

## **CHÂTEAU LAURIER ADDITION**

### **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN TEXT – 2019.02.15**

**Design Language** In massing, materiality and design, the Addition draws considerable inspiration from the historic Château Laurier, while remaining distinctly of its time and distinguishable from the heritage hotel. A simple palette of limestone, granite, bronze, and glass echoes the fabric of the historic building, with fine detailing that reinterprets the romantic character of the Château for a new generation.

The architectural design approach has been further refined in response to the conditions set out in the City Council Motion dated 27 June 2018, and the Heritage Permit dated 3 July 2018,. Specifically, the architects have:

- introduced more visual complexity to the north façade, reflecting its relationship with the historic Château,
- meaningfully increased the use of limestone cladding, and
- introduced fenestration patterns, details and proportions on the north, west and east facades that reinterpret and relate to similar details on the existing Château.

Details of these revisions are described below.

#### **Break up the Massing**

The new massing of the Addition echoes the form of the Château itself: the Pavilions correspond to the east and west arms of the original structure, and the Connector relates to the Grand Ballroom and French Corridor. While the Addition maintains a consistent overall height of seven storeys/23.0 metres, the top two storeys of the Connector are set back to mitigate the height of the structure as seen from the Park.

The new structure continues to reinforce the southern edge of Major's Hill Park, and to thereby create a more direct relationship between the Park and the hotel. However, the massing of the Addition has been redefined to increase visual interest in a manner that reflects the character of the Château. The Addition is conceived as a complementary arrangement of three elements: two asymmetrical Pavilions that anchor the northeast and northwest corners of the site, connected by a transparent Central Connector clad in capless curtain wall and framed in bronze. Vertical bronze channels further articulate floors 2 – 5 of the Connector, adding solidity to the elevation and creating a positive/negative relationship between the the Connector and flanking Pavilions.

A double-height entryway at the point where the East Pavilion meets the Connector further refines the north face of the Addition. The gracious new entrance facing the Park leads through the new parterre courtyard and into the Château's Grand Ballroom, completing a new north-south circulation spine from the main Lobby on Wellington Street through to Major's Hill Park.

#### **Increased use of Stone Cladding**

The use of Indiana limestone and granite has been significantly increased throughout the Addition. Echoing the solidity and materiality of the Château, the East and West Pavilions are now bound in dramatic vertical limestone piers. Granite slabs feature extensively at grade on the east, north and west faces of the Addition, in reference to the base of the Château Laurier's East Wing.

#### **References to the Original Structure**

The Addition better reflects the proportions of the Château Laurier's tripartite design.

*Base* A clearly defined base is clad in granite relieved with a rhythmic pattern of large, glazed openings that reflect the proportions of the Château's base.

*Mid-section* Above the base, redesigned fenestration patterns and cladding now reflect more closely the existing solid-to-void ratio and regularity of the Château Laurier's east and west elevations. The East Pavilion is clad in a dramatic skin of limestone piers alternating with clear glass framed in bronze. Angling out toward Mackenzie Avenue, the east face of the Pavilion is inset with a panel of capless curtain wall that aligns with the cornice line above the hotel's base and references the oriel windows and turrets punctuating the east elevation of the Château.

On the north elevation of the Connector, a glass-clad atrium above the new entrance reveals and reinforces the edge of the Château Laurier's east wing.

The East and West Pavilions are clad in an interlacing arrangement of limestone piers and glass panels that reflect the hotel's dormered roofline and dentilated cornice. The cladding of the East Pavilion now mirrors the West Pavilion, with limestone piers and glass cladding floors 2 through 5, before giving way to sandblasted and clear glass panels set into bronze frames on the top two storeys. The vertical bronze elements add solidity to the East Pavilion, and create a symmetry between the two Pavilions that better reflects the original Chateau. The West Pavilion projects 3m north toward the edge of the Park, reinforcing the distinction between base and mid-section that characterizes the existing hotel. The West Pavilion is connected to the hotel by a three-storey link that aligns with the cornice line of the hotel. The west face of the Link is now also articulated with an alternating arrangement of glass panels and bronze channels, adding complexity to the design and linking this feature architecturally to the Chateau . A grand staircase passes beneath the elevated Link to connect the NCC Terrace and the new courtyard between the Addition and the Château.

*Top* The top two storeys of the West Pavilion align visually with the setback in the Connector. Clad in capless curtain wall, they reference the turreted tower forms of the hotel.

The Addition will incorporate a number of material details intended to reference the Château Laurier, to be finalized during detailed design; these details will include bronze framing, bronze loading doors embossed with a quatrefoil pattern that references a motif used in the parterre courtyard, and a fritted glass pattern that references a tile motif in the Château's interior.