

December 28, 2017

Santa Clara History and Landmarks Commission
Santa Clara City Hall
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Subject: 1075 Pomeroy Ave.

Dear Commissioners,

The owner of the subject property Daryoush Marhamat, requested Urban Programmers review the plans for 4 town-house style homes, and to comment on their compatibility with the Mid-century Modern design of the 1963-65 Eichler Homes developments, Pomeroy West and Pomeroy Green that are in close proximity.

Mid-century residential design emanates from a combination of design factors; Bauhaus architects that came to America during the period 1930s-1945, technologies that translated to new building materials with textures and colors and the desire for a new style reflecting the post WWII suburban lifestyle. Eichler Homes brought such designs to the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California.

To consider the compatibility of the proposed new houses, it is necessary to identify the architectural elements that are distinctive of the Mid-century Modern style. The distinguishing features of this style consist of clean lines, form that follows function, both organic and geometric forms, minimal ornamentation, juxtaposition of different and sometimes contrasting materials, and industrial materials such as steel, brass, large glass panes, fiberglass, resin, and concrete. These features translated to houses with flat or shed roofs, simple lines without ornamentation, areas of glass (bringing nature to the interior), a mix of materials (wood, metal, glass and plastics) and covered or private landscaped areas.

The proposed houses are in a contemporary style that is very compatible with the older Eichler Homes developments. The proposed form is a two-story, low roof structure that follows the lines of the Mid-century Modern style. The design offers simple, yet elegant, lines with windows facing into the gardens (the current energy code makes larger voids very difficult). While Mid-century Modern is thought to have ended in the mid 1960s, contemporary designs that embody the same elements, as do the proposed houses, have carried forward with only slight modifications.

In conclusion, our review of the proposed 4 houses finds them to be compatible with the Mid-century design of the Eichler Homes developments. They do not copy the earlier style but show a respect for the style by using many of the same features, two-story, shed roof, simple lines, a mix of materials and private landscaped areas. Should the older developments become designated historic districts, the newer homes would not be contributing to a district but do meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, Number 9, for compatibility with a Mid-century residential historic district..

Best regards,

Bonnie Bamburg

Bonnie Bamburg, owner
10710 Ridgeview Avenue
San Jose California
95127
USA

Phone: 408-254-7171
Fax: 408-254-0969
E-mail: bbamburg@USA.net