

# MIAMI BEACH

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Staff Report & Recommendation

### Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: March 1, 2022

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP  
Planning Director



SUBJECT: DRB21-0771  
**4570 & 4580 North Bay Road**

An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the construction of a new two-story single-family home, including one or more waivers and review of an understory area, to replace an existing residence on a vacant lot.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval.

#### **LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

Lot 19, Block 1, NAUTILUS SUBDIVISION, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 8, Page 95, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida. AND Lot 20, Block 1, NAUTILUS SUBDIVISION, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 8, Page 95, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

#### **SITE DATA:**

Zoning: RS-2  
Future Land Use: RS  
Lot Size: 49,689.8 SF  
Lot Coverage:  
Proposed: 14,351 SF / 28.9%  
Maximum: 14,906.9 SF / 30%  
Unit size:  
Proposed: 19,560 SF / 39.4%  
Maximum: 24,844.9 SF / 50 %  
Height:

Proposed: 28'-0" flat roof  
Maximum: 28'-0" flat roof

Grade: +3.30' NGVD  
Base Flood Elevation: +8.00' NGVD  
Adjusted Grade: +5.65' NGVD  
First Floor Elevation: +13' NGVD (BFE+5' FB)

#### **EXISTING PROPERTY 4570 N Bay Rd:**

Year: 1950  
Architect: MacKay & Gibbs  
Vacant: Yes

#### **EXISTING PROPERTY 4580 N Bay Rd:**

Year: 2004  
Architect: A3 Architecture & Design  
Demolish: Yes  
Vacant: No

#### **SURROUNDING PROPERTIES:**

East: Two-Story 1940 residence | two-story 1926 residence | 2-story 1928 residence  
North: Two-story 2003 residence  
South: Two-story 1932 residence  
West: Biscayne Bay

#### **THE PROJECT:**

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "4570/4580 North Bay Road" as designed by **D\Ice Design Studio**, dated, signed and sealed January 3, 2022.

The applicant is requesting review for an understory area:

1. Understory area shall be subject to the review and approval of the Design Review Board in accordance with Section 142-105(b)(4)(d).

The applicant is requesting the following design waiver(s):

1. A two-story side (north) elevation in excess of 60'-0" in length in accordance with Section 142-106 (a) (2)(d).

**COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE:**

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the application, as proposed, appears to be inconsistent with the following sections of the City Code:

- Subject to the review and approval of the Design Review Board the following may apply to the understory area(s): Understory area(s) shall be used only for open air activities, parking, building access, mechanical equipment, non-enclosed restrooms and storage.
- Two-story side elevations located parallel to a side property line shall not exceed 50 percent of the lot depth, or 60 feet, whichever is less, without incorporating additional open space, in excess of the minimum required side yard, directly adjacent to the required side yard:
  - a. The additional open space shall be regular in shape, open to the sky from grade, and at least eight feet in depth, measured perpendicular from the minimum required side setback line.
  - b. The square footage of the additional open space shall not be less than one percent of the lot area.
  - c. The elevation (height) of the open space provided shall not exceed the maximum permitted elevation height of the required side yard, and
  - d. At least 50 percent of the required interior open space area shall be sodded or landscaped with pervious open space.
- Staff recommends reduction of the mechanical equipment pad as proposed within the required interior (south) yard.

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. However, the applicant is requesting one waiver and understory review from the Board.**
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. However, the applicant is requesting one waiver and understory review from the Board.**
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. However, the applicant is requesting one waiver and understory review from the Board.**
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. However, the applicant is requesting one waiver and understory review from the Board.**
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. However, the applicant is requesting one waiver and understory review from the Board.**
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. However, the applicant is requesting one waiver and understory review from the Board.**
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; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.**

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

**Satisfied; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.**

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

**Satisfied**

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS:**

The applicant is proposing to construct a new two-story residence, located on two lots along the bay side of North Bay Road. The unified site contains a vacant lot and a single family home constructed in 1950. The applicant is requesting review of the understory and one design waiver.

The new two-story residence features an understory with the first fully-enclosed, habitable floor of the residence designed at an elevation of 13'-0" NGVD, (BFE + 5' Fb). The design intention is to create a larger, non-air-conditioned space below the main slab that serves as a usable outdoor recreational amenity and program feature for the owner. In this design, the project architect has incorporated an understory that is comprised of open-air covered lounges, parking, storage and access to the main level. The understory includes a sculpture garden with a volume that opens up to the first level of the home.

In addition to the understory review, this application includes a design waiver request for two-story interior elevations that exceed 60' in length. As designed, the north interior elevation endeavors to comply with the code by incorporating two recesses along its two-story elevation. However, the provided open spaces do not meet the required 1% of lot area, but are each open to the sky, regular in shape and at least 8' feet deep from the required setback line. Further, the architecture of this north elevation exhibits adequate planar movement. Staff finds that the design, coupled with the proposed open spaces, meets the intent of the code and is supportive of the waiver.

The proposed understory home has been designed in a contemporary style. The building volumes that comprise the residence are curated in a manner that conforms to the irregularity of the site, creating internal courtyards that break up the overall massing of the home and introduce light from various angles. The design features striking vertical planes clad in stone that contrast with an overall horizontality of architecture that is expressed with expansive flat roof planes and projecting concrete balconies. A lush landscape further compliments the

design, grounding the home to its site and surroundings. Staff is supportive of the proposed design and recommends the approval of the application with the conditions noted within.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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