

# MIAMI BEACH

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT Staff Report & Recommendation

## Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: October 20, 2021

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP  
Planning Director



SUBJECT: DRB21-0711  
**1554 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street**

An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the construction of a new two-story residence to replace an existing architecturally significant pre-1942 home.

### **RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

### **LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

Lot 6, and the west 20 feet of Lot 5, Block 2-G, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Revised Plat of Sunset Islands, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 40, Page 8, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the October 5, 2021 meeting this application was continued to a date certain of October 20, 2021 due to the excess number of applications on the agenda.

### **SITE DATA:**

Zoning: RS-2  
Future Land Use: RS  
Lot Size: 24,028 SF  
Lot Coverage:  
Proposed: 3,700 SF / 15.3%  
Maximum: 7,220 SF / 30%  
Unit size:  
Proposed: 3,229 SF / 13.4%  
Maximum: 12,034 SF / 50%  
Height:  
Proposed: 28'-0" flat roof  
Maximum: 28'-0" flat roof

First Floor Elevation: +10' NGVD (BFE+2' FB)

### **EXISTING PROPERTY:**

Year: 1938  
Architect: Robert Law Weed  
Vacant: No  
Demolition: Total

### **SURROUNDING PROPERTIES:**

East: Three-story 2019 residence  
North: One-story 1948 residence  
South: Canal  
West: Three-story 2018 residence

Grade: +3.77' NGVD  
Base Flood Elevation: +8.00' NGVD  
Adjusted Grade: +5.88' NGVD

### **THE PROJECT:**

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "1554 W 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami Beach, Florida", as designed by **Roy & Posey Architecture, Landscape, Interiors**, signed and sealed August 2, 2021.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE:**

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the application, as proposed, appears to be consistent with the City Code.

The above noted comments shall not be considered final zoning review or approval. These and all zoning matters shall require final review and verification by the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

**COMPLIANCE WITH DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA:**

Design Review encompasses the examination of architectural drawings for consistency with the criteria stated below with regard to the aesthetics, appearances, safety, and function of the structure or proposed structures in relation to the site, adjacent structures and surrounding community. Staff recommends that the following criteria are found to be satisfied, not satisfied or not applicable, as hereto indicated:

1. The existing and proposed conditions of the lot, including but not necessarily limited to topography, vegetation, trees, drainage, and waterways.  
**Satisfied**
2. The location of all existing and proposed buildings, drives, parking spaces, walkways, means of ingress and egress, drainage facilities, utility services, landscaping structures, signs, and lighting and screening devices.  
**Satisfied**
3. The dimensions of all buildings, structures, setbacks, parking spaces, floor area ratio, height, lot coverage and any other information that may be reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of the underlying zoning district, and any applicable overlays, for a particular application or project.  
**Satisfied**
4. The color, design, selection of landscape materials and architectural elements of Exterior Building surfaces and primary public interior areas for Developments requiring a Building Permit in areas of the City identified in section 118-252.  
**Satisfied**
5. The proposed site plan, and the location, appearance and design of new and existing Buildings and Structures are in conformity with the standards of this Ordinance and other applicable ordinances, architectural and design guidelines as adopted and amended periodically by the Design Review Board and Historic Preservation Boards, and all pertinent master plans.  
**Satisfied**
6. The proposed Structure, and/or additions or modifications to an existing structure, indicates a sensitivity to and is compatible with the environment and adjacent Structures, and enhances the appearance of the surrounding properties.  
**Satisfied**
7. The design and layout of the proposed site plan, as well as all new and existing buildings shall be reviewed so as to provide an efficient arrangement of land uses. Particular attention shall be given to safety, crime prevention and fire protection,

relationship to the surrounding neighborhood, impact on contiguous and adjacent Buildings and lands, pedestrian sight lines and view corridors.

**Satisfied**

8. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement within and adjacent to the site shall be reviewed to ensure that clearly defined, segregated pedestrian access to the site and all buildings is provided for and that all parking spaces are usable and are safely and conveniently arranged; pedestrian furniture and bike racks shall be considered. Access to the Site from adjacent roads shall be designed so as to interfere as little as possible with traffic flow on these roads and to permit vehicles a rapid and safe ingress and egress to the Site.

**Satisfied**

9. Lighting shall be reviewed to ensure safe movement of persons and vehicles and reflection on public property for security purposes and to minimize glare and reflection on adjacent properties. Lighting shall be reviewed to assure that it enhances the appearance of structures at night.

**Not Satisfied; a lighting plan has not been submitted.**

10. Landscape and paving materials shall be reviewed to ensure an adequate relationship with and enhancement of the overall Site Plan design.

**Satisfied**

11. Buffering materials shall be reviewed to ensure that headlights of vehicles, noise, and light from structures are adequately shielded from public view, adjacent properties and pedestrian areas.

**Satisfied**

12. The proposed structure has an orientation and massing which is sensitive to and compatible with the building site and surrounding area and which creates or maintains important view corridor(s).

**Satisfied**

13. The building has, where feasible, space in that part of the ground floor fronting a street or streets which is to be occupied for residential or commercial uses; likewise, the upper floors of the pedestal portion of the proposed building fronting a street, or streets shall have residential or commercial spaces, shall have the appearance of being a residential or commercial space or shall have an architectural treatment which shall buffer the appearance of the parking structure from the surrounding area and is integrated with the overall appearance of the project.

**Satisfied**

14. The building shall have an appropriate and fully integrated rooftop architectural treatment which substantially screens all mechanical equipment, stairs and elevator towers.

**Satisfied**

15. An addition on a building site shall be designed, sited and massed in a manner which is sensitive to and compatible with the existing improvement(s).

**Not Applicable**

16. All portions of a project fronting a street or sidewalk shall incorporate an architecturally appropriate amount of transparency at the first level in order to achieve pedestrian compatibility and adequate visual interest.  
**Satisfied**
17. The location, design, screening and buffering of all required service bays, delivery bays, trash and refuse receptacles, as well as trash rooms shall be arranged so as to have a minimal impact on adjacent properties.  
**Not Applicable**
18. In addition to the foregoing criteria, subsection [118-]104(6)(t) of the city Code shall apply to the design review board's review of any proposal to place, construct, modify or maintain a wireless communications facility or other over the air radio transmission or radio reception facility in the public rights-of-way.  
**Not Applicable**
19. The structure and site complies with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in Chapter 133, Article II, as applicable.  
**Not Satisfied; see below**

**COMPLIANCE WITH SEA LEVEL RISE AND RESILIENCY REVIEW CRITERIA**

Section 133-50(a) of the Land Development establishes review criteria for sea level rise and resiliency that must be considered as part of the review process for board orders. The following is an analysis of the request based upon these criteria:

1. A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.  
**Not Satisfied**  
**A recycling plan shall be provided as part of the submittal for a demolition/building permit to the building department.**
2. Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.  
**Satisfied**
3. Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.  
**Satisfied**
4. Resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants) shall be provided, in accordance with Chapter 126 of the City Code.  
**Satisfied**
5. The project applicant shall consider the adopted sea level rise projections in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, as may be revised from time-to-time by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The applicant shall also specifically study the land elevation of the subject property and the elevation of surrounding properties.  
**Satisfied**

6. The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-ways and adjacent land and shall provide sufficient height and space to ensure that the entry ways and exits can be modified to accommodate a higher street height of up to three (3) additional feet in height.

**Satisfied**

7. In all new projects, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation. Due to flooding concerns, all redevelopment projects shall, whenever practicable, and economically reasonable, move all critical mechanical and electrical systems to a location above base flood elevation.

**Satisfied**

8. Existing buildings shall be, where reasonably feasible and economically appropriate, elevated up to base flood elevation, plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard.

**Not Applicable**

9. When habitable space is located below the base flood elevation plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided in accordance with Chapter of 54 of the City Code.

**Not Applicable**

10. In all new projects, water retention systems shall be provided.

**Satisfied; in addition to expansive pervious open space, the project include rainwater collection umbrellas.**

11. Cool pavement materials or porous pavement materials shall be utilized.

**Satisfied**

- (12) The project design shall minimize the potential for a project causing a heat island effect on site.

**Satisfied; in addition to extensive landscape the project includes solar panels.**

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS:**

The applicant is proposing to construct a new two-story residence and an associated tennis court on the south side of Sunset Island 2, which currently contains a pre-1942 architecturally significant residence. The design floor elevation of the new home is proposed at base flood elevation (8') plus a free board +2' or +10.00' NGVD.

The proposed canal front residence is designed in a contemporary Art Deco Style. Modestly sized on a half-acre lot with a unit size of 15%, the residence is sited within the western portion of the property, allowing a tennis court, a sculptural pool and landscape to dominate the site. The home is elegantly detailed with applied stucco detailing, such as a frond frieze, coral quoined entrances, horizontal scoring, rounded corners throughout, and eyebrows. The residence is elegantly designed as a homage to Miami Beach in its style and material selection. As such, staff recommends the approval of the application.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

In view of the foregoing analysis, staff recommends the application be **approved**, subject to the conditions enumerated in the attached Draft Order, which address the inconsistencies with the aforementioned Design Review and Sea Level Rise criteria.