

University of Colorado Design Review Board Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025
Time: 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Room 302, Regent Administrative Center, 2055 Regent Drive,
University of Colorado Boulder

DRB and Campus Members present:

Mike Winters, Jody Beck, Sarah Brown, Tom Hootman, Laurel Raines, Chris Shears, and d'Andre Willis, campus DRB member for the University of Colorado Boulder campus (CU Boulder). Jody Beck and Laurel Raines joined remotely. David Keltner, the newest member of the board, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Others in attendance not otherwise noted:

Kori Donaldson, AVP of Budget, Finance, and Capital and ex officio member of the DRB
Linda Money, CU Real Estate Services, CU System employee / DRB notetaker (via Zoom)
Emily Parker, Sr. Budget, Planning, and Policy Analyst, Office of the VP for Budget & Finance

The DRB began the day with a tour of Residence One after which Mike Winters, Chair, determined a quorum and called the meeting of the Design Review Board to order at 9:15 a.m.

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.

Study Session – Board Only

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

National Quantum Nanofabrication (NQN) Facility – CU Boulder Concept Design/Schematic Design (Action Requested)

Architects/Consultants:

Page Architects
BSA Landscape Architects

Presenters:

Alex Goldberg, Page
Scott Stoll, Page
Jason Messaros, BSA

CU Boulder Campus Presenters:

d'Andre Willis, Director of Planning/Campus Architect,
Facilities Planning
Wayne Northcutt, Facilities Planner, Architect, Facilities
Planning

Other CU Boulder Campus Representatives Present:

George Carter, Director of Infrastructure, College of
Engineering & Applied Science

Richelle Goedert, Campus Landscape Architect, Facilities Planning

Edward von Bleichert, Environmental Operations Manager

Joshua Porosky, Facilities Design and Construction

Description: Combined Concept Design and Schematic Design submittal for a 3,800 GSF addition to the SEEL building on east campus funded with a National Science Foundation grant to further national security interests in quantum sensing.

A/E Presentation

The design team gave a comprehensive presentation of the submittal package, which is available upon request through the contact information noted at the bottom of this document.

DRB Comments

General

- The DRB expressed appreciation for the progress made since the last review and noted that the next submission will be for Design Development.
- Members were pleased to hear there may be some flexibility in the project budget and encouraged the team to simplify the design where possible to achieve a more elegant solution.

A. Energy and Sustainability

- The addition of Noresco as a sustainability consultant was well received, and the DRB looks forward to follow-up on sustainability strategies before the DD submission.

B. Site & Landscape Architecture

- The DRB raised concerns about the angled sidewalk and the triangular condition it creates. Members recommended simplifying the geometry, pulling the walk away from the building, or eliminating the angle altogether.

C. Architecture

- The DRB recommended eliminating the perforation at the parapet, noting it may not be necessary and could complicate the design.
- The angled window was also questioned; members suggested removing it, as it obstructs views and may not contribute meaningfully to the design.
- The corridor daylighting strategy was supported, but the DRB suggested raising the sill height, which could also help address floodplain concerns.

- The transition between the new addition and the existing building requires further study, particularly at the mechanical area. A reveal or color shift could help articulate this connection.
- Study if any of the horizontal datum lines of the existing building could be incorporated into the new addition to tie the two together.
- The DRB encouraged continued study of building materials. While the current articulation suggests metal, brick could also be a viable option. The overall composition should be simplified and cohesive.
- The rust-colored material shown was considered distracting. A more harmonious palette was recommended.
- The University will need to provide direction regarding the level of acceptable risk related to the 500-year floodplain.

DRB Action

Chris Shears moved to approve the combined Concept Design/Schematic Design submittal for the National Quantum Nanofabrication (NQN) Facility with the comments noted above. Tom Hootman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- The DRB requested a touch-base meeting prior to the Design Development submission, potentially with a focus on sustainability.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Farrand Hall Renovation – CU Boulder Schematic Design (Action Requested)

Architects/Consultants:

Anderson Mason Dale (AMD)
Swinerton
Wenk Associates
Group14 Engineering

Presenters:

Greg Dorolek, Wenk Associates
Lauren McNeill, Group14 Engineering
Andy Nielsen, AMD

CU Boulder Campus Presenters:

d'Andre Willis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning
& Design, Campus Architect, Facilities Planning
Lindsay Schumacher, Planner, Planning, Design and
Construction, Facilities Planning

Others Present:

Katie Spicer, AMD
Maria Blair, Swinerton

Other CU Boulder Campus Representatives Present:

JT Allen, Director of Housing Facilities Services
Richelle Goedert, Campus Landscape Architect, Facilities
Planning

Jon Keiser, Design and Project Management, Housing
Facilities

Wayne Northcutt, Facilities Planner, Architect, Facilities
Planning

Edward von Bleichert, Environmental Operations Manager

Description:

Schematic Design submittal for a comprehensive interior renovation; systems replacement and upgrade, addition of cooling; window/door replacement, exterior repairs, create new accessible entries, upgrade building envelope; site improvements and landscaping renovation of Farrand Hall.

A/E Presentation

The design team gave a comprehensive presentation of the schematic design submittal, a copy of which is available upon request.

DRB Comments

A. Energy and Sustainability

- Continue studying window types and framing; three options are under review. The fiberglass frame options are higher performance and align with UC Boulder glazing performance standards.
- The project is tracking toward LEED Gold; energy and water goals are on target. The additional energy strategies identified appear feasible and contribute to LEED as well as align with Colorado State energy benchmarking energy targets.

B. Site & Landscape Architecture

- Continue exploring elm species; Triumph and Accolade elm species may perform well.
- At the west interior courtyard:
 - Consider relocating platform bench for comfort and cohesion.
 - Explore the addition of bench seating along outer edge/walkways.
- Outside the west courtyard:
 - Explore ways to refine the point at which the stair and arched wall intersect (at the walkway above the lawn).
 - Adjust north stairs (from diagonal walkway that travels east-west on the north side of the building) for improved ADA access and landing space.
 - Consider adding an enclosure around the existing dumpster (to the south).

- At the east courtyard, study whether the planter shown in the northwest corner can be expanded to better shield trash and recycling.
- At the north courtyard, explore the addition of a low fence (in lieu of a curb) to separate the pedestrian pathway from the dumpsters.

C. Architecture

- Continue window mock-up studies; fiberglass noted as a strong energy performer.
- Maintain spandrel vocabulary at the east courtyard to the entry door and canopy.
- At the main entrance to the building from the east courtyard, consider maintaining consistency with detail of the surrounding spandrels.

DRB Action

Sarah Brown moved to approve the Schematic Design submittal for the Farrand Hall Renovation with the comments noted above. Tom Hootman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Upon completion of the agenda items noted above and a break for lunch, the DRB toured the following projects on the Boulder campus:

- Conference Center Hotel/Garage
- Contemplative Garden
- Old Main
- Hellems

There being no further business, the public meeting of the Design Review Board adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

(For assistance with the attachments referenced within this document, please contact Linda Money at (303) 860-6110 or linda.money@cu.edu.