

MIAMI BEACH

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Staff Report & Recommendation

Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: November 5, 2024

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP
Planning Director



SUBJECT: DRB24-1046
1480 Stillwater Drive

An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the construction of a new two-story residence with an understory, including one or more waivers, to replace an existing residence.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval with conditions.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

LOT 48, BLOCK 16, "BISCAYNE BEACH SECOND ADDITION", ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 46, AT PAGE 39, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

SITE DATA:

Zoning: RS-4
Future Land Use: RS
Lot Size: 8,000 SF
Lot Coverage:
 Proposed: 2,237 SF / 27.9%
 Maximum: 2,400 SF / 30%
Unit size:
 Proposed: 4,000 SF / 50%
 Maximum: 4,000 SF / 50%
Height:
 Proposed: **30'-6"** flat roof *
 Maximum: 31'-0" flat roof*
*As measured from BFE + free board

Grade: +5.05 NGVD

Base Flood Elevation: +8.00' NGVD
Adjusted Grade: 6.52' NGVD
First Floor Elevation: +18.0' NGVD
BFE + 10' of freeboard

EXISTING PROPERTY:

Year: 1953
Architect: Gilbert M. Fein
Vacant: No
Demolition: Total

SURROUNDING PROPERTIES:

East: One-story 1950 residence
North: One-story 1955 residence
South: Biscayne Bay
West: Two-story 1952 | 1958 residence

THE PROJECT:

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "1480 Stillwater, Miami Beach" as designed by **Preschel + Bassan Studio**, dated September 8, 2024. The applicant is proposing to construct a new single-family residence with an understory.

The applicant is requesting review for an understory area:

1. Understory area shall be subject to the review and approval of the Design Review Board in accordance with Section 7.2.2.3(b)(vi).

COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE:

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the application, as proposed, appears to be consistent with the following sections of the City Code.

The above noted comments shall not be considered final zoning review or approval. These and all zoning matters shall require final review and verification by the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

COMPLIANCE WITH DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA, SECTION 2.5.3.1:

Design review encompasses the examination of architectural / landscape drawings for consistency with the criteria stated below, with regard to the aesthetics, appearance, safety, and function of any new or existing structure and physical attributes of the project in relation to the site, adjacent structures and surrounding community. The design review board and the planning department shall review plans based upon the below stated criteria, criteria listed in neighborhood plans, if applicable, and applicable design guidelines. Recommendations of the planning department may include, but not be limited to, comments from the building department and the public works department.

- a. The existing and proposed conditions of the lot, including but not necessarily limited to topography, vegetation, trees, drainage, and waterways.
Satisfied
- b. The location of all existing and proposed buildings, drives, parking spaces, walkways, means of ingress and egress, drainage facilities, utility services, landscaping structures, signs, and lighting and screening devices.
Satisfied
- c. The dimensions of all buildings, structures, setbacks, parking spaces, floor area ratio, height, lot coverage and any other information that may be reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of the underlying zoning district, and any applicable overlays, for a particular application or project.
Satisfied
- d. The color, design, selection of landscape materials and architectural elements of exterior building surfaces and primary public interior areas for developments requiring a building permit in areas of the city identified in section 2.5.3.2.
Satisfied
- e. The proposed site plan, and the location, appearance and design of new and existing buildings and structures are in conformity with the standards of this article and other applicable ordinances, architectural and design guidelines as adopted and amended periodically by the design review board and historic preservation board and all pertinent master plans.
Satisfied
- f. The proposed structure, or additions or modifications to an existing structure, indicates a sensitivity to and is compatible with the environment and adjacent structures, and enhances the appearance of the surrounding properties.
Satisfied

- g. The design and layout of the proposed site plan, as well as all new and existing buildings shall be reviewed so as to provide an efficient arrangement of land uses. Particular attention shall be given to safety, crime prevention and fire protection, relationship to the surrounding neighborhood, impact on contiguous and adjacent buildings and lands, pedestrian sight lines and view corridors.
Satisfied
- h. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement within and adjacent to the site shall be reviewed to ensure that clearly defined, segregated pedestrian access to the site and all buildings is provided for and that all parking spaces are usable and are safety and conveniently arranged; pedestrian furniture and bike racks shall be considered. Access to the site from adjacent roads shall be designed so as to interfere as little as possible with traffic flow on these roads and to permit vehicles a rapid and safe ingress and egress to the site.
Not Applicable
- i. Lighting shall be reviewed to ensure safe movement of persons and vehicles and reflection on public property for security purposes and to minimize glare and reflection on adjacent properties. Lighting shall be reviewed to assure that it enhances the appearance of structures at night.
Not Satisfied; a lighting plan has not been submitted.
- j. Landscape and paving materials shall be reviewed to ensure an adequate relationship with and enhancement of the overall site plan design.
Satisfied
- k. Buffering materials shall be reviewed to ensure that headlights of vehicles, noise, and light from structures are adequately shielded from public view, adjacent properties and pedestrian areas.
Satisfied
- l. The proposed structure has an orientation and massing which is sensitive to and compatible with the building site and surrounding area and which creates or maintains important view corridor(s).
Partially Satisfied; staff recommends the lowering of the understory level, and in turn the overall building height.
- m. The building has, where feasible, space in that part of the ground floor fronting a street or streets which is to be occupied for residential or commercial uses; likewise, the upper floors of the pedestal portion of the proposed building fronting a street, or streets shall have residential or commercial spaces, shall have the appearance of being a residential or commercial space or shall have an architectural treatment which shall buffer the appearance of the parking structure from the surrounding area and is integrated with the overall appearance of the project.
Satisfied
- n. The building shall have an appropriate and fully integrated rooftop architectural treatment which substantially screens all mechanical equipment, stairs and elevator towers.
Satisfied

- o. An addition on a building site shall be designed, sited and massed in a manner which is sensitive to and compatible with the existing improvement(s).
Not Applicable
- p. All portions of a project fronting a street or sidewalk shall incorporate an architecturally appropriate amount of transparency at the first level in order to achieve pedestrian compatibility and adequate visual interest.
Satisfied
- q. The location, design, screening and buffering of all required service bays, delivery bays, trash and refuse receptacles, as well as trash rooms shall be arranged so as to have a minimal impact on adjacent properties.
Satisfied
- r. In addition to the foregoing criteria, subsection 118-104-6(t) of the General Ordinances shall apply to the design review board's review of any proposal to place, construct, modify or maintain a wireless communications facility or other over the air radio transmission or radio reception facility in the public rights- of-way.
Not Applicable
- s. The structure and site comply with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in chapter 7, article I, as applicable.
Satisfied

COMPLIANCE WITH SEA LEVEL RISE AND RESILIENCY REVIEW CRITERIA

Section 7.1.2.4(a)(i) of the Land Development Regulations establishes review criteria for sea level rise and resiliency that must be considered as part of the review process for board orders. The following is an analysis of the request based upon these criteria:

- 1. A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.
Satisfied; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.
- 2. Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.
Satisfied
- 3. Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.
Satisfied
- 4. Resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants) shall be provided, in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Land Development Regulations.
Satisfied
- 5. The project applicant shall consider the adopted sea level rise projections in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, as may be revised from time-to-time by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The applicant shall also specifically study the land elevation of the subject property and the elevation of surrounding properties.
Satisfied

6. The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-ways and adjacent land and shall provide sufficient height and space to ensure that the entry ways and exits can be modified to accommodate a higher street height of up to three (3) additional feet in height.

Satisfied

7. In all new projects, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation. Due to flooding concerns, all redevelopment projects shall, whenever practicable, and economically reasonable, move all critical mechanical and electrical systems to a location above base flood elevation.

Satisfied

8. Existing buildings shall be, where reasonably feasible and economically appropriate, elevated up to base flood elevation, plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard.

Not Applicable

9. When habitable space is located below the base flood elevation plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided in accordance with Chapter of 54 of the City Code.

Satisfied; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.

10. In all new projects, water retention systems shall be provided.

Satisfied; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.

11. Cool pavement materials or porous pavement materials shall be utilized.

Satisfied; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.

12. The project design shall minimize the potential for a project causing a heat island effect on site.

Satisfied; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The applicant is proposing to construct a new two-story residence on a waterfront lot on Stillwater Drive that will replace an existing residence. The application includes the review of the understory.

The proposed home features an understory with the first fully enclosed, habitable floor of the residence designed at an elevation of 18.00' NGVD, or BFE plus 10'-0" of freeboard. The design intention is to create a larger, non-air-conditioned space below the main slab that serves as a usable outdoor recreational amenity and program feature for the owner. In this design, the project architect has incorporated an understory for the enclosed and covered parking, outdoor recreational spaces that include eating areas and terraces, access to the main level, and the pool equipment storage. The understory is intended to circulate the flow of air and light with the use of wood composite louvers, sand set pavers and lush landscaping.

The proposed residence is designed in a contemporary style that contrasts varying walls planes with material accents. The primary facades feature floor to ceiling glazing, with vertical wood louvers screening portions of the front façade for privacy and uninterrupted glass

shaded by a large trellis structure on the rear elevation overlooking Biscayne Bay. The side elevations are predominantly finished in stucco and glazing, incorporate planar movement and champagne metal accents for interest.

To minimize the impact of a generous understory area, the front façade is comprised of varying volumes, with the second-floor volume stepped back from the first floor. However, staff does recommend that the applicant lower the overall height of the home to 28 feet, to be more compatible with the lower scale homes that exist adjacent to the proposed home. It This would still provide for a usable understory with 9' clear and the top of the first floor slab would still be located at an elevation of 15' NGVD.

Staff is supportive of the application with the noted modifications and recommends the approval of this application.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the foregoing analysis, staff recommends the application be **approved**, subject to the conditions enumerated in the attached Draft Order, which address the inconsistencies with the aforementioned Design Review and Sea Level Rise criteria.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
City of Miami Beach, Florida

MEETING DATE: November 5, 2024

PROPERTY/FOLIO: **1480 Stillwater Drive** **02-3203-011-2090**

FILE NO: DRB24-1046

LEGAL: LOT 48, BLOCK 16, "BISCAYNE BEACH SECOND ADDITION",
ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 46,
AT PAGE 39, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA.

IN RE: An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the
construction of a new two-story residence with an understory, including one
or more waivers, to replace an existing residence.

APPLICANT: STEELWATER SOUTH LLC

ORDER

The City of Miami Beach Design Review Board makes the following FINDINGS OF FACT, based upon the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing and which are part of the record for this matter:

I. Design Review

- A. The Board has jurisdiction pursuant to Section 2.1.3.1 of the Land Development Regulations. The property is not located within a designated local historic district and is not an individually designated historic site.
- B. Based on the plans and documents submitted with the application, testimony and information provided by the applicant, and the reasons set forth in the Planning Department Staff Report, the project as submitted is consistent with the Design Review in Section 2.5.3.1 of the Land Development Regulations.
- C. Based on the plans and documents submitted with the application, testimony and information provided by the applicant, and the reasons set forth in the Planning Department Staff Report, the project as submitted is consistent with Sea Level Rise Criteria in Section 7.1.2.4(a)(i) of the Land Development Regulations.
- D. The project will remain consistent with the criteria and requirements 2.5.3.1 and/or Section 7.1.2.4(a)(i) with the following conditions:
 - 1. Revised elevation, site plan, and floor plan drawings for the proposed new home at 1480 Stillwater Drive shall be submitted, at a minimum, such drawings shall incorporate the following:
 - a. The revised understory height **shall be** approved as proposed.

- b. The height of the understory level shall be lowered to allow for the overall residence height to be 28'-0".
 - c. The final design, materials and details of the exterior spiral staircase within the open space court on the west side elevation shall be submitted, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - d. The final design, materials and details of the aluminum glazing system with champagne frame finish proposed within the open space court on the east side elevation shall be submitted, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - e. The final color and design details of the champagne-colored metal cladding proposed on all elevations and the exterior staircases shall be submitted, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - f. The final design details of the wood composite louvers shall be submitted, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - g. The final design details of the exterior materials and finishes shall be submitted, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - h. URBAN HEAT ISLAND ORDINANCE Section 7.5.3.2(g)(iv) Driveways and parking areas that are open to the sky within any required yard shall be composed of porous pavement or shall have a high albedo surface consisting of a durable material or sealant, as defined in Section 1.2.1 of this Code, and (v) Driveways and parking areas composed of asphalt that does not have a high albedo surface, as defined in Section 1.2.1, shall be prohibited.
 - i. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the project Architect shall verify, in writing, that the subject project has been constructed in accordance with the plans approved by the Planning Department for Building Permit.
2. A revised landscape plan, prepared by a Professional Landscape Architect, registered in the State of Florida, and corresponding plans shall be submitted to and approved by staff. The species, type, quantity, dimensions, spacing, location and overall height of all plant material shall be clearly delineated and subject to the review and approval of staff. At a minimum, such plans shall comply with Chapter 4-Landscape Requirements of the Miami Beach Code and shall incorporate the following:
- a. Shrubs and groundcover shall not be planted in the public Right-of-Way. The plans shall be revised to indicate that sod is to be used.

- b. The plans shall be revised to comply with the line-of-sight visibility triangle requirements, subject to the review and approval of staff.
- c. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall submit a tree protection plan for all trees to be retained on site. Such plan shall be subject to the review and approval of staff, and shall include, but not be limited to a sturdy tree protection fence installed at the dripline of the trees prior to any construction.
- d. In order to identify, protect and preserve mature trees on site, which are suitable for retention and relocation, a Tree Report prepared by a Certified Tree Arborist shall be submitted for the mature trees on site.
- e. Any tree identified to be in good overall condition shall be retained and protected in their current location if they are not in conflict with the proposed home, or they shall be relocated on site, if determined feasible, subject to the review and approval of staff.
- f. Existing trees to be retained on site shall be protected from all types of construction disturbance. Root cutting, storage of soil or construction materials, movement of heavy vehicles, change in drainage patterns, and wash of concrete or other materials shall be prohibited.
- g. The proposed and existing trees located within the swale shall be subject to the review and approval of Green Space and CIP.
- h. Street trees shall be required within the swale at the front of the property if not in conflict with existing utilities, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by the Public Works Department. Any new street trees shall be of a consistent canopy tree species as similar to the neighboring trees along the street.
- i. Any existing plant material within the public right-of-way may be required to be removed, as the discretion of the Public Works Department.
- j. A fully automatic irrigation system with 100% coverage and an automatic rain sensor in order to render the system inoperative in the event of rain. Right-of-way areas shall also be incorporated as part of the irrigation system.
- k. The utilization of root barriers and/or Silva Cells, as applicable, shall be clearly delineated on the revised landscape plan.
- l. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the Landscape Architect or the project architect shall verify, in writing, that the project is consistent with the site and landscape plans approved by the Planning Department for Building Permit.

In accordance with section 2.2.4.8 of the Land Development Regulations, the applicant, the City Manager, Miami Design Preservation League, Dade Heritage Trust, or an affected person may appeal a decision of the design review board for design review approval only

to the city commission, except that orders granting or denying a request for rehearing shall not be reviewed by the commission.

I. Variance(s)

- A. No variance(s) were filed as part of this application.

The decision of the Board regarding variances shall be final and there shall be no further review thereof except by resort to a court of competent jurisdiction by petition for writ of certiorari.

II. General Terms and Conditions applying to both 'I. Design Review Approval and 'II. Variances' noted above.

- A. All new construction over 7,000 square feet shall be required to comply with the Green Building requirements in section 7.1.3.2. In lieu of achieving LEED Gold certification, properties can elect to pay a sustainability fee or post a bond, pursuant to Section 7.1.3.2 of the Land Development Regulations. This fee is set as a percentage of the cost of construction.
- B. Upon the issuance of a final Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion, as applicable, the project approved herein shall be maintained in accordance with the plans approved by the board and shall be subject to all conditions of approval herein, unless otherwise modified by the Board. Failure to maintain shall result in the issuance of a Code Compliance citation, and continued failure to comply may result in revocation of the Certificate of Occupancy, Completion and Business Tax Receipt.
- C. During construction work, the applicant shall maintain gravel at the front of the construction site within the first 15'-0" of the required front yard and including the swale (subject to the review and approval of Public Works), to mitigate disturbance of soil and mud by related personal vehicles exiting and entering the site. All construction materials, including dumpsters and portable toilets, shall be located behind the construction fence and not visible from the right-of-way.
- D. During the course of construction, all vehicles, including, but not limited to all personal vehicles, shall park within the confines of the private property, the swale directly abutting the construction site, or at alternate overflow parking sites that are not on-street metered spaces and not zoned RS. Additionally, parking of any vehicles shall be prohibited in the travel lanes of all streets.
- E. All allowable construction signage shall be attached to or situated behind the construction fence and shall be limited to one (1) sign, not to exceed four (4) square feet, in accordance with Section 6.3.2 of the Land Development Regulations.
- F. The building and parking departments shall approve a construction parking plan prior to the issuance of any building permit, including applicable demolition permits for the project.
- G. The applicant shall ensure that the contractor(s) observe good construction practices and prevent construction materials and debris from impacting the right-of-way.

- H. The contractor(s) shall ensure that the street and the swale directly abutting the construction site remains free of debris and refuse at all times; at a minimum, the contractor(s) shall inspect and clear the street and swale areas before leaving at the end of each day.
- I. This order shall be enforced by the Building, Planning, Parking and Code Compliance Departments.
- J. A recycling/salvage plan shall be provided as part of the submittal for a demolition/building permit, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff.
- K. A copy of all pages of the recorded Final Order shall be scanned into the plans submitted for building permit and shall be located immediately after the front cover page of the permit plans.
- L. The Final Order shall be recorded in the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- M. Satisfaction of all conditions is required for the Planning Department to give its approval on a Certificate of Occupancy; a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or Partial Certificate of Occupancy may also be conditionally granted Planning Departmental approval.
- N. The Final Order is not severable, and if any provision or condition hereof is held void or unconstitutional in a final decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, the order shall be returned to the Board for reconsideration as to whether the order meets the criteria for approval absent the stricken provision or condition, and/or it is appropriate to modify the remaining conditions or impose new conditions.
- O. The conditions of approval herein are binding on the applicant, the property's owners, operators, and all successors in interest and assigns.
- P. Nothing in this order authorizes a violation of the City Code or other applicable law, nor allows a relaxation of any requirement or standard set forth in the City Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the evidence, information testimony and materials presented at the public hearing, which are part of the record for this matter, and the staff report and analysis, which are adopted herein, including the staff recommendations, which were amended and adopted by the Board, that the **application** is GRANTED for the above-referenced project subject to those certain conditions specified in Paragraph I, II, III of the Finding of Fact, to which the applicant has agreed.

PROVIDED, the applicant shall build substantially in accordance with the architectural plans, entitled "1480 Stillwater, Miami Beach" as designed by **Preschel + Bassan Studio**, dated September 8, 2024; and as approved by the Design Review Board, as determined by staff. When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order. No building permit may be issued unless and until all conditions of approval that must be satisfied prior to permit issuance, as set forth in this Order, have been met.

If the Full Building Permit for the project is not issued within eighteen (18) months of the meeting date at which the original approval was granted, the application will expire and become null and void, unless the applicant makes an application to the Board for an extension of time, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Section 2.2.4.6 of the Land Development Regulations; the granting of any such extension of time shall be at the discretion of the Board. If the Full Building Permit for the project shall expire for any reason (including but not limited to construction not commencing and continuing, with required inspections, in accordance with the applicable Building Code), the application will expire and become null and void.

In accordance with Chapter 2 of the Land Development Regulations, the violation of any conditions and safeguards that are a part of this Order shall be deemed a violation of the land development regulations of the City Code. Failure to comply with this **Order** shall subject the application to Chapter 2 of the Land Development Regulations, for revocation or modification of the application.

Dated _____.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Rogelio A. Madan, AICP
Development & Resiliency Officer
For the Chair

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)SS
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____ 20__ by Rogelio A. Madan, AICP, Development & Resiliency Officer of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, a Florida Municipal Corporation, on behalf of the Corporation. He is personally known to me.

{NOTARIAL SEAL}

Notary:
Print Name
Notary Public, State of Florida
My Commission Expires:
Commission Number:

Approved As To Form:
City Attorney's Office: _____ ()

Filed with the Clerk of the
Design Review Board on _____ ()

DRAFT