

APPENDIX D



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MEMORANDUM

Date: November 16, 2005

To: Robert Kronenberg
MNCPPC
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

From: Jamie Karn

Re: Public Art for the Public Use Space at 1200 Blair
Mill Road

Copies: Mary Ann Mears

Remarks

The following text is a description by Mary Ann Mears of the intent and concept for the public art that she is designing for the site at 1200 Blair Mill Road. Accompanying this memo are photos to illustrate the current concept. Please let me know if you need any additional information or revisions for the submittal to the Arts Review Panel.

Introduction:

The current redevelopment of Silver Spring seems to strike a balance between a rich urban environment and preservation of green space. There is a conscious focus on creating interesting settings for people as they move through thoughtfully designed public spaces as pedestrians. This site reflects all of this: the building is large-- urban in scale, but is set back from the intersection to create an oasis of lawn and plantings, with a curving path inviting public access to the green space.

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Concept:

A defined goal for the public art for this site is create a transition from the scale of the building to the more intimate scale of the green space while relating sensitively to human scale. Further the opportunity exists to frame the walk and the green space and make it more inviting. The vocabulary for the sculpture is that of slender, elegant columns. Rather than edging the pathway in a single line, the forms are composed to form a more subtle articulation of the space and to define graceful gateways. By virtue of the way that they slice through and shape the space around them they lend themselves to interesting juxtapositions creating a dialogue between and amongst themselves. Varying the column heights and using an asymmetrical composition engenders a rhythm and flow that will visually engage the viewer with the entire sequence of the sculptural forms and the full length of the curved path.

The columns will be fabricated out of stainless steel (most likely 10 gauge) with a softly brushed finish. They will be reflective and hence echo the landscape colors. The stainless steel will work well with the natural materials in the landscape as well as the architectural textures of the building. The columns while architectonic and clean have an organic quality; they will relate well to landscape and building.

Ancient Egyptian lotus columns inspire the column forms. The aspiration is to enhance the site with a graceful presence that is sculptural while evoking a classic architectural form in a contemporary material and idiom. In terms of imagery, the contrapposto of the columns make evoke a feeling of swaying dancers or trees moving in the wind or perhaps the sleek attenuated forms might suggest a bird taking off and soaring upwards.

Process:

This concept evolved through close collaboration among the artist, architect and landscape architects in analysis of the site and developing the relationship of the work to the site. It reflects a true meeting of our minds.







