



# **University of Colorado Design Review Board Meeting Notes**

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025  
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.  
Location: Bruce and Marcy Benson Conference Room, First Floor,  
1800 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado

## **DRB and Campus Members present:**

Jody Beck, Sarah Brown, Tom Hootman, David Keltner (via Zoom), Laurel Raines, Chris Shears, and d'Andre Willis, campus DRB member for the University of Colorado Boulder campus (CU Boulder) (via Zoom).

**Others in attendance not otherwise noted:**

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

Chris Shears, Chair, determined a quorum and called the meeting of the Design Review Board to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **10:00 – 10:45 a.m.      Study Session – *Board only***

**10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.      Farrand Hall Renovation – CU Boulder Design Development (Action Requested)**

### Architects/Consultants:

Consultants:  
Anderson Mason Dale (AMD)  
Swinerton  
Wenk Associates  
Group14 Engineering

## Presenters:

Andy Nielsen, AMD  
Greg Dorolek, Wenk Associates  
Lauren McNeill, Group 14

## CU Boulder Campus Presenters:

d'Andre Willis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning  
& Design, Campus Architect, Facilities Planning  
(via Zoom)  
JT Allen, Director of Housing Facilities Services

### Others Present:

Maria Blair, Swinerton  
Ace Martin, Wenk Associates  
Katie Spicer, AMD

Other CU Boulder Campus Representatives Present:

Richelle Goedert, Campus Landscape Architect, Facilities  
Planning (via Zoom)

Jon Keiser, Design and Project Management, Housing  
Facilities (via Zoom)

Lindsay Schumacher, Planner, Planning, Design and  
Construction, Facilities Planning

Edward von Bleichert, Environmental Operations Manager  
(via Zoom)

Description:

Design Development 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 submittal package, which is available upon request through the contact information noted at the bottom of this document.

## DRB Comments

### A. Energy and Sustainability

- The design team has been able to integrate many meaningful sustainability concepts into the project.
- The design team clarified that while some basic solar-ready provisions are in the design, they anticipate that any solar dedicated to the project would be through an off-site CU Boulder PV system, if available.
- An additional LEED energy point is expected to be available with the integration of the final window/glazing package and low flow plumbing fixtures. The preferred window package is Alpen half-fixed/half-casement. The DRB prefers clear glass, rather than tinted glass and supports the goal for high VLT glazing.
- The LEED approach is very strong and the energy modeling results look good.
- The analysis and results from the embodied carbon assessment are excellent. The DRB is excited to carbon impact of this important renovation project.

### B. Site & Landscape Architecture

- The design team discussed the changes in the site and landscape design, provided more detail about the grading, and discussed site lighting.
- The DRB was appreciative of the inclusion of a detailed grading plan in the submission. There was a discussion about some of the details of the grading plan, which lead to the following recommendations:

- In the west courtyard, there is a vertical curb that should be shown as flush in one location. There are also new storm drains that are labeled as existing storm drains.
- In the north courtyard, study whether the grade is too flat and whether it should be increased in some locations.
- In the east courtyard, consider whether the planters with curbs need to be opened up in one location to allow for drainage.
- With regard to the site lighting plan, the DRB recommended that the team look more closely at the location of a light pole shown in the southwest corner of the east courtyard – should it be moved further to the south?

### **C. Architecture**

- The design team reviewed final architectural design details, with a particular focus on the new entryway on the west side of the building. The team also reviewed proposed changes to loggia railings.
  - The DRB recommends additional study of the new west entryway. Is there a way to make the door more vertical? Are the sidelights needed? In lieu of sidelights, could the door mirror the inset line from the door above? Consider alternatives to the new, diagonal limestone surround that are still fresh and new, but integrate into the overall vocabulary of the building.
  - While the DRB expressed a preference for the loggia railing solution Option B, it recommended further study of alternatives to address maintenance concerns and to best honor the historic character of the building.
- The DRB supports the design team window recommendation of Option A – Alpen, but would like to discuss window options further at a future meeting.

### **DRB Action**

Tom Hootman moved the approval of the Design Development submittal for the Farrand Hall Renovation conditional on the future review and approval of the west entryway, loggia railings, window design, and signage at the grab and go entry. Jody Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

**Campus Wayfinding & Signage Master Plan – CU Boulder Concept Design (Action Requested)**

Architects/Consultants:

AW-ARCH  
Signals

Presenters:

Chris Grimley, Signals  
Paul Wood, Project Manager, AW-ARCH

CU Boulder Campus Presenters:

d'Andre Willis, Director of Planning/Campus Architect,  
Facilities Planning (via Zoom)  
Richelle Goedert, Campus Landscape Architect, Senior  
Planner, Facilities Planning (via Zoom)Description: Concept Design submittal for a project to design  
and implement a campus-wide wayfinding system.**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

The design team discussed the evolution of the wayfinding design, including how it is responding to input from campus stakeholders and a survey. It also discussed potential neighborhood names, typology considerations, and the “family” of signs that it is developing. It stated that it is considering ways to bring the surrounding environments into the sign design.

**DRB Comments****A. Energy and Sustainability**

- The design team was encouraged to consider ways to integrate sustainable design into the project, such as: durability, reusing stone; modeling the project's carbon life cycle; considering local suppliers; and exploring healthy materials and the chemical loading of different design choices.
  - The design team is encouraged to demonstrate how it will respond to sustainability in its next submittal.

**B. Site & Landscape Architecture and Architecture**

- The DRB is looking forward to seeing an illustration of each sign type in situ for a sample campus location in the next submittal. It made the following recommendations about the conceptual design:
  - Continue to study the scale of the proposed signage types
  - ✓ Study the vertical proportions of the various materials/components of the signs.  
Are the spacers needed?

- ✓ Consider height of “blade” protruding from some sign types and whether it will be an obstacle to some campus users.
- ✓ Be deliberate in the design of different heights of the stone bases.
- Provide information about maintenance considerations in design.

**DRB Action**

Tom Hootman moved to approve the Concept Design submittal for the CU Boulder Campus Wayfinding and Signage Master Plan Renovation with the comments noted above. Sarah Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the public meeting of the Design Review Board adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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