City of Spokane



Design Departure

Planning Services Department

Application

1. Has the applicant's design team thoroughly examined how the Requirement (R) and/or Presumption (P) could be applied as written?

Yes, we have looked at providing the required 60% glazing from 2-10 feet and 40% glazing from 10-40 feet. That much glass is counter productive to this type of facility. There are many sports included in this facility that have specific lighting requirements and glare concerns, not to mention safety issues. By including that much glazing, we would be forced to have operable blinds that would most likely be closed and never opened, or frost all the glazing, both options negating the purpose of this Requirement, which is to connect the pedestrian passing by with the activity in the structure.

2. Does the proposal meet the intent and the general direction set forth by the Requirement (R) and/or Presumption (P) as written?

Yes, the intent of 17C.124.510 is to provide a pleasant, rich and diverse pedestrian friendly experience by connecting activities occurring within the structure to adjacent sidewalk areas, eliminating a fortress like façade. Our design encourages observation or viewing opportunities at street level by providing five 4' wide clear glass floor to roof sections into the building sports arena. These glass slivers are elegant and provide the desired pedestrian connections without compromising the wall area and safety inside the arena floor

3. Is the specific change superior in design quality to that potentially achieved by the Requirement (R) and/or Presumption (P) as written?

We feel the change is superior in quality. By minimizing the glass and creating long elegant slivers that connect the ground plane with the sky, we are breaking down large sections of the fortress like mass. These slivers of glass will reflect the sky and at night will be very elegant strips of light

4. Is the departure necessary to better address aspects of the site or its surroundings?

Not necessarily for the site or the surroundings other than we feel it is a more pleasant design to look at for the surrounding neighbors. Programmatically, it really helps with safety concerns.

5. Is the proposed departure part of an overall, thoughtful and comprehensive approach to the design of the project as a whole?

Yes, the design as a whole is meant to celebrate the powerful terra cotta spine portion where the public and patron activity is taking place. By creating a glazing approach that is more subtle and refined, we feel the overall project has really nice balance. The powerful move of the spine is a smaller portion of the project. By blasting large glazing all over the fieldhouse, we were afraid the two pieces would be competing instead of in balance

6. Has the applicant responded to the optional Considerations (C), if any, found within the design departure? Including Considerations may assist in gaining acceptance for the plan.