

Members of ARCOM,

I am writing to request the plans for 110 Seagate be sent back for changes which would make it a better fit for the neighborhood.

Architecture is a visual art, considered not only for its design and style, but also for its perception in its surroundings.

Your first perceptions were correct, spot on. You didn't need us to tell you to read the code to express your considered views. You saw immediately that the proposed plan was materially inconsistent with the architecture on the street and did not meet Town Code.

Seven members present at the July 29 meeting thought it was either too dissimilar, not a good fit, or needed changes. Five members suggested changes, from arching the windows, using barrel tiles, or adding traditional detailing, to changing the roof line. No substantive changes were made, yet the plan was unanimously approved at the August 28 meeting. A few pandora vines were added to soften the roof line and all the windows and doors were changed to have coral stone and Brickmold and wood headers.

Visually, I think you knew the plan should have been sent back to the drawing board for changes so it would fit seamlessly into the neighborhood. But in your relief to see something new, "I am so happy to see this, I am so sick of these island houses, I could scream." You unanimously approved, what several members thought to be, architecturally, a "great house". I understand how this plan got approved.

My understanding, however, does not change the fact that you did not exercise your duty or fulfill your responsibility to enforce Town Code. You approved a plan you knew was out of context and not in harmony with the established neighborhood because you liked it. I can't find the word "like" as a criteria in Town Code.

I think our requests provide you with the opportunity to remedy this situation. Please reconsider, the growing number of neighbor objections, apply criteria 4,6, and 8 of the Building Code (SEC. 18-205), and direct the architect to go back to the drawing board to come up with a more harmonious design.

I look forward to a positive resolution. One which would satisfy residents, owners and Town Code. I recognize this is no easy task, but it is critical to the visual preservation and cohesiveness of our neighborhoods. I know we are up to it.

Thank your for your consideration

Joanne Paladino
148 Seagate Road

