES THE DEBATES OF NONTRADITIONAL VS. TRADITIONAL. GOOD ARCHITECTURE TAKES PLACE AT COGSWELL PLAZA, LYTTON PLAZA, AND NICE TREE-LINED STREETS THRU-OUT THE CITY, PUBLIC & PRIVATE.

5. Architectural Review Board Members work with the documents listed below. If you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

✓ Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan [LINK](#) OK

✓ Zoning Code [LINK](#) OK

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✓ Area Plans such as the South of Forest Avenue (SOFA) I and II Plans [LINK](#)

✓ California Environmental Quality Act [LINK](#) OK

✓ Permit Streamline Act [LINK](#) OK

Density Bonus Law [LINK](#) OK

Secretary of the Interior's Standards [LINK](#)

- PALO ALTO SHALL FEATURES A COMMUNITY WIDE SPIRIT OF "BOTH/AND," NOT "EITHER/OR" TRADITION & INNOVATION.

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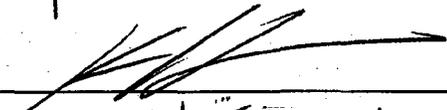
Address: _____

Cell Phone: 650-465-6598

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: PALOALTOARCHITECT@GMAIL.COM

Signature: _____


KENNETH HLD

Date: _____

09-20-14

Personal Information

Name: **Flore Schmidt**

Address: **1091 Tanland drive 207 # 94303 Palo Alto**

Cell Phone: **650 714 8535**

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail: **schmidt.flore@gmail.com**

Are you a Palo Alto Resident? Yes No

Do you have any relatives or members of your household who are employed by the City of Palo Alto, who are currently serving on the City Council, or who are Commissioners or Board Members? Yes No

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How did you Learn about the vacancy on the Architectural Review Board?

Community Group

Daily Post

Email from City Clerk

City Website

Palo Alto Weekly

Flyer

Other: _____

List relevant education, training, experience, certificates of training, licenses, or professional registration:

Full architecture degree, Paris-Versailles - France 1988

Graduate year in Rome La Sapienza University - Italy 1990

Cofounded and run 20 architect's Architecture Firm in Paris area, France 1991-2013

Experience includes: Residentials & multi apartment buildings / education (3 high school - 2 middle school) / remodelling University campus in Orsay/ Government (Civic hall, Library...) / sport facilities (stadium) / international experience / many competitions

Not a California licensed architect

Employment

Present or Last Employer:

Occupation: **Moved to Silicon Valley 2014 / Currently works with Sunplanter INC a Solar building start up company, Palo Alto**

Describe your involvement in community activities, volunteer and civic organizations:

Recently arrived in California. I am looking for involment opportunities in subject I am deeply interest in.

As Teenager I have consistently been engaged in Christian charity actions.

During the students years I have also given art classes (painting, drawing, sculpture & models) to 5-12 year children

1. What is it about the Architectural Review Board that is compatible with your experience and of specific interest to you, and why?

For 20 years, I have been in France, on the other side of the table, submitting projects to building departments, boards & governments. Although the administrative organization is quite different, I have been wishing the French permit granting authorities were more open-minded, more professionally experienced and supported a higher vision. I also wished they better understood the designer's constraints and quest and there was a productive dialog between the designer and the authorities. I have been member of many architecture competition juries and I have been involved in several city planning projects from small to very large scale.

2. Please describe an issue that recently came before the Board that is of particular interest to you and describe why you are interested in it. If you have never been to a Board meeting you can view an archive here: [LINK](#).

I have no specific information about a particular case, but I have been witnessing over the last few years the restart of a cycle of tearing down small things and replacing them with huge structures, all over the Bay Area and very so in Palo Alto, and I am concerned about how the board can help maintain high quality standards through a period of shifting life style.

I was in Architecture school in the 80's in Paris when 6 "new cities" were built in a rush in the fields around Paris, with very little previous thinking and while are historic cities were being bulldozered by developers. Nobody had envisioned the society problems this ideological city planning would generate, but we all spent our carrier years trying to fix the problems due to density and lack of upstream thinking and control. I would be very motivated to help the Architectural Review Board keep Palo Alto friendly, green and residential.

3. If appointed, what specific goals would you like to see the Architectural Review Board achieve, and why? How would you suggest accomplishing this?

I am very impressed by the level of the thinking I have seen at work here. I understand Palo Alto is facing pressure about higher urban density. I have spent a large part of my professional life as an architect in France curing the failures of ill designed density built in the post war rush through lots of demolition.

Building on my experience, I think Palo Alto's mission as a forward looking and globally admired city is to set new standards about how neighborhoods can be vibrant and quiet, busy and green.

Palo Alto should harmoniously develop the environment but preserve every one's identity and freedom.

I think it is a fascinating mission. How does "city planning" encourage "living together", "energy and ressource conservation", "meaningfull life", "efficient business" ?

4. Please identify a project or projects that you find to be examples of good architecture, and explain why. You may attach samples, identify project addresses, or provide links. If you attach samples, staff may request that you bring hard copy print outs to the interviews.

Let me talk here about PA City Hall. I don't know if it works well internally, but I feel it provides PA downtown with remarkable qualities. His volume make it stand out like a government building should, his architectural design, the material employed gives a scale and style reference. It's a landmark. It's also manages to create a European style "piazza" which is both a focal point, a breath in the city, a harbour while it reveals the institution's importance, providing public parking too. I absolutely do not mean private buildings should be allowed what the City Hall is. I mean that architectural design, volume, layout, building implementation must be use to build a neighborhood quality, an order in the city meaning and hierarchy. However for the future, I strongly believe buildings should be designed around the sun so they are positive energy solar powered, so they treat the sunlight and allow quality inner spaces while reducing the need for air conditionning and artificial lighting.

To my european eyes, LEED Platinum is an easy target, I wish Palo Alto will really invent the next step...

5. Architectural Review Board Members work with the documents listed below. if you have experience with any of these documents, please describe that experience. Experience with these documents is not required for selection.

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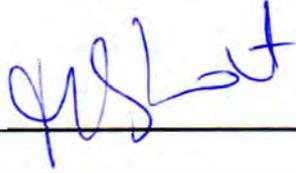
Address:

Cell Phone:

Home / Office Phone:

E-mail:

Signature: _____



Date: _____

05 05 2015