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October 4th, 2019

Andrew McCreight
Development Review Planner
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Re: Planning Rationale for Carleton University Mackenzie Engineering Building Addition – 1125 Colonel By Drive, K1S 5B1

Dear Mr. McCreight,

The enclosed Site Plan Control Application considers for a 3-storey addition to the existing Mackenzie Engineering Building on the Carleton University campus, referred to as the Engineering Design Centre in this planning rationale. The Engineering Design Centre is proposed to be constructed as an addition along the north façade of Block B of the aforementioned Mackenzie Engineering Building. The addition would be considered an Academic Institutional building, falling under the I2A Subzone, with a total new construction gross floor area of 1078 m² and a maximum height of 12.78 metres, as defined by Zoning Bylaw 2008-250.

The Engineering Design Centre is envisioned as providing critical support space to the Engineering Department at Carleton University and the existing faculty and student body. The building would be envisioned as a collaboration space for capstone projects and activities. A core philosophy of the new building is to embody the vision of Carleton University through a commitment to leadership and access to education. As such, the building would connect directly to the Mackenzie Engineering Building on all three floors for ease of access for users. It would also have a barrier-free, flush-to-grade entry point at the east façade. This entry is along a main campus pedestrian route, and in close proximity to parking and an OC Para Transpo bus stop. Along the west façade, a glazed overhead door would provide an access that would be used for various capstone project functions, as well as a driveway connecting the building to Library Road.

The façade design of the Engineering Design Centre was developed in conversation with users to develop a language that is both a showpiece, reflecting the interior functions and activities of the building, while providing a robust, energy efficient and long-standing building envelope. A strong horizontal linear language, with regularly spaced punched windows would refer back to the existing Mackenzie Building, while taking the design in a contemporary direction. The façade would be made of a robust white precast along the ground level, to provide a resilient but elegant material along the touch zone. Above-grade, a semi-reflective and brushed metal panel would be provided, with extruded panel profiles creating a

Principals

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elegant consistent sequence. Employing a highly modular framing system as the basis of design, and using it as a highlight within the building, creates a dynamic space that speaks directly to the spirit of engineering and exploration to the surrounding community.

At the north-east and north-west corners, considerations were made to allow for transparency into some of the workshop bays, to present the activities of the new Engineering Design Centre to those passing by and animating the streetscape. Similarly, planning for the surrounding landscape keeps the building approachable, visible, and provides for greenspace and plantings in the surrounding area.

Through the use of transparency, light coloured materiality, the Engineering Design Centre promotes the notions of lightness and visual connectivity where educational collaboration will be enhanced and supported.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arne Suraga', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

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cc Snezana Socasci
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Architects in Joint Venture for the Carleton University Engineering Design Centre

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