

Architectural Design Approach & DRC Recommendations

The new Public Safety Building will be an important facility for the people of Mountain View as well as the urban fabric of the broader Downtown. Its design should also be emblematic of its *civic mission, urban context, and City values*, as follows:

Civic Mission: The design must reflect the mission of the public safety departments it houses to convey trust, responsibility, and a sense of permanence. The architecture should reflect this with a combination of modern design elements that are based on timeless design principles of patterns, proportion, and balance.

Urban Context: The building must address the urban context of downtown - both the building and exterior spaces should complement surrounding buildings and streetscape design while addressing updated community goals for an inviting pedestrian realm.

City Values: The building should reflect the City’s values, including sustainability, transparency, and service to the community in a financially responsible manner.

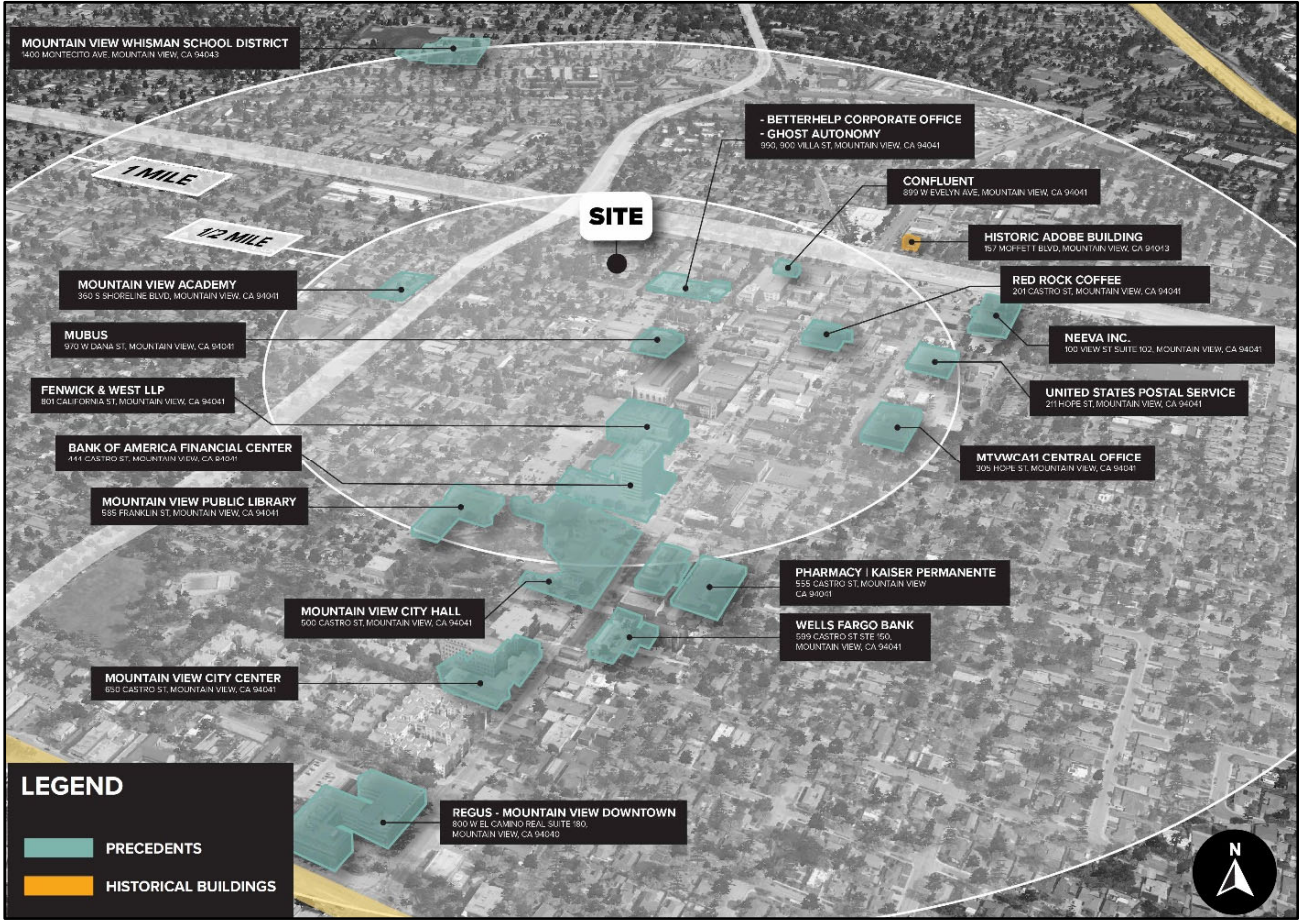


Figure 1 – Project Context



599 Castro Street



650 Castro Street



Mountain View City Hall



Mountain View Library



970 W. Dana Street



899 W. Evelyn Ave

Figure 2 – Neighboring Buildings

Façade Study:

The design team studied the massing, modularity, and form of neighboring buildings (with an emphasis on the existing civic buildings) throughout downtown Mountain View and then interpreted these into expressions intended to complement existing civic buildings while also embracing a contemporary aesthetic. The rhythm and scale of the proposed building design concepts are intended to complement precedent buildings, as shown in the façade studies in Figures 3 and 4.

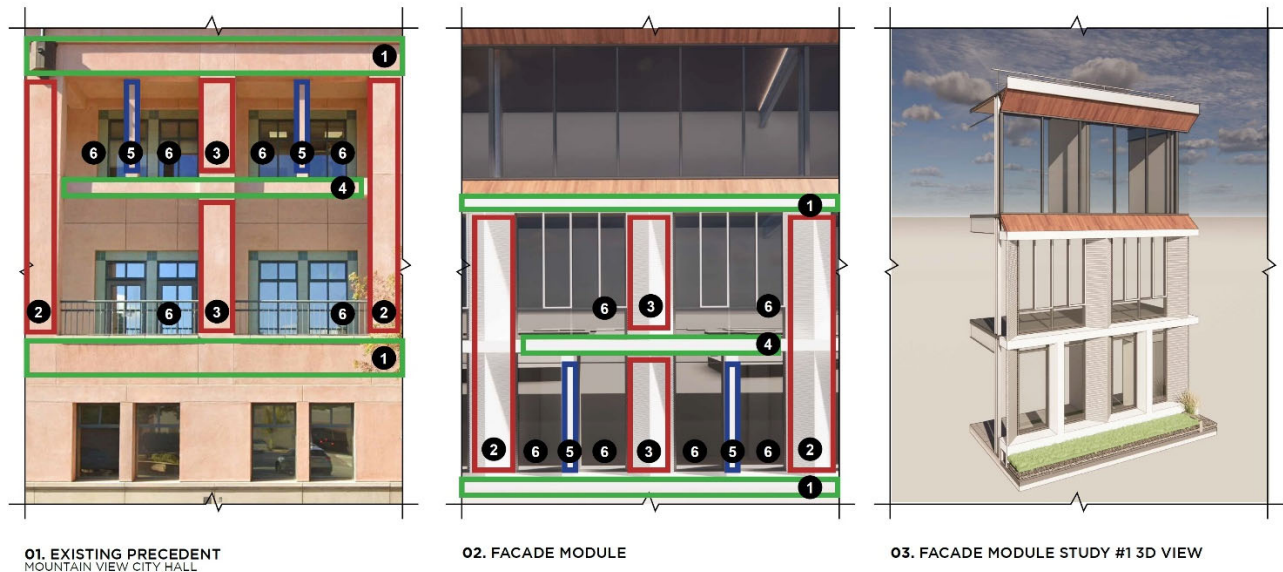


Figure 3 – City Hall Façade Study

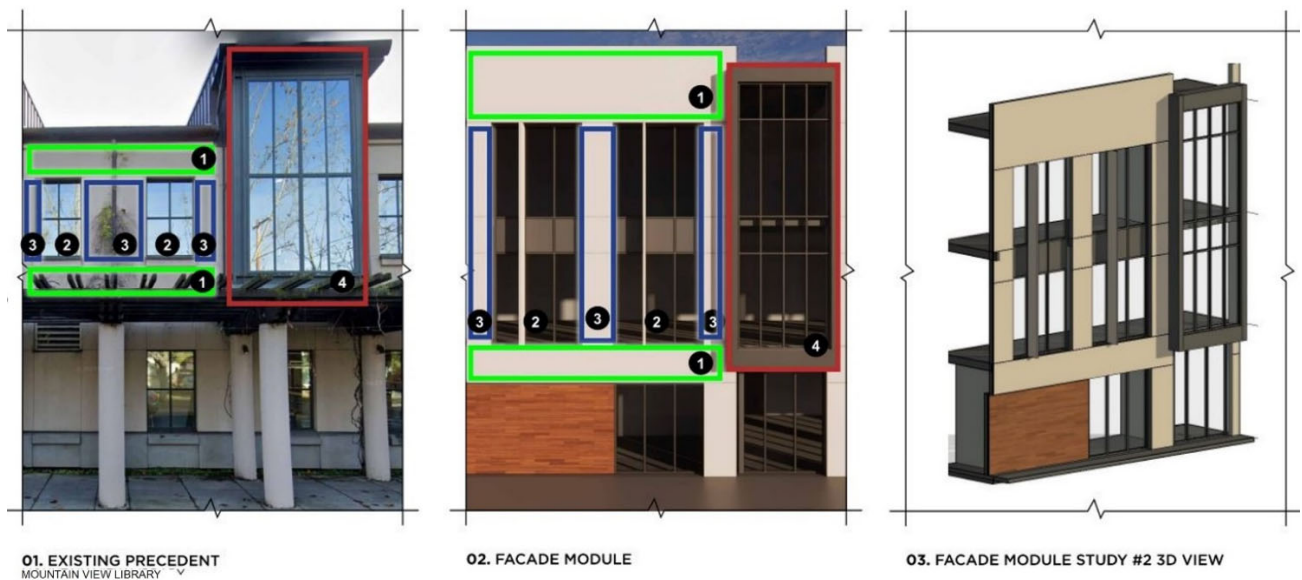


Figure 4 – City Library Façade Study

DRC Comments on Preliminary Architectural Concept Options:

The design team created both a recommended design option as well as an alternative for the DRC to review and comment on. Each of these takes a different approach to the existing context, as shown in the below elevations.



Figure 5 – Recommended Option to DRC

The recommended option adopted a more horizontal orientation and modulated the façade with major and minor columns which are more prominent at the first floor, more widely spaced at the second, and vanish at the third floor, increasing transparency at each higher level for visual interest and to mitigate the perceived height of the building. This option echoes the traditional base/middle/top in a contemporary expression, and also provides greater solidity at street level.



Figure 6 – Alternate Option to DRC

The alternate concept vertically breaks the long elevations and introduces extruded two-story breaks in the façade with additional glazing and contrasting materials. This approach, while still modern, bears a closer resemblance to the more traditional downtown buildings as well as the City library.

The DRC prefers the recommended exterior design, but also provided feedback on the alternate which may be considered if the alternate is carried forward further.

Corner Plaza Options – The DRC reviewed materials included two plaza alternatives – the first differentiates the plaza from the rest of the site, with a series of staggered linear planters and built-in seating creating a more porous interface with the streetscapes. The alternative is designed to complement the overall site concept with curving planters forming the perimeter of an outdoor plaza, with openings from both Villa and Franklin St. Each design balances objectives for streetscape landscaping, building protection, and plaza use for press conferences, gatherings, etc.

The DRC liked aspects of each of the plaza options and recommended that staff explore how to incorporate both the rectilinear elements of the first option with the curvilinear aspects of the second.

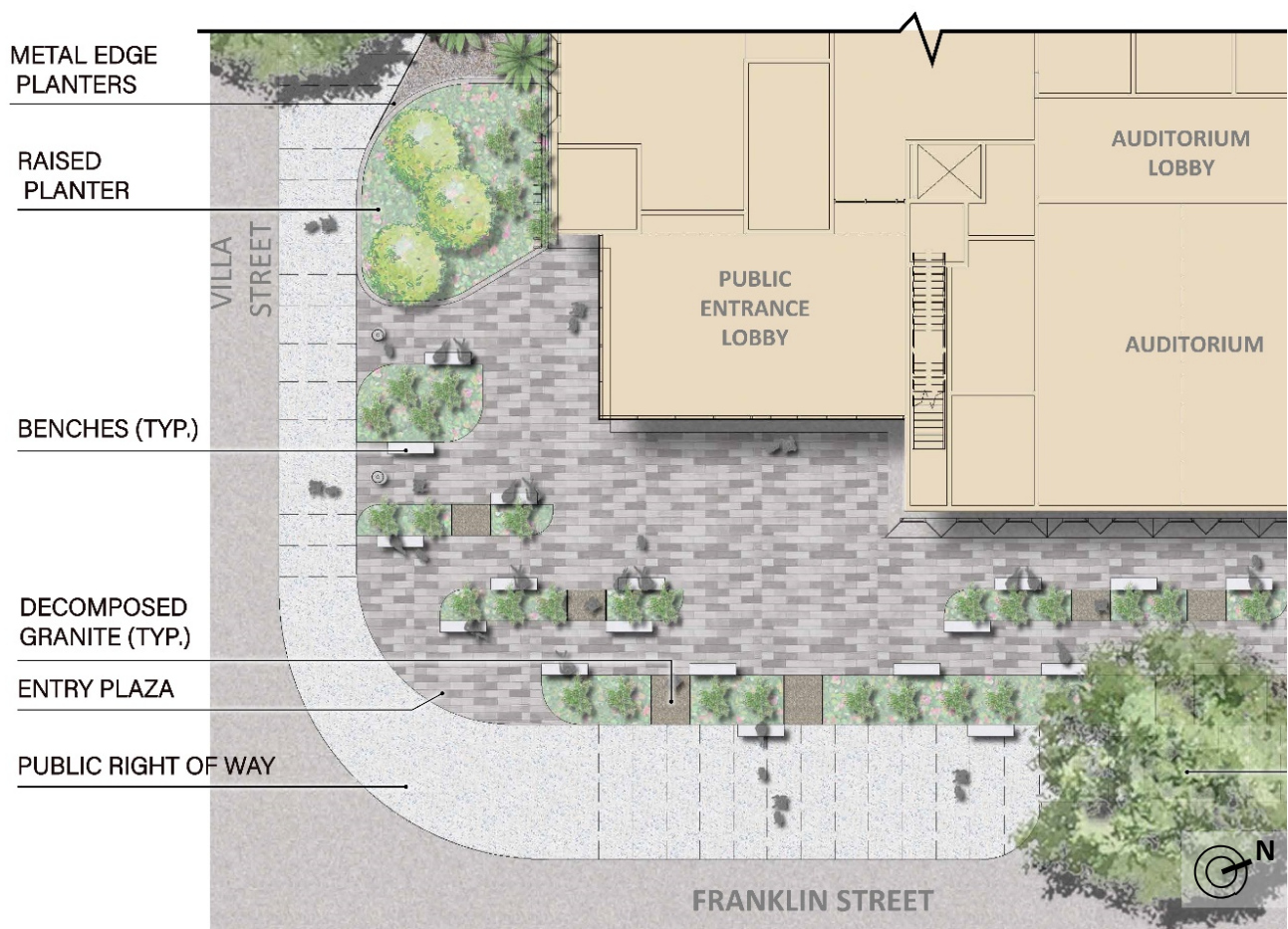


Figure 6 – Recommended Plaza Option to DRC

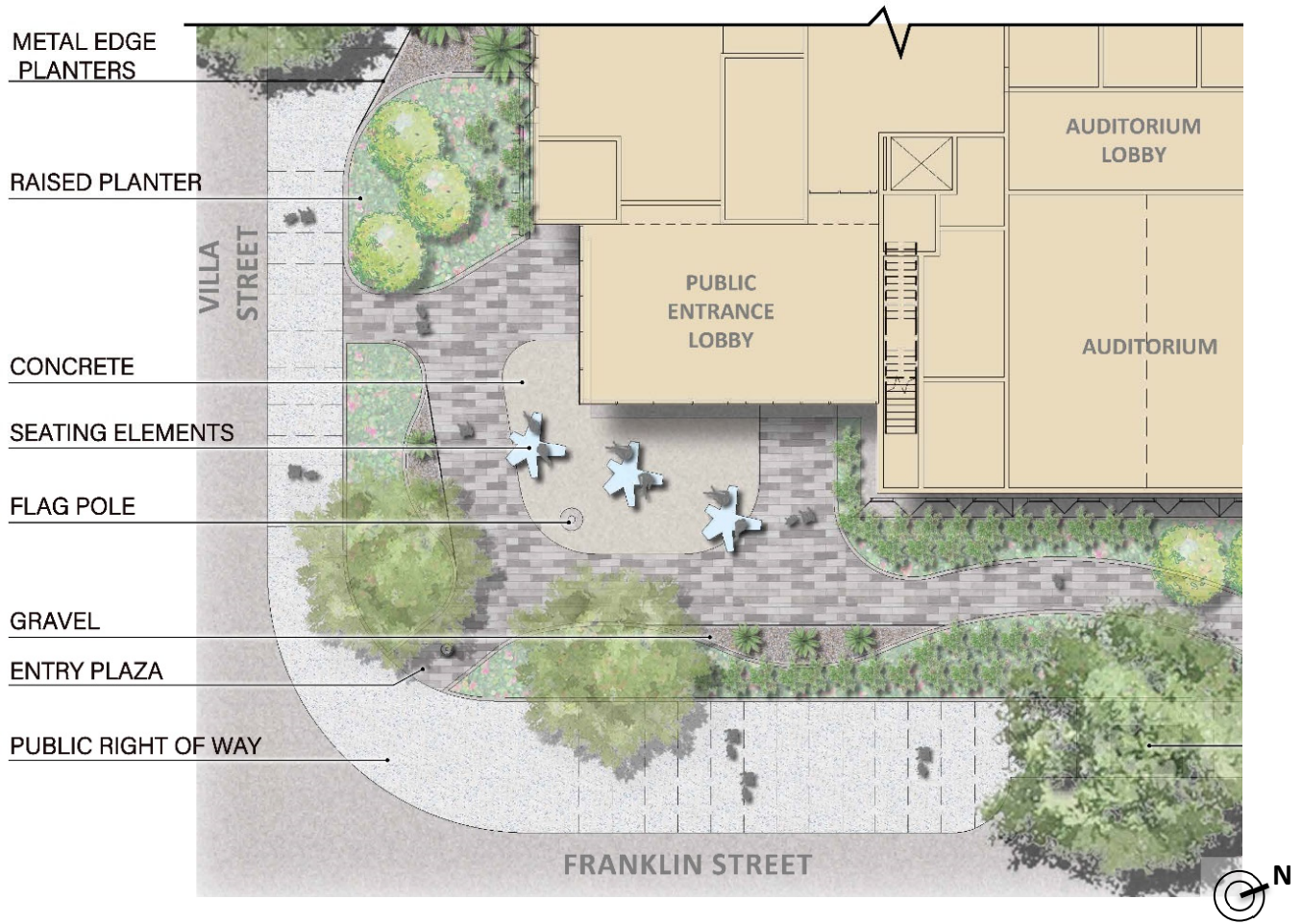


Figure 7 – Alternate Plaza Option to DRC