COVER LETTER

April 21, 2021

C. Beige Berryman, AICP Philadelphia Art Commission 1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Ziehler Playground – Art Commission Submission

Dear Ms. Berryman,

I am pleased to submit the enclosed submission package for proposed site improvements to Ziehler Playground at 200-64 E. Olney Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19120.

Project Information:

Ziehler Playground is an approximately 7-acre Philadelphia Parks & Recreation property located in the Olney neighborhood of Philadelphia. The site is bounded by Olney Avenue to the north, B Street to the east, E. Clarkson Avenue to the south, and the SEPTA Fox Chase regional rail line to the west. The site includes a one-story recreation center building, playground, pool, basketball courts, small picnic area with tables, and recreation fields.

For this project, the scope is limited to improvements on the eastern third of the site. The improvements are focused on addressing critical site and building needs and providing a general refresh of Ziehler. The site scope includes the design of a new playground, improvements to the basketball courts, improvements to the existing picnic area, new site furnishings, and site, court, and recreational field lighting. The building scope includes bathroom upgrades, improvements to interior circulation, roof maintenance, new lighting and HVAC, and general envelope maintenance.

In addition to the scope listed above, Ziehler was identified as a location for a Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) project in partnership with the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD). The project will collect and manage stormwater from adjacent Olney Avenue and B Streets, in addition to managing on site stormwater.

The project budget is currently \$2.8 million dollars for site and building improvements, although Rebuild has applied for an additional \$250,000 grant which would increase the budget. Part of the stormwater management improvements related to the GSI project will be paid by PWD and are not included in the \$2.8 million.

Ziehler is a critical social and recreational asset within the community. It hosts a number of programs, including boxing, dance, summer camp, after school programming, football, baseball, and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. The project began in January 2020 however the schedule was impacted by the shut-downs and restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to COVID, our team hosted a public meeting to introduce the project and design team to the community and solicit feedback on the community's vision for Ziehler. Our team also hosted a workshop targeted for teens to understand their priorities for recreation and play. We've since been able to host 2 additional community meetings which included activities and feedback exercises to solicit additional input on the design. Some of the significant takeaways from the community engagement activities include the need for 2 full size basketball courts, providing more play opportunities for children of different age ranges and abilities, providing activities for older residents within the community and improving lighting for safety and security.



As the project was ongoing, a portion of the roof on the north side of the building that served as a canopy over an exterior space partially collapsed, necessitating a bigger roof repair scope than originally intended.

The new design includes a series of improvements to the site and building. An overview of these improvements are:

- Entrance plaza at Olney Avenue and B Street intersection provides a small gathering space set off from the busy roadway and includes seating.
- Two new full-size basketball courts with decorative paved surface.
- Rain gardens along B Street and Olney Avenue creates a welcoming green edge to the playground and provides increased plant diversity, habitat, and surface expression of stormwater management.
- Natural grass berm adjacent to the basketball courts creates informal seating for spectators to watch games
 on the courts and recreational fields. The berm doubles as a play feature with an embankment slide that
 terminates in the playground.
- New landscape space between courts and playground with mix of canopy and understory trees, shrubs, and perennial low-maintenance grasses.
- New playground with a large signature play piece that includes both ground level and elevated play experiences for children of all ages and abilities, including access for the physically disabled.
- Play spinners and swings.
- Outdoor fitness area that can be used by adults, seniors, and teens.
- New gathering and social space between the recreation center and the playground with picnic tables and a bosque of trees and providing a central location to socialize with good sightlines to the playground.
- Wall ball play area.
- Improvements to picnic area on south side of the recreation center with a walking path and new picnic table.
- Additionally, the plan includes new site furnishings, including benches, waste and recycling receptacles, lighting, an outdoor hydration station and ornamental fencing along the rain garden along B Street.

The building improvements provide functional and cosmetic improvements that improve the usability of and extend the life of the building. Improvements include:

- Interior changes to improve pedestrian flow within the building.
- Enlarged bathrooms with new fixtures.
- A new multi-purpose art/game room and library lounge.
- Complete roof replacement.
- A new exterior canopy structure disconnected from the building to resolve the problems with the existing roof canopy.
- New HVAC.
- New interior lighting.
- Exterior building painting.

Our team presented this plan to the Rebuild Design Excellence Committee and received a first round of comments for consideration in the design. Comments included:

• Extending ornamental fence along B Street to the pool (Included as project alternate due to budget constraints.)



- New exterior painting scheme on the recreation center building to deter graffiti and vandalism.
- The entry plaza at B Street and Olney Avenue is being considered as a location for OACCE sculpture installation, however currently OACCE projects are on hold. Another opportunity to consider is a decorative treatment to the existing chain link fencing along Olney Avenue.
- Utilize permeable pavers at the social gathering space.
- Consider changing grass berm to artificial turf for better durability, however this was not incorporated due to budget and PPR preference for natural grass.
- Confirm trees do not interfere with proposed site lighting.
- Lighting was suggested at the entry plaza however is not included due to budget. This could be included as an alternate.
- Solar lighting was suggested as an option for the new canopy structure however is not included due to budget.
- Investigate ways to increase visibility/prominence of Charles J. Ziehler building signage.

Based on this submission package, our team is requesting a presentation to and approval from the Philadelphia Art Commission.

For questions, comments, and notifications please contact me using the following information:

Steve Buck, RLA
Project Manager / Landscape Architect
SALT DESIGN STUDIO
4100 Main Street, Suite 201

4100 Main Street, Suite 201 Philadelphia, PA 19127

E: steve@saltdesigns.com

T: (215) 621-7600

Sincerely,

Steve Buck, RLA





EXISTING AERIAL PHOTO AND PROJECT LIMITS

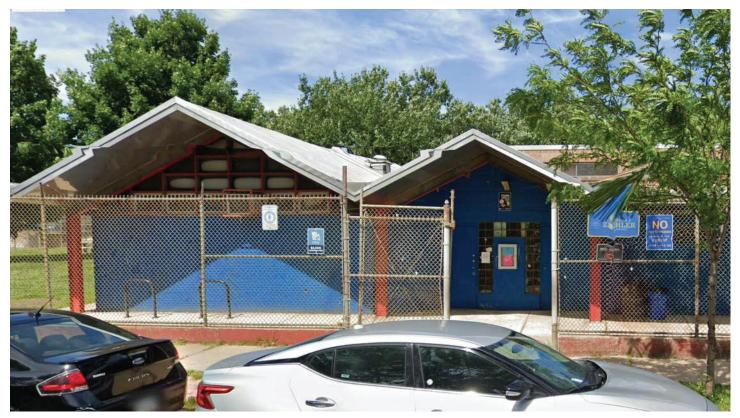


PHOTO 1: Existing B Street entrance to the playground and recreation center.





PHOTO 2: View underneath existing canopy.



PHOTO 3: Existing north side of recreation center looking toward canopy; Future location of social/gathering space and shade canopy.





PHOTO 4: View of existing area around the west side of the recreation center; Future location of picnic path leading to the seating area.



PHOTO 5: Existing picnic area on south side of recreation center building; Future location of picnic path and new ADA-accessible picnic table





PHOTO 6: Existing south side of recreation center.

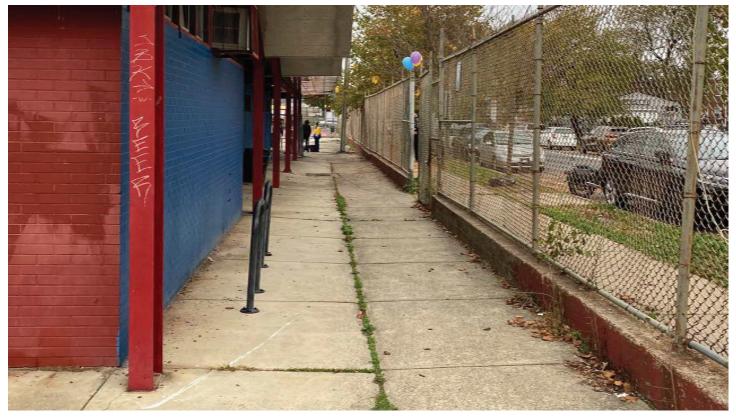


PHOTO 7: Existing east side of the building that runs parallel to B Street.





PHOTO 8: Existing playground and play equipment looking towards the recreation fields; Location of future playground and landscape berm.

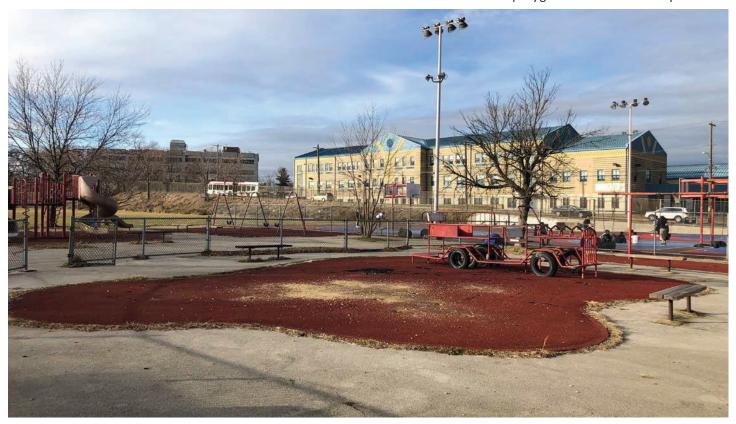


PHOTO 9: Existing playground looking towards Olney Ave.; note equipment was removed due to dangerous conditions; location of future playground space.





PHOTO 10: Existing open paved asphalt between playground and recreation center building; Future location of social gathering space.



PHOTO 11: Existing Basketball Court looking towards B Street; Future location of two full-size basketball courts.

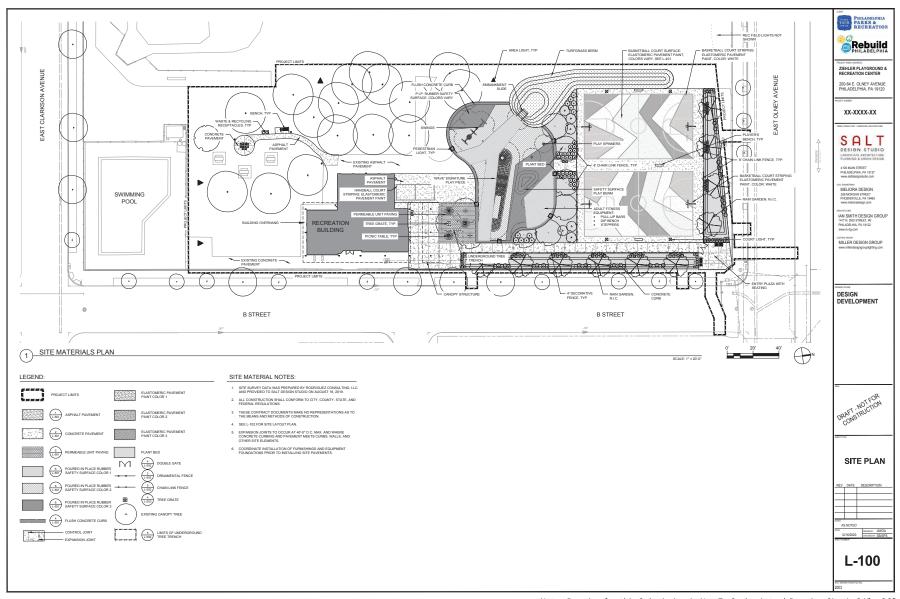


RENDERINGS / DRAWINGS



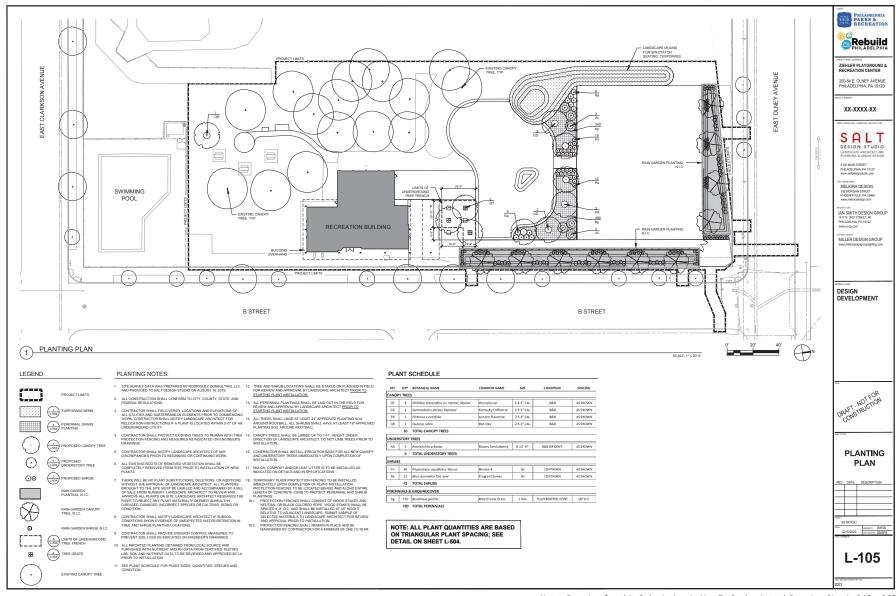
Note: Drawing for this Submission is Not To Scale, Actual Drawing Size is $24^{\prime\prime}$ x $36^{\prime\prime}$ SITE PLAN RENDERING: Presented at Community Meeting January 28, 2020 and Rebuild Design Excellence Committee Meeting on March 17. Plan has been updated to reflect design changes to align with budget.







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PLANT SCHEDULE

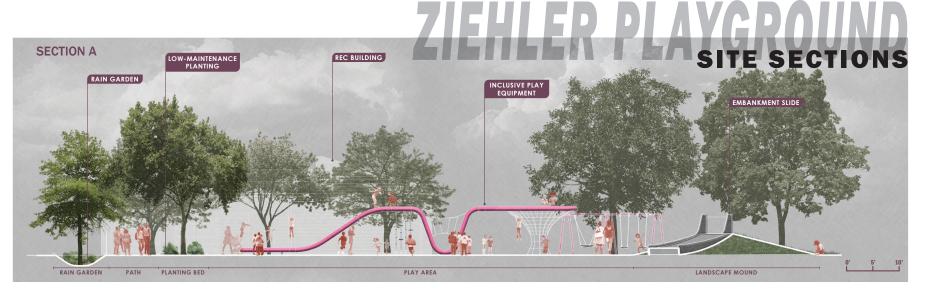
KEY	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONDITION	SPACING
CANOF	Y TREE	S				
GT	3	Gleditsia triacanthos vsr. Inermis 'Skyline'	Honeylocust	2.5-3" CAL.	B&B	AS SHOWN
GD	4	Gymnocladus dioicus 'Espresso'	Kentucky Coffeetree	2.5-3" CAL.	B&B	AS SHOWN
PA	2	Platanus x acerifolia	London Planetree	2.5-3" CAL.	B&B	AS SHOWN
QR	1	Quercus rubra	Red Oak	2.5-3" CAL.	B&B	AS SHOWN
	10	TOTAL CANOPY TREES				
UNDER	RSTORY	TREES				
AA	6	Amelanchier arborea	Downy Serviceberry	8-10' HT.	B&B OR CONT.	AS SHOWN
	6	TOTAL UNDERSTORY TREES	•			
SHRUB	s					
Ро	30	Physocarpus opulifolius 'Nanus'	Ninebark	#3	CONTAINER	AS SHOWN
Ra	12	Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'	Fragrant Sumac	#3	CONTAINER	AS SHOWN
	42	TOTAL SHRUBS	•			
PERENI	NIALS 8	k GROUNDCOVER				
bg	720	Bouteloua gracilis	Blue Grama Grass	1 GAL.	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	18" O.C.
	720	TOTAL PERENNIALS	•			

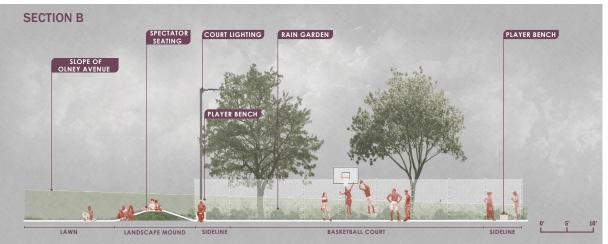
PWD RAIN GARDEN PLANT SCHEDULE

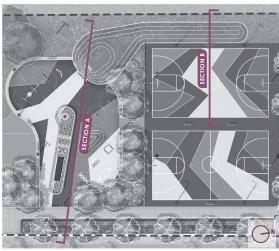
KEY	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONDITION	SPACING
ANOP	Y TREE	s				
AR	6	Acer rubrum	Red Maple	2-2.5" CAL.	B&B	30' O.C.
QP	4	Quercus phellos	Willow Oak	2-2.5" CAL.	B&B	30' O.C.
ЦP	4	Quercus prierios	WIIIOW Oak	2-2.5 CAL	bab	30 0.0
HRUB:		Quercus prienos	Willow Cak	2-2.5 CAL.		30 0.0
		Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry	#3	CONTAINER	36" O.C
HRUB	s	1				

HERBAG	HERBACEOUS AND GRASSES							
AB	181	Amsonia 'Blue Ice'	Threadleaf Blustar	1 GAL.	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	12" O.C.		
BA	39	Baptisia australis	Blue False Indigo	1 GAL	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	36" O.C.		
CV	720	Carex vulpinoidea	Fox Sedge	1 GAL.	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	12" O.C.		
DC	720	Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'	Tufted Hair Grass	1 GAL	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	12" O.C.		
IRV	73	Iris versicolor	Blue Flag Iris	1 GAL.	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	12" O.C.		
JE	281	Juncus effusus	Common Rush	1 GAL	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	12" O.C.		
PD	181	Penstemon digitalis	Foxglove	1 GAL	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	12" O.C.		
PV	38	Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'	Switchgrass	1 GAL.	FULLY ROOTED, CONT.	36" O.C.		



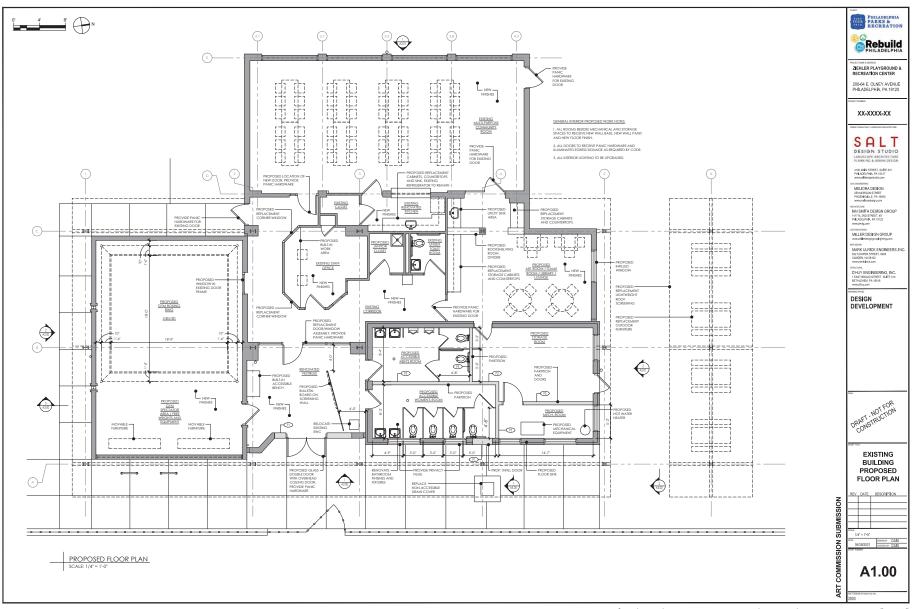






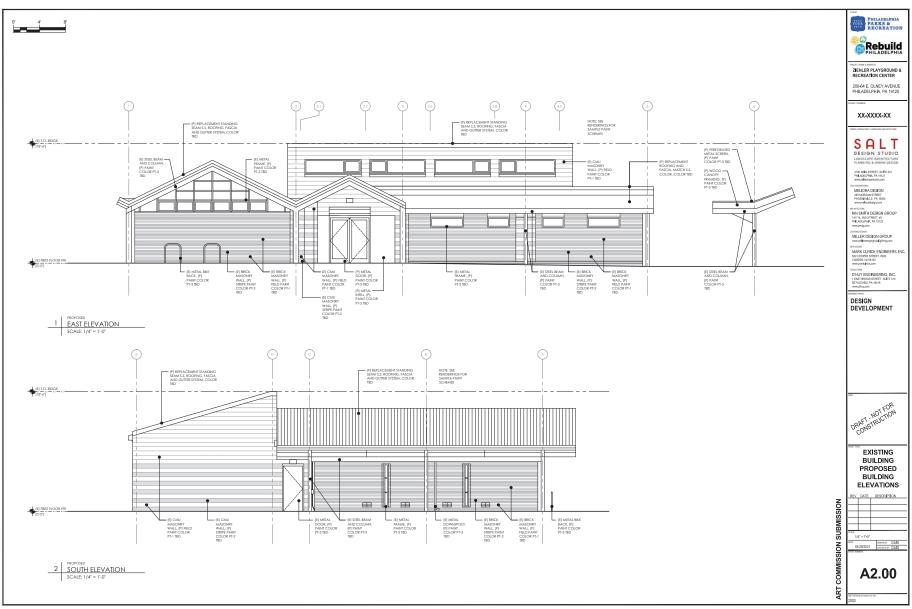
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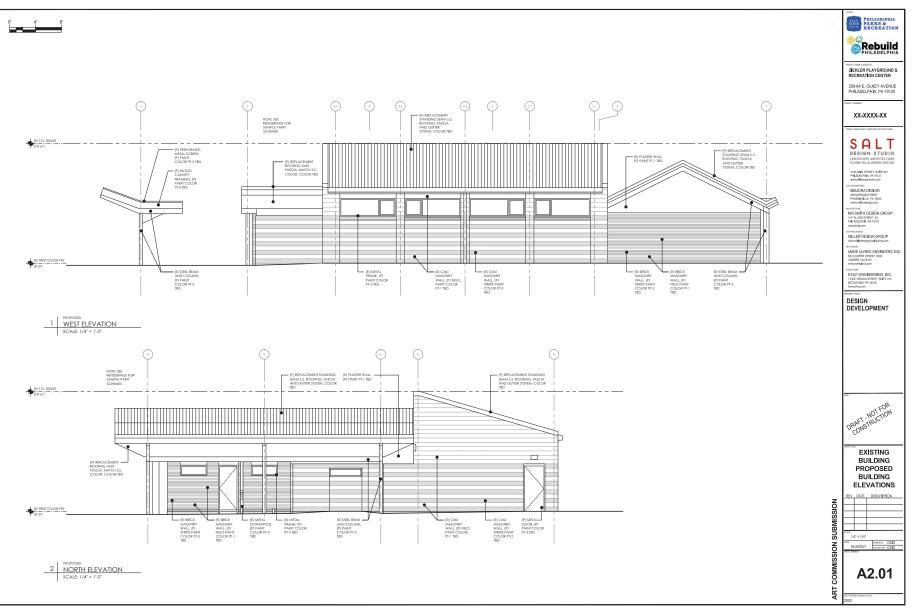


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PALETTE BASED ON ADJACENT SCHOOL



SEE APPENDIX REGARDING MEMORIAL ON NW CORNER



ZIEHLER PLAYGROUND & RECREATION CENTER

200-64 E. OLNEY AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19120

XX-XXXX-XX

SALT DESIGN STUDIO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PLANNING & URBAN DESIGN

AND RECEIVE:
IAN SMITH DESIGN GROUP
1417 N. 200 STREET, #0
PHLAGELPHA, PA 19122
WWWI-55, 2001
LISTING COSCIR
MILLER DESIGN GROUP
WWW. Bedestgray. Confidence on the confidence of the confidence

MARK ULRICK ENGINEERS, INC. 622 COOPER STREET, #200 CAMDEN, NJ 09102 www.znarks44ck.com

D'HUY ENGINEERING, INC. 1 EAST BROAD STREET; SUITE 310 BETH-LEHEM, PA 19018 WWW.Zhipt.com

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



ENTRY VIEW



AERIAL VIEW



EXISTING BUILDING PROPOSED COLOR PALETTE OPT 3

A9.03

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VIEW FROM B STREET

