UH Manoa Design Advisory Panel
May 12, 2011

Attendees:

Panel Members:
Kazi Ashraf
Kiersten Faulkner
Janet Gillmar (proxy for Julie Walters)
Steve Meder
Sanford Murata
Peter Vincent

Staff:
Mark Gilbert
Somers Reid

Guest Presenters: (Richardson School of Law)
Denise Antolini, Associate Dean
Phil Russell, GMR LLC, Project Manager/Advisor
Avi Soifer, Dean Richardson School of Law

Agenda:

a. Richardson School of Law renovation presentation
b. Historic preservation presentation
c. Campus way-finding presentation
d. Solar Decathlon presentation

Summary:

a. Positive feedback on law school renovation project for using design competition. Panel wants to ensure 1) a commission system is in place; 2) the jurors are of highly qualified; and 3) advertising pieces are professionally done.
b. Encouragement for steps taken for historic presentation and the listing on the state historic register of seven initial buildings. Panel notes the need to push forward and continue listing additional properties in the future.
c. Affirmative response to campus way-finding and signage plan. Panel notes need to ensure ADA-compliance in placement and construction. Regarding temporary event “booth” signage, panel has concerns related to scale and appropriateness.
d. Panel expresses disappointment with possible university withdrawal from the solar decathlon competition.
Richardson School of Law Project

Denise Antolini
1) Law School seeks to launch an international juried competition in fall 2011 for the sustainable renovation and modernization of its two buildings with prevailing firm awarded the project.
2) Estimated $40 million for the library building and $6.32 million for other hall
3) The law school was unsuccessful at procuring design funds through legislature this session.
4) The law school has some funds it would like to use for design competition through bonding. The school is also looking to partner with other UH departments and the private sector.
5) The competition winner will be required to work with a local firm during the building process, as well as meet strict design criteria and objectives.
6) The project seeks to use the very best jury possible and wants to start the process prior to receiving state funding.

Avi Soifer
1) Noted that the law school acquired Judge King’s library, which they hope to accommodate in one of the new spaces.
2) Serious consideration is being given to develop revenue bonds to fund the project.
3) The last reaccreditation emphasized the need to improve the school’s physical plant and they would like to show significant progress in advance of the next reaccreditation.

Phil Russell
1) Appreciative of reaffirmation in favor of design competition
2) The design competition will help with fund raising efforts
3) The competition affords the best opportunity to produce great architecture
4) The renovation will be 140K square foot project
General comments

a. Question was asked regarding availability of immediate funding for the design competition and the law school noted that they had the resources.
b. A question arises as to why put cash in the design competition? The presenters felt the publicity was well worth the value.
c. Panel congratulates law school efforts and stated it’s a good benefit for improving campus standard of building design.
d. A panelist was not sure what to produce for promotional packet but suggest something different from the existing renderings.
e. The panel expressed concern with the original program, which removed trees from Dole Street and want the circulation space between the buildings clarified.
f. The panel asked if the process sought to select a design or a designer, as the latter is best due to involvement through the project completion.
g. The law school presenters stated they wanted a designer.
h. The panel suggests having public presentations with each finalist presenting their body of work creating a good system to get an exciting project.
i. There was concern that the process does not get watered down or end up as a design by committee. Also need clear rules of the competition process.
j. A panelist wants to ensure the romance of the vision does not disrespect the detail of the program, which will undermine the credibility of the project.
k. Panelist wants the project to show progress after the design competition and remind the presenters that everyone is aware of the challenges of state funded projects. Nevertheless, choosing the right jurors can make an important difference in ensuring the architects they wish to attract will enter the competition.
l. **Motion:** Design Advisory Panel approves the design competition concept.

Campus Planning Presentation

1. **Overview (Steve Meder)**
a. Gave background information on the advisory panel/his function
b. His position is now integrated into the decision making process of UH space management
c. Its efforts are also combined with the architecture environmental lab, which is in the middle of documenting UH Manoa built spaces
d. Several projects are ongoing: transportation master plan, landscape master plan, sewage/drainage, water conservation, and strategy is being developed to manage resources both human and environment
e. The advisory panel will review and give recommendations on some of these projects
2. Historic Preservation (Mark Gilbert)
   a. Addressed ongoing historic preservation assessment of campus
   b. 75 buildings on campus likely eligible for historic register
   c. Criteria for preservation includes type of architecture, events that took place in or around the building, and the architect that designed the structure
   d. The building should be at least 50 years old for register, though there are exceptions
   e. Panel members question why only seven buildings currently on list for historic register
   f. Response: short list due to the complexity of the process, but all buildings approaching 50 years will be reviewed for eligibility
   g. One panelist suggests including 40 year old buildings to the list due to the approval time process taking over 10 years; Mark indicates this is the plan
   h. Panel hopes UH administration become more acclimated with the historic preservation process
   i. First seven buildings: Bachman Hall, Front Music Building, Bilger Hall, Hemingway Hall, Castle Memorial Hall, and East West Kennedy Theatre
   j. Motion: Group approves moving forward on the first seven buildings but want assurance that the process continues. Also want better understanding of the preservation plan for the music building preservation; does it only cover the front of the space or the entire front building?
   k. Need to address renovation processes as well

3. Signage and Way-finding (Mark Gilbert)
   a. New signs will be strategically place around campus. They are being designed by Osaki Creative Group.
   b. The signs will cover all uses, including vehicular, pedestrian, building, temporary and secondary signage.
   c. Signage built from steel and porcelain but elements still in design phase.
   d. Need approval to move forward with construction, so still time for comments and critique.
   e. Per Mark the signs will expand to identify district or zones that are part of the overall way-finding scheme for the campus, employing Hawaiian native plant themes.
   f. Panelist suggests reviewing ahupua‘a concept
   g. Panelist also stress the need to use Hawaiian words correctly
   h. Ensure these signs meets ADA requirements, show distinction between signs (especially vehicular from others), and add maps as part of way finding
   i. UH administration wants to add upcoming APEC meet banners on campus. They would be tactfully placed around well-travelled areas.
   a. The present design is four-sided and over 9 foot tall.
b. Advisory panel thought the design was outdated and would encourage vandalism. Furthermore, what will be in place of the banners after the meeting and who will manage these spaces remained unanswered questions.
c. Where exactly will the banners be placed?
d. Advisory Panel suggests having the UH way-finding signs in place prior to APEC conference rather than focus on conference-specific signage.

4. Kuykendall Project (Steve Meder)
a. Steve gave overview of project and stated that it was in conjunction with the Department of Energy.
b. The project is the last of three sustainable projects partially funded by the National Department of Energy. Others are New York Time building and NASA AMES in California.
c. Kuykendall Hall design concept is to use primarily passive systems augmented by minimal HVAC schemes. The spaces will use a dehumidifier to control dew point, stop mold growth, and help ventilate the buildings during extreme low airflow conditions.
d. The most challenging aspect of the design is controlling acoustics and ventilation.
e. The buildings performance will be monitored prior to and after renovation.
f. A survey is being used to gain occupants opinion of the present condition of the buildings.
g. Expected renovation start time is spring/summer 2012.
h. 18 months of construction with occupancy in 2014.

5. Solar Decathlon (Steve Meder)
a. David Rockwood was to give a presentation but could not make the meeting
b. The solar decathlon project is faltering due to lack of funds. Construction cost came in twice the expected amount.
c. David has asked the Solar Decathlon organization to defer UH entry for two years but not sure if this will be approved.
d. The production cost has been a major challenge.

Meeting adjourned