

Summary of Design Philosophy

The Addition is conceived as a freestanding pavilion that stands at the boundary between Major's Hill Park and the Château Laurier Hotel, distinctly defining the northern edge of the Park. In form, massing and materiality, the Addition embodies a tasteful and restrained modern aesthetic, in keeping with its character as a respectful neighbour to the much-beloved Hotel, rather than attempting to imitate its grand historical style.

The Addition incorporates a series of architectural strategies to ensure it remains subordinate to the Hotel. The massing of the Addition mirrors the three-layer architectural expression of the Château. The two-storey base is surmounted by a midsection skinned in patterned fritted glass, with sandblasted glass fins on the north facade that absorb and reflect ambient light to create a finely patterned 'veil' that diffuses the massing of the Addition as viewed from the Park. The top floors of the Addition step back to match the spring point of the Château roof; the rounded corners of the upper floors, with deep vertical reveals cut into the north and east facades, reference the Château's architectural pattern of turrets and bay windows.

Architectural Design Response to Château Laurier Heritage Working Committee Comments

There were a total of three Heritage Working Committee Meetings. A number of concerns were identified with the original design, which has culminated in the current SPA design submission.

The following represents a summary of the three principal issues identified by the Committee, and the design team's response.

HERITAGE WORKING COMMITTEE COMMENTS	ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN RESPONSE
<p>1. Subordinate. The concept of design response that is subordinate to the hotel was interpreted to mean both the disposition of the proposed massing and building bulk as it relates to adjacency and important views to the hotel, and the overall materiality and fenestration response. The addition should provide architectural clarity to what is new versus heritage and in a manner that is respectful and somewhat deferential.</p>	<p>The new concept is a single, linear, eight-storey pavilion that runs along the north edge of the site adjacent to Major's Hill Park. It allows the full extent of the Château roofs to be seen unobstructed when viewed from the north and vastly improves upon the subordinate quality of the addition as a result. Where the previous 11 and 12 storey additions proposed decorative roof treatments that could be seen to compete with the Château roof, this proposal provides a consistent horizontal roofline that creates a visual foreground to showcase the Château Rooftops beyond.</p> <p>The new addition also has an improved separation distance to the north face of the Hotel west wing. The previous scheme had a separation distance of 5.9M, the new design proposes a separation distance of 18.35M. This gives a clear distinction between the two structures when seen from the War Memorial plaza and Parliament Hill.</p> <p>The profile of the west façade is also reduced in length by 11M to the current length of 21M. The addition is clearly subordinate to the Hotel through this reduction in massing and scale.</p> <p>The east façade of the addition has also been revised to two bays that step back with the angle of the property line. The previous scheme had an angled façade that followed the property line, and was much more imposing along</p>

	<p>Mackenzie Boulevard. The new stepped massing, opens up the view from Mackenzie to the original Hotel and helps to break the scale of the east façade down to a finer, less imposing scale.</p> <p>The material palette of the addition is white steel, clear glass and patterned fritted glass. The materials are chosen to give the addition a light quality that appears as a foil to the heavier limestone and copper expression of the Hotel. The material selection supports the subordinate quality of the design.</p>
<p>2. Architectural Reference. While the design response should be subordinate it also needs to provide references back to the hotel in terms of proportionality, asymmetry, datum lines and roof expression.</p> <p>Roof Expression was seen as one of the significant characteristics that the hotel currently contributes to the Parliamentary precinct. While the hotel adopted a “Châteauesque” architectural style versus the Neo-Gothic style of the governmental buildings, it nonetheless asserts itself on the skyline in manner that contributes to a cluster of buildings that comprise a strong and unique silhouette. If the proposed addition is to rise within the skyline silhouette zone then it should do so in a manner that is also expressive.</p>	<p>The tripartite division of the original structure is carried through in the proportioning of the new proposal. The relative height of each of the tripartite divisions in the new proposal is scaled down in order to proportion the façade of the addition appropriately to its reduced height. This reduction in scale, supports the subordinate quality of the addition, but provides an implicit visual connection with the proportion lines of the Hotel.</p> <p>The setback at the 7th and 8th level of the addition aligns to the corner turret towers of the Hotel. The roof of the addition also aligns to the spring line of the Château roofs.</p> <p>Both the west and east façades of the addition are split with a deep vertical recess and two flanking bays that are similar in proportion to the Tower Bays of the Hotel façade.</p> <p>The east and west façades of the addition have large areas of glass with a frit “rosette” pattern. The pattern is derived from the rosette patterns that are found within the coffered ceilings of the Château Ballrooms. A contemporary application of fritted glass patterning is applied to a traditional motif of the building.</p> <p>The revised design approach treats new roof as a subordinate element to the main Château Roofs. In this approach, the addition has been lowered to 8 storeys, with consistently flat top, and set up in its massing to create a new datum to the existing Château roofs when seen from the north.</p> <p>There are subtle features to the roof and general massing, which reference the Château roofline. One feature is the use of curved glass corners on the addition. These are used to reference the turreted towers of the original Hotel. Also along the south façade of the addition, the top two storey window bays and the bays of the steel trellis across the lower floors follow an A, B & C rhythm. This façade rhythm is similar to the Hotel.</p>