

Gateway Plaza Building Design Recommendations

1. Ensure that the building blends with the surroundings by using architectural massing to allow new building to fit comfortably with the nearby historic buildings to the south. Though the building will be taller and it is understood the parking deck determines the level of the second floor, it should still respect and respond to the smaller historic buildings. There are many design techniques to accomplish this including creating a lower eave line to help bring it visually closer to the scale of the barber shop to the south.
2. Use traditional, classic proportions for a timeless look. There are many older buildings in the surrounding area from Huntington Station's early days with authentic details that can be used as a model. Traditional buildings can project a simple grace or elegance without the use of an excessive variety of materials, colors or massing/rooflines, but rather simple proportions and classic details. Consider the proportions and layout of all facades that are visible (ie. the south elevation visible as you approach the site from the train station), not just the street facades. (Historic buildings to reference include 1006, 1024, 1036, 1038, 1090, 1351, 1555, 1573, 1601 New York Av., 4-18 Northridge St.)



Illustration 1: Conceptual design showing lower eave height to bring building scale closer to neighboring building. Brick storefronts with balance between window displays and architectural detailing, canvas awnings and externally lit signs.

3. Use authentic materials, especially at ground level. Traditionally, most commercial buildings when Huntington Station was developed were brick rather than stone or stucco, residential structures in the surrounding neighborhoods were usually shingled, with some clapboard and stucco. Authentic materials tend to have more “gravitas” and age more gracefully than synthetic materials.
4. If using imitation materials (vinyl siding, faux/cultured stone or thin brick, etc.) install and detail them so they appear to be the real thing. Certain details make it obvious that the material is fake and detract from the overall appearance. For example, “floating” stone or bricks that appear to defy gravity (like the new construction at 41 Green St.), J-channels and seams for vinyl siding or “picture framed” window trim that treats all sides of a window the same way. Instead thin brick should be treated as and appear as structural brick, ends of vinyl siding be hidden behind “rabbited” solid vinyl trim instead of extruded, hollow vinyl J-channels and corner trim and trim around windows should have a sill at the bottom and a drip cap at the top to shed water.
5. The tower at the corner is an appropriate way to mark the prominent location it is in. It will be visible for a significant distance from both the north and the south and will act as an icon of Huntington Station. As such, it should be thoughtfully designed, with care given to its proportions and details.
6. The pedestrian experience at the sidewalk level is critical to the success of the project and the detailing of the storefronts is a major part of that experience. At eye level, the building should have sufficient storefront glass to provide transparency and view into stores, while still having enough architecture and details to provide interest. Window sills generally shouldn't be higher than 30”, awnings should be canvas to soften the façade and signs should be externally illuminated rather than the internally illuminated “box” signs common along Jericho Tpke (unless exposed tube neon is used). More information for creating a pleasurable sidewalk experience can be found here: <http://www.originalgreen.org/blog/2012/walk-appeal-measurables.html>



Illustration 2: Conceptual design showing two story traditional façade similar to nearby historic buildings, with third story and attic less prominent.

How will an architect be chosen for the project? It should be someone well versed in traditional architecture. We are requesting that a member of the community act as a liaison to meet with architect to help clarify these recommendations. Huntington Station deserves high quality architecture and we would like to ensure that's what we receive.