

Aegis Design Summary

The Providence Academy is one of the most historically and architecturally significant buildings in the Pacific Northwest. The vision for the Providence Academy site is to convert it into a vibrant mixed-use urban campus while preserving and enhancing the Academy building as a place of commerce and year-round center of activity for the community. The Academy will be a restored landmark and public museum operating as a self-sustaining office building and event center. Aegis will be a new residential and commercial mixed-use development invigorating the historic site.

In designing Aegis and the site it was critically important that Aegis does not distract from the Academy. Rather, Aegis will give the historic site new life while preserving the Academy and embracing its architecture, spirit, and history.

The design team strived to create a compatible juxtaposition of old and new. Aegis will complement the Academy rather than mimic it. This was accomplished by employing current design to accommodate modern needs while incorporating traditional architectural elements and showcasing the Academy's inspired history. Structured, clean, and rectangular forms were employed and paired with robust landscaping and a new plaza to create a beautiful "frame" around the Academy and its more historical, classical vernacular. Aegis was designed with minimal articulation and complexity to limit distraction from the Academy. The result is a design that showcases the Academy without detracting from it architecturally, while the addition of Aegis revitalizes the site and helps preserve the Academy. The juxtaposition of old and new will be a visual representation of rich history, achievement, time, and progress.

The design of Aegis employed current design elements such as large windows to accommodate modern needs. The design of Aegis also incorporated elements from the Academy's architecture and site design to create compatible juxtaposition. The design of Aegis and the site also included general elements that would create a cohesive site. The following are examples of some of the architecture and site design elements that create cohesion and compatible juxtaposition:

- Aegis' simple facades and clean lines frame and highlight the Academy.
- Aegis' mostly brick cladding is the same material and texture of the Academy.
- Neutral palette on the upper floors of Aegis provides some contrast from the Academy allowing the Academy to remain the focus of the site while Aegis' earth tone exterior palette matches the earth tones of the Academy's exterior palette so there is not stark contrast between old and new.
- Red brick on portions of the upper façades of Aegis connects to the Academy and creates cohesive campus feel from a distant perspective.
- Aegis' dark colored brick base and the Academy's stone base similarly anchor the buildings.
- The brick size and layout of Aegis closely resemble the Academy's brick size and layout.
- Brick soldier courses, pilasters, and other brick detailing infuse traditional elements into Aegis to complement the Academy.
- Rhythmic and symmetrical window layout of Aegis mimics the Academy's window layout.
- The red brick base of Aegis connects to the Academy and creates a cohesive campus feel from the pedestrian perspective.
- Cement panels provide depth relief in Aegis' façade without excessive articulation distracting from the Academy.
- Informative and abstract historical art throughout the site will connect Aegis and the Academy to the site's history and provide context for the public.
- Precast concrete sills in the storefront windows of Aegis mimic the Academy's stone sills and make the façade of Aegis more traditional.
- Black vertical steel pickets on the balconies are traditional elements and tied with the metal gills on Aegis create horizontality that helps ground the new buildings.

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- Aegis' arched lobby entrance awnings and arched plaza canopy mimic the Academy's arched windows.
- Maintaining the view corridor from Evergreen by setting the Southern building back 58' from Evergreen Boulevard.
- Demolishing the restaurant building in front of the Academy will improve the view corridor from Evergreen Boulevard.
- Maintaining additional view corridors from C Street and 12th Street will maintain views of the Academy from the other site street frontages.
- A new 5,000 sf public plaza at the corner of C Street and Evergreen will create a pedestrian gateway into the site.
- Connecting the new public plaza to the hardscape and landscape in front of the Academy with curbless brick paver parking will connect the new buildings to the Academy along Evergreen.
- Aegis's mixture of hardscape and landscaped entrances mimics the Academy's mixed hardscape and landscape entrances.
- Cohesive landscaping between Aegis and the Academy ties the site together.
- The earth tone exterior palettes of Aegis and the Academy blend with the campus landscaping.
- Red brick hardscape at the Evergreen frontage, C Street access, and onsite crosswalks compliments the façade of the Academy and creates cohesion from the pedestrian perspective
- Live green walls along portions of eastern ground floor facades of Aegis soften the new building from the pedestrian perspective and further connect the new buildings to the site landscaping.