
Letter regarding 135 Broadway

1 message

Ovadia R Simha <simha@mit.edu>

Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 10:54 AM

To: Ellen Shore <eshore@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Ellen Shore
Operations Director
Cambridge Redevelopment Authority
[255 Main Street, 8th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02142](#)

On Wed, Sep 15, 2021, 4:21 PM Ovadia R Simha <simha@mit.edu> wrote:

Thank you for inviting comments on the building and site plan for 135 Broadway.

It appears that the architects have been asked by the developer to reshape the building to allow for a greater view of the adjacent Akami building. This may well be an improvement in the current plan and we would encourage further creativity in the building design at the bottom of the building to include a cafe/ restaurant facing onto the main plaza as a way of activating and humanizing this important open space. A fitting reflection to the modest green space on the other side of Broadway.

The new plan, however, creates a hard scape plaza on Broadway and an over hang of the building that will surely develop into one of the most uncomfortable wind swept areas along Broadway. We would urge you to increase the greening of this plaza and to add amenities such as benches and opportunities for seasonal flowers that would encourage a more friendly and welcoming environment.

On the north side of the building they have continued to illustrate on the main large plaza an outsize ventilation sculpture a great deal of hardscape and some token pieces of grass.

The tight corridor created by the Akami and Biogen building together with the additional wall of the residential building will create a windy, always in shadow space.

This could be mitigated with a better arrangement of trees on the west side to create a wind barrier and larger grass areas if the place is ever to be inviting. A rearrangement of the uses on the ground floor of the residence to provide for a cafe / restaurant that would help make this space more humane. The current plan shows a loading dock on the north face of the building. Surely a better solution can be found....Some thought should now be given to the families and children who will be living in this building for their opportunities to have at least a modicum of green space in areas that are likely to have sunshine during the day.

I join in supporting the comments made by Bjorn Poonen of the Kendall Residents Association who has already raised some of these questions with the CRA.

O. Robert Simha

303 Third Street