

On Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 3:08 PM Ovadia R Simha <simha@mit.edu> wrote:

I would like to share several observations regarding the designs proposed for the site, stairways and lighting associated with the new building at 350 Main Street .

In brief, there is no explanation for why a trellis structure coming down to the plaza level is necessary. It takes up more of the already too little plaza space and it also serves to make access to the stairwell to the garden less easily visible. Unless there is a compelling reason for this structure it should be dropped and the space should be retained for more flexible uses.

The social staircase schemes are not a happy solution. There is insufficient space for pedestrians trying to go and well as down to and from the garden. Only one person abreast could use this staircase. It should be more generous and thereby safer means of accessing the garden.

In connection with the narrow staircase, the sitting plinths along the wall (which take up stair case space) are dangerous and will likely result in accidents. The transition from staircase to plinth is not well thought out and will result in operational difficulties, cleaning , snow removal and other challenges..It is not a congenial place for people to rest or socialize ..Extend the stairs the full distance to make the garden more welcoming and improve the safety for those climbing up and down the stairs.....incidentally where is the handicapped access ?...via the garage ? And if so where is information to that effect ?

The digital wall has many imperfections, not the least of which is the scale of the written information. Too small type , difficult to see in the morning hours as a result of the sun orientation and unless the plinths are removed difficult to access to get a close up view....

Building Lighting: there is no reason to illuminate this building other than generic advertising....It is blindly insensitive to the fact that 400 families, many with young children will be living across the street and these illuminations will only serve to contribute to light pollution and annoyance to residents who will have to contend with a building that showers them with unwanted light all night long....BP should not go to the expense of lighting this building..It is an affectation that is inappropriate for this situation...Please tell them to drop it..You will only have endless complaints from the abutters .As to its propertied aesthetic value ..better to spend the money on what's left of the garden and the plaza.....

O. Robert Simha