



251-259 Esquimalt Road Development Permit #000356







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26 May 2014

City of Victoria 1 Centennial Square Victoria, BC V8W 1P6



Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Roundhouse Development Permit / Heritage Alteration Permit (DP/HAP) Application

Originally constructed in 1913, Victoria's former CPR Roundhouse celebrated its centennial last year and Focus Equities is proud to be stewarding the revitalization of the heritage buildings and the transformation of the National Historic Site into a community destination: the Roundhouse Marketplace. The Roundhouse will become a commercial and social focal point for the Bayview Place neighbourhood and an amenity for the surrounding Victoria West community. It will attract people from other parts of the region as well, including visitors to the city.

Development Permit / Heritage Alteration Permit Application

The submission of this combined Development Permit (DP) and Heritage Alteration Permit (HAP) application marks a major milestone in the history of Victoria and advances detailed plans that have been developed through significant community collaboration and design consideration. Focus Equities has made the decision to advance the development of this precinct as the first phase of the Roundhouse site. Previously, it was thought that it would follow the completion of one or two residential towers at Roundhouse. The project will now bring a significant neighbourhood and community amenity on stream much earlier than anticipated. Getting to this stage has taken longer than originally anticipated, largely due to the major changes in the urban development market as a result of the recession in 2008/2009. This additional time, however, has been used to further refine the concepts presented during the 2008 rezoning process to develop more robust plans, which also support the implementation of the Roundhouse as a first phase of development.

The scope of the project includes site remediation; reconstruction of the historic rail yard; restoration of the Turntable; renovation and adaptive re-use of four, early 20th century buildings; and, construction of three new one-storey buildings. The principal functions in the project include retail, restaurant, food market, arts and crafts and light industrial uses. Outdoor areas will be developed for multi-modal circulation, parking, public open space activities and cultural interpretation.

Official Community Plan Amendment Application

The proposal is substantially consistent with the overall project vision established by the Roundhouse Design Guidelines (RDG) and the Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (SGCHPC). The proposal is consistent with the CD-12 Zone, Roundhouse District and requires only one minor building setback variance. Through preliminary work with City staff over the last 12-18 months, a few guidelines have been identified as requiring amendment in response to our proposed DP/HAP plans. An application to revise the RDG through an Official Community Plan (OCP) Amendment has been submitted concurrently with the DP/HAP Application, and the full details of the design guideline amendments are included in our submission document. The following is a brief statement of rationale

for each of the design guideline amendments proposed:

1. <u>Design Guideline:</u>

Buildings terrace vertically above a pedestrian-scaled podium element. The podium of the residential-hotel building shall be the same height as the adjacent Roundhouse building; other podiums shall be of similar height as the Roundhouse building.

Rationale for Amendment:

The proposed new Retail 1 building adjoins the Roundhouse and effectively acts as the podium of the future building on the adjacent DA-2 site (the residential-hotel building). The height of this new building is proposed to be slightly lower than the Roundhouse, to remain subordinate to and respectful of the heritage building.

2. Design Guideline:

Building designs and materials will contribute to the creation of an overall "family of buildings" at Roundhouse; for example, some elements of brick shall be used in all buildings to match the material used in the historic Roundhouse structures and the new buildings at the adjacent Bayview development.

Rationale for Amendment:

The intent of this guideline when originally drafted was to ensure the new residential and mixed-use buildings relate to the heritage buildings, as has been achieved through the use of brick elements at Bayview One and Promontory. The use of brick on new retail buildings within the historic precinct was never intended, as other guidelines specifically direct that these new infill buildings be contemporary and finished with timber, glass and metal to act as a contrast to the heavy historic structures. An amendment is required to clarify the guideline and address the inconsistency of the original guidelines.

3. Design Guideline:

On-going rail operations will occur utilizing easements for the E&N line and access to the turntable and Roundhouse building.

Rationale for Amendment:

The applicant cannot control whether railway operations will occur on or through the site and therefore it is proposed that the guideline statement be revised. All easements for railway access to the site are to be retained.

4. Design Guideline:

These surface parking areas will be surfaced with brick or unit pavers to be consistent with the pedestrian-friendly and heritage character of the precinct.

Rationale for Amendment:

The majority of surface parking will be surfaced with unit pavers. A small amount of surface parking intended for staff use is located behind the Roundhouse and adjacent to the site FOCUS EQUITIES | 80 SAGHALIE ROAD | VICTORIA BC V9A 0A1 | T 250.388.9924 | F 250.388.9414 | FOCUSEQUITIES.COM



servicing area. These surface parking spaces will be finished with asphalt to provide a more durable surface, given their proximity to the servicing area.

5. <u>Design Guideline:</u>

The Plaza, incorporating the historic Turntable, will be shaped by the semi-circular Roundhouse building along its eastern flank and will extend to the Car Shop in the north, Roundhouse Mews in the west and the E&N line in the south.

Rationale for Amendment:

The shape of the Turntable Plaza has been redesigned since the rezoning in 2008. The edges remain defined by the Roundhouse building along its eastern flank, the Car Shop in the north and Roundhouse Mews in the west. However, the guideline statement as adopted does not reflect the 2008 concept plan, as the Turntable Plaza was never envisioned to extend all the way to E&N line in the south, but rather was defined by the infill retail podium building and Roundhouse Mews. For clarity and to correct the inconsistency in the original guideline, an amendment is proposed.

Finally, staff noted that some additional minor changes are also required with respect to the heritage conservation guidelines to ensure the language follows the conservation terminology contained within Parks Canada's *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. We will work with staff to ensure consistent language is updated.

Roundhouse at Bayview Place

The Roundhouse project is one component of the overall 20-acre Bayview Place neighbourhood, and serves to advance a number of the project's guiding principles. Since completion of the 2008 Roundhouse zoning, the Focus Equities team has worked to integrate the site planning for the overall Bayview Place project to fully link the development of the Bayview hilltop lands with the plans for revitalization of the former brownfield Roundhouse lands.

Achieving a Sustainable Neighbourhood

Bayview Place is a registered LEED for Neighbourhood Development (ND) project and the Roundhouse proposal will bring about tangible improvements to the physical environment by commencing remediation of the brownfield lands and creating a lasting community legacy. Advancement of the Roundhouse as an initial phase allows the upland soil contamination on the north side of the rail corridor to be addressed first. Two of the new buildings are designed to LEED Silver standard. Work to advance the site remediation plan will commence this spring.

Revitalizing the National Historic Site

The National Historic Site will be realized as a public destination. All of the heritage buildings will be seismically upgraded and rehabilitated, showcasing the site's heritage values through their sensitive and adaptive reuse. A rail theme guides the landscape and architectural design character of the site, but all new interventions will be contemporary, consistent with federal standards for this designated National Historic Site. Much of the cultural interpretation is presented in the richly layered public realm, welcoming residents and visitors to experience history in the context of the heritage buildings.

Presenting a cohesive architectural character

The architecture of the complex will be timeless. That is, there will be the careful restoration of the historic resources on the site contrasted by simple, steel and glass infill buildings in a modern idiom. A "kit-of-parts" has been designed for the site using steel and timber as the principal materials. The components include canopies, bollards, lamp standards, structural columns, decks, ramps, benches and tables for outdoor eating. The design of a number of these exterior features has been inspired by the design of railway components.

Realizing economic vitality and viability

With a strong emphasis on promoting local business, the Roundhouse will attract both Victoria and area merchants, as well as outside organizations that share the same passions, interests and goals as the region's diverse and vibrant community. Leasing efforts are underway to secure interest from businesses with a food and beverage focus that will meet community needs and create a vibrant shopping destination. A separate zoning amendment application has been submitted, proposing the addition of 'distillery' and 'accessory retail liquor sales' to be compatible with the currently permitted brewery and brew pub uses. The amendment will further the potential to welcome the growing artisan and craft brewery and distillery industries to the Roundhouse.

Creating a unique sense of place

The century-old working history of the CPR Roundhouse will come alive with a detailed interpretative program that includes artifacts as public art, story boards, repurposed railcars, exposed rail lines, multifunctional Turntable and rebuilt Water and Sand Towers. Rail theme inspired public space furnishings will contrast with new, contemporary buildings. As envisioned, the Roundhouse will be unique, a place where visitors can appreciate history while experiencing the vitality of a new neighbourhood centre.

Providing a contribution of public open spaces

A core public space is provided at Turntable Plaza. The sunken floor of the turntable serves two functions – with south-facing terraced seating on the north side and a feature relief map of Vancouver Island and the E&N Railway corridor on the south side. Visitors will be able to walk across the turntable structure, which can also serve as a special display space for rail cars and a performance stage for programmed events and cultural celebrations. Naturalized remnant landscapes of the site will be preserved and rehabilitated to contribute additional open spaces.

Establishing a strengthened network of community linkages

The project will see the implementation of the E&N Rail Trail connection through the site, with the installation of an interim multi-use pathway to welcome pedestrian and cyclist activity. While it is uncertain whether the E&N will again feature active rail uses, the project design accommodates its potential and maintains the railway easements through the site. The construction of Roundhouse Mews and Lime Bay Mews will enable further community connectivity.

Enhancing livability for all residents

Neighbourhood livability means creating places where people want to live and where visitors want to be, where there is a range of housing choices and places to shop, gather, work and take part in community life. This redevelopment breathes new life into the brownfield site, creating a unique and

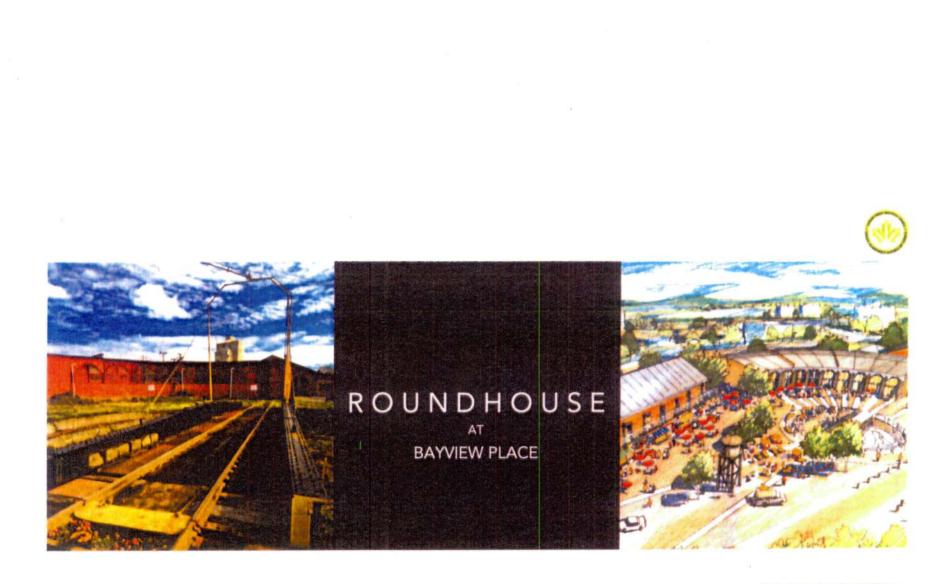
FOCUS EQUITIES | 80 SAGHALIE ROAD | VICTORIA BC V9A 0A1 | T 250.388 9924 | F 250.388.9414 | FOCUSEQUITIES.COM exciting opportunity for Greater Victoria to experience history and culture combined.

The Roundhouse will serve new and existing residents of the surrounding community with a dynamic mix of uses: shopping and dining; sampling of locally produced food and beverages; viewing performances at the Turntable stage; attending cultural events in and around the historic buildings; gathering with friends and family in the Turntable Plaza; and experiencing the site's historic buildings, displayed artifacts, and interpretive materials.

We have invested a significant amount of time and effort into the development of the detailed DP/HAP application and have received input over the previous months from members of the Vic West community and from City staff. We are confident that the plans reflect the shared community vision for the future of the Roundhouse and we eagerly look forward to your support to help us start the transformation.

With regards,

Focus Equities



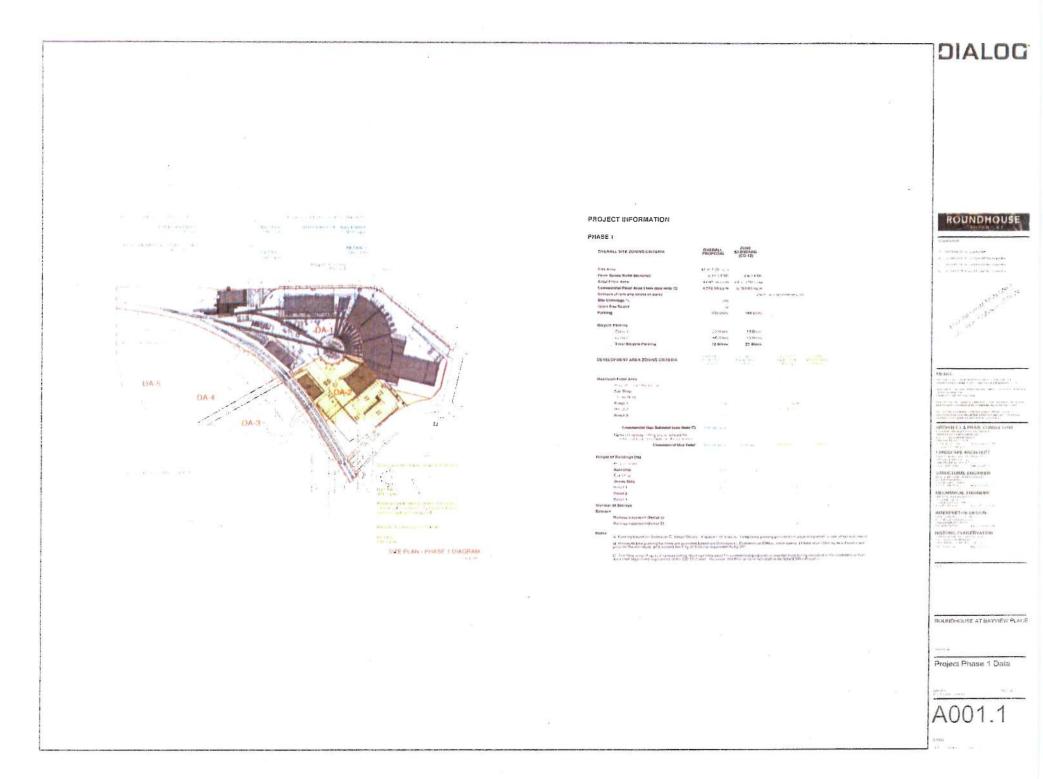
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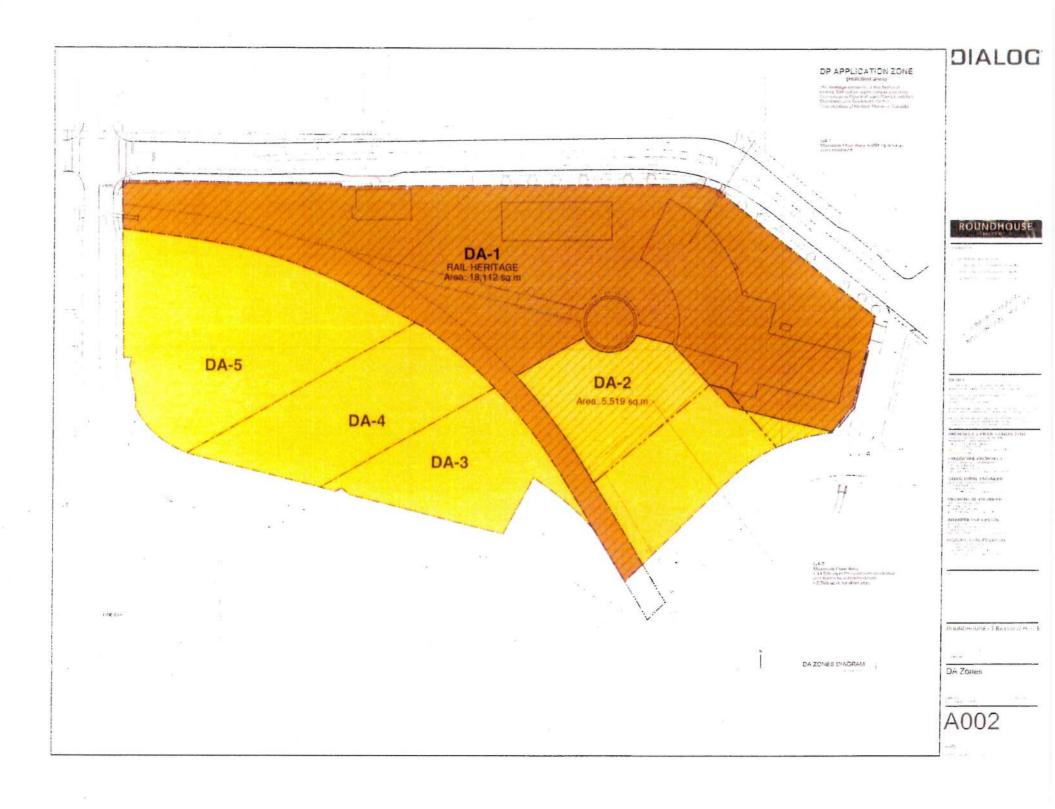


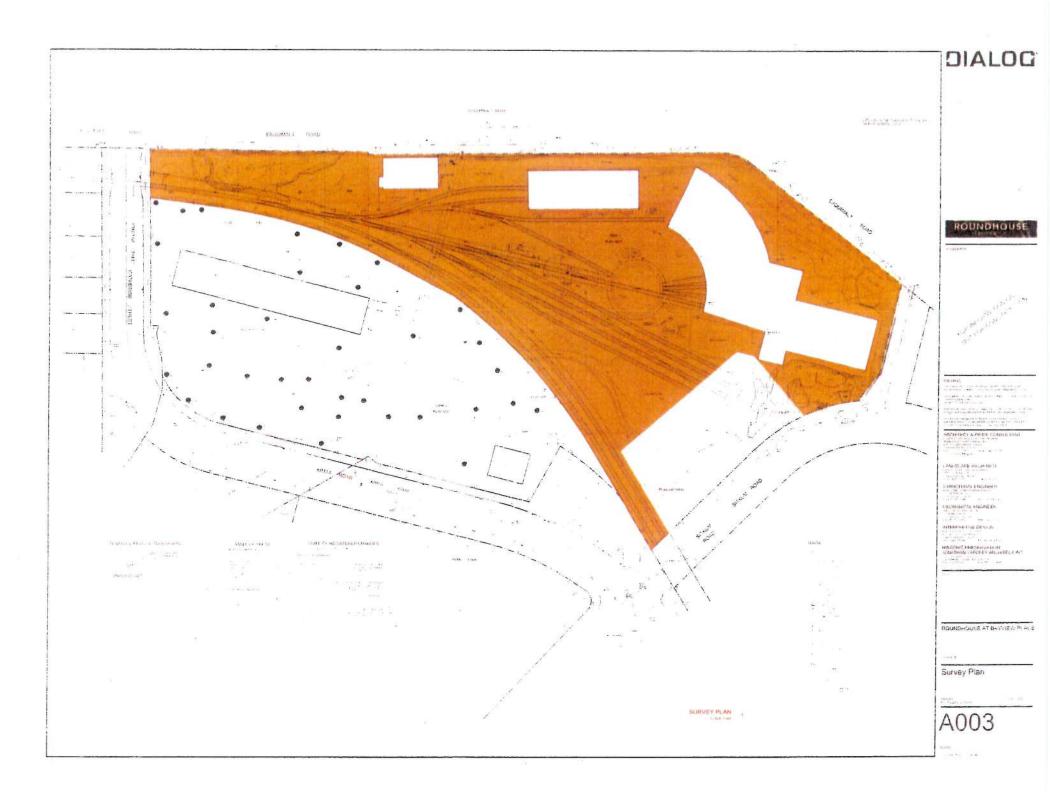
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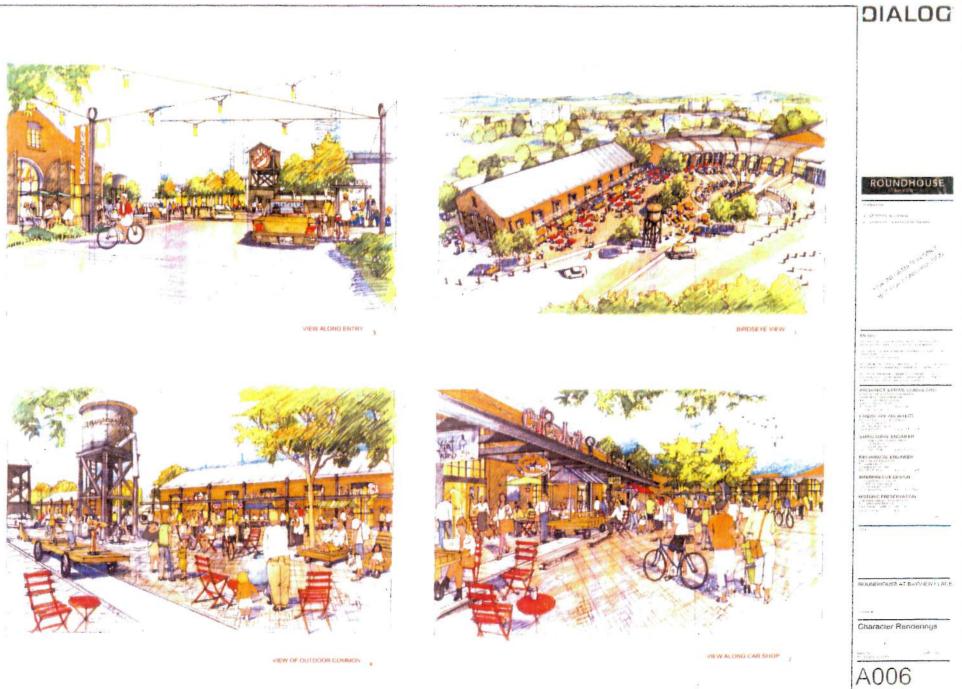
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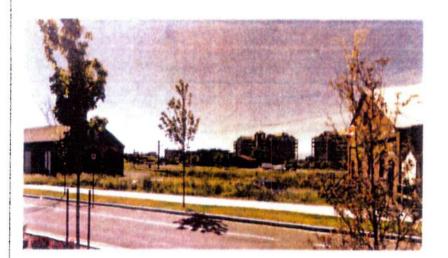


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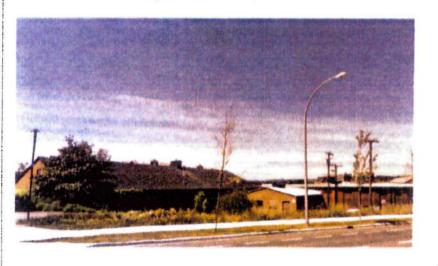
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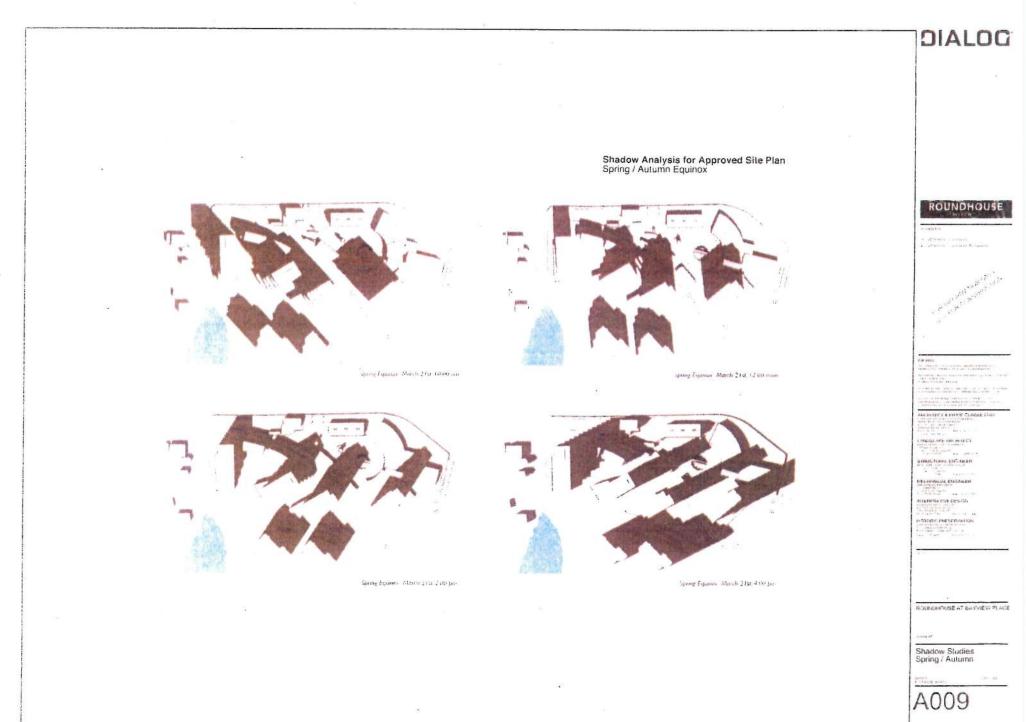




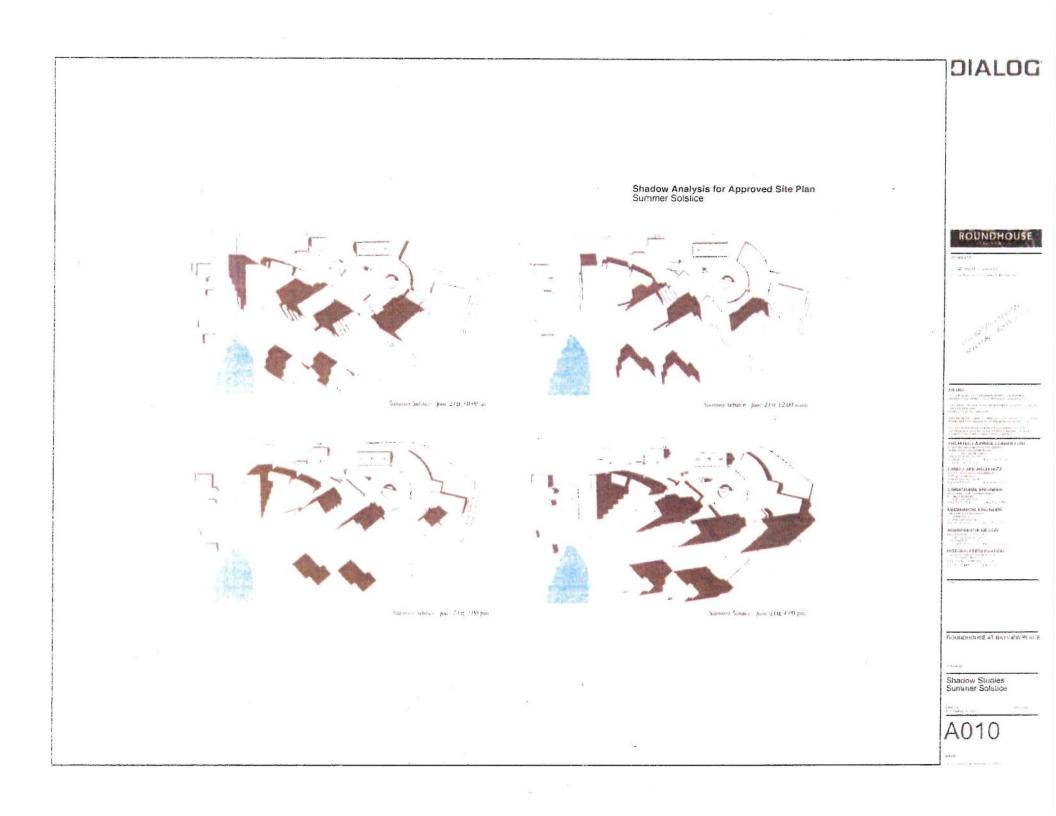


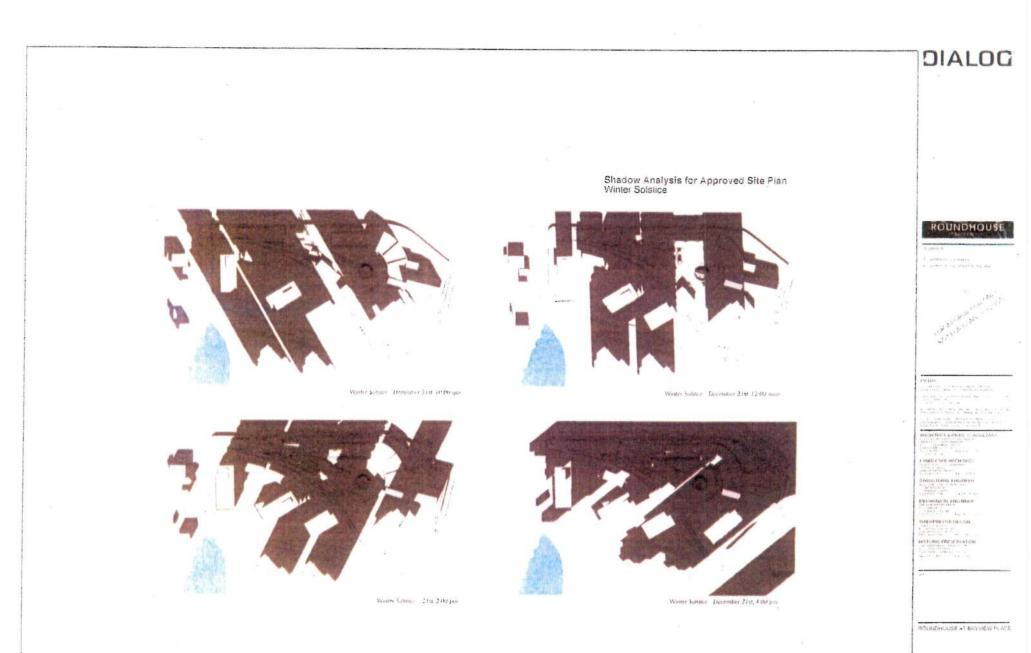


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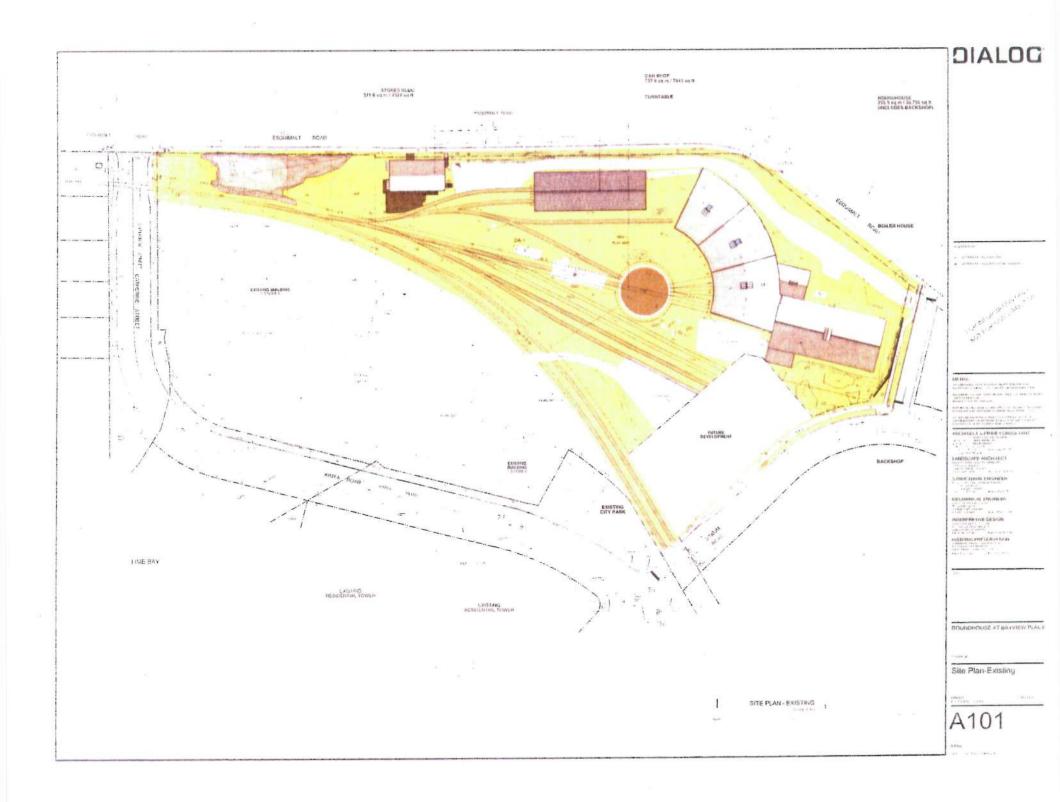
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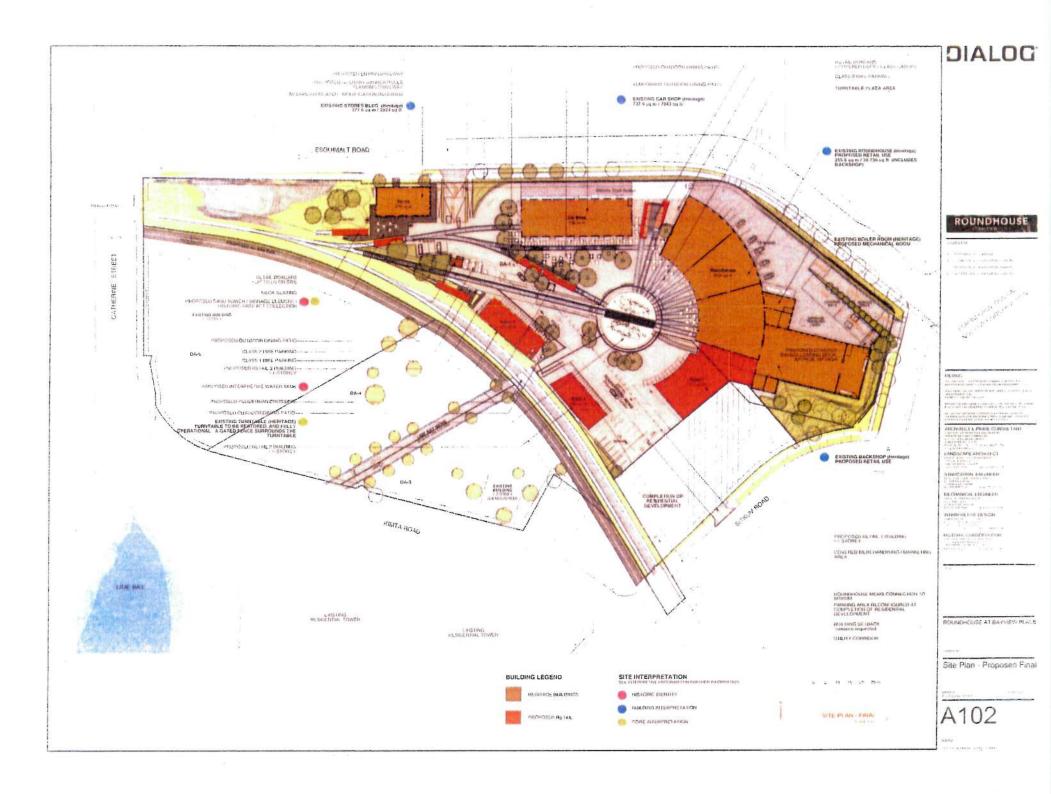


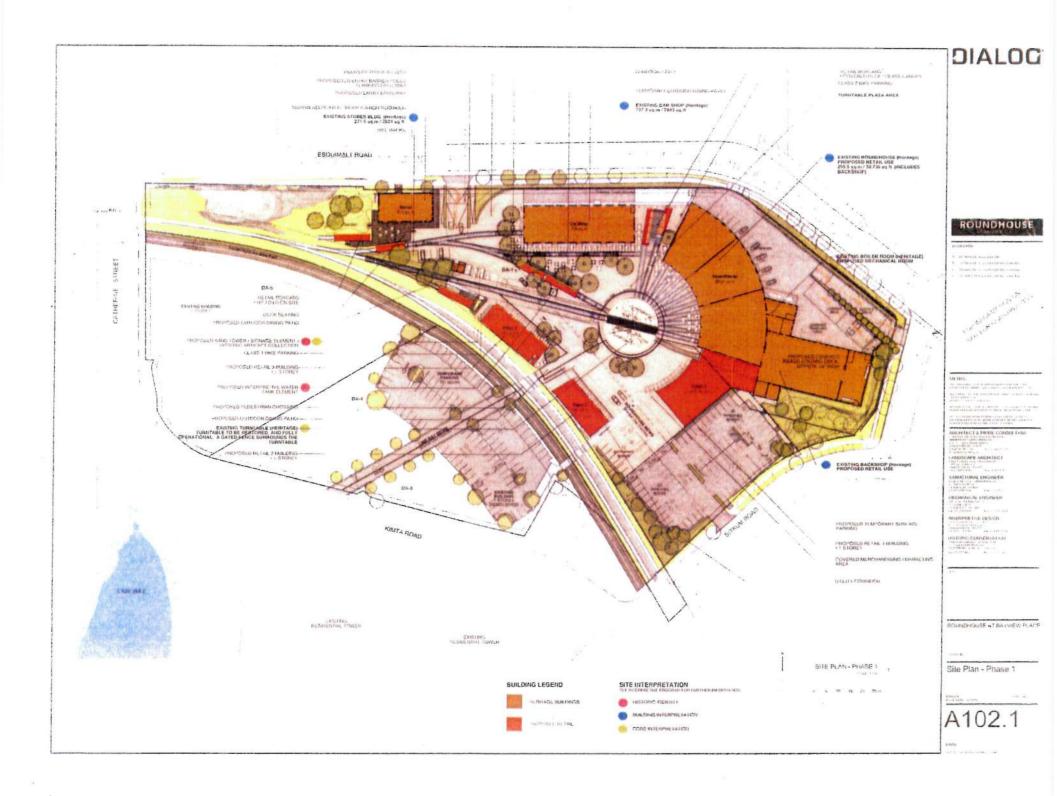


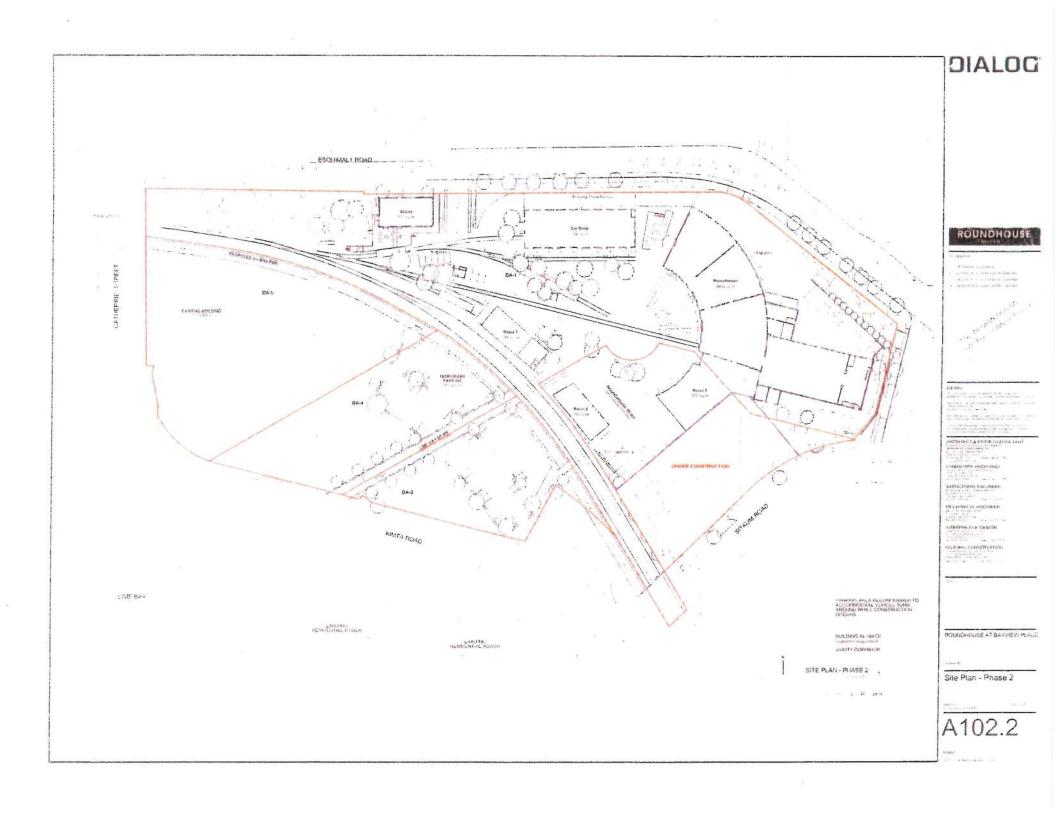
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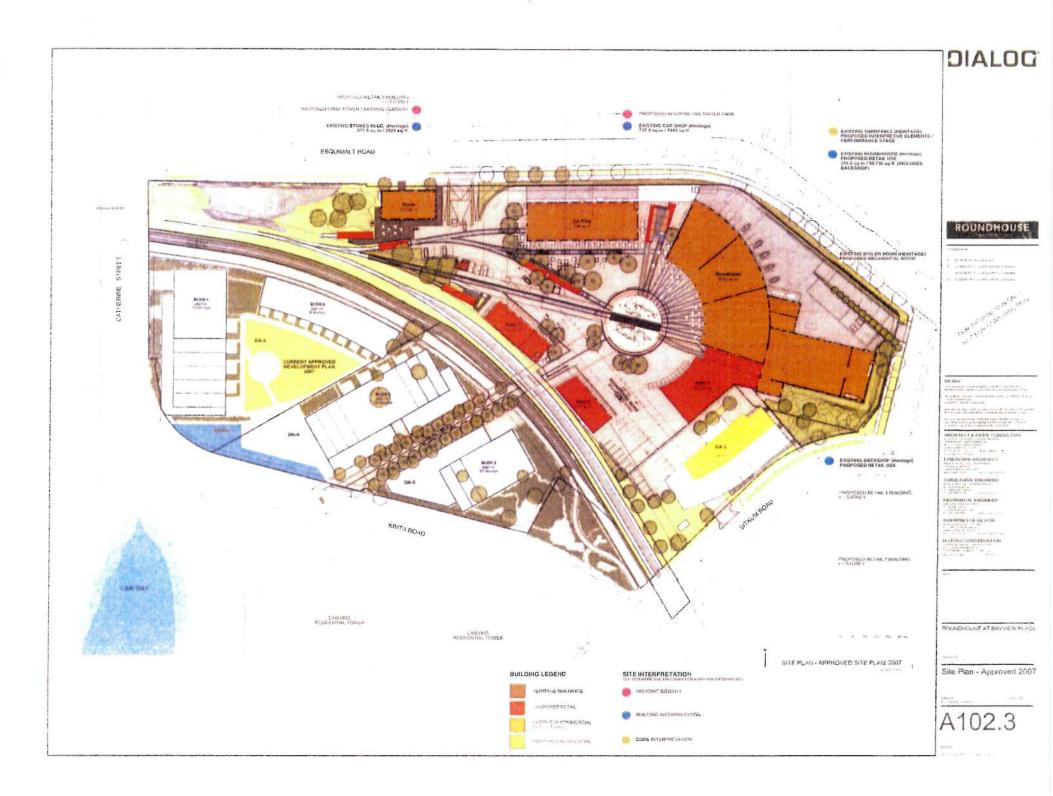
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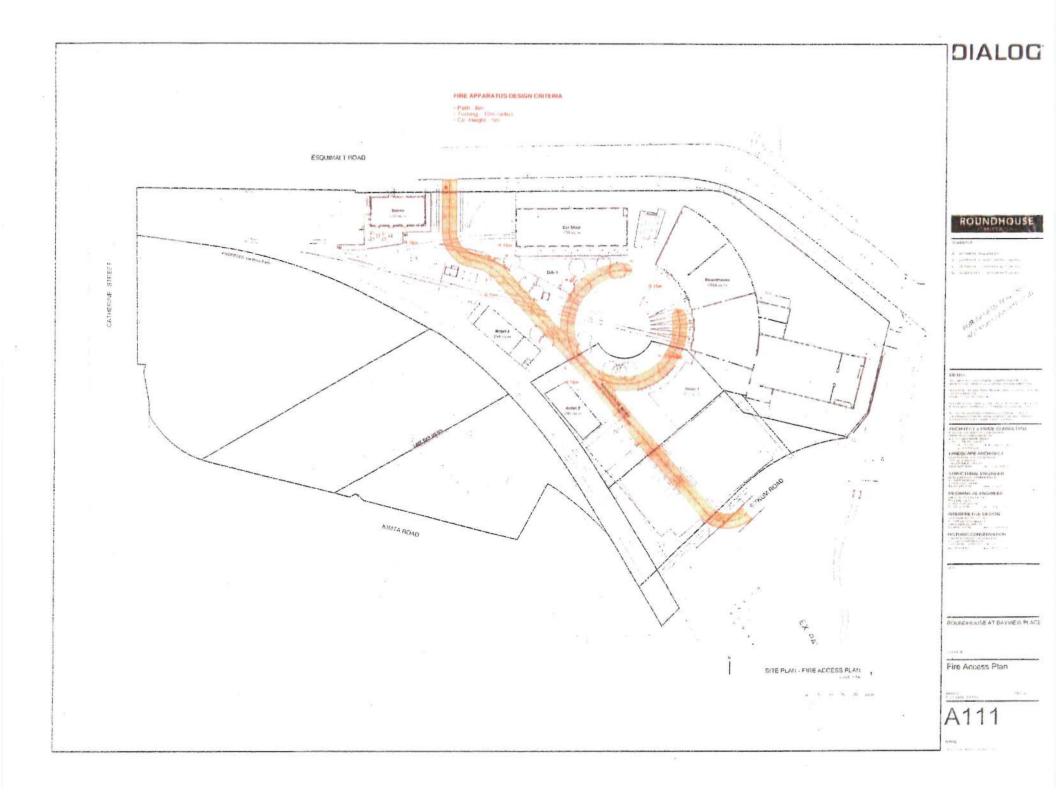


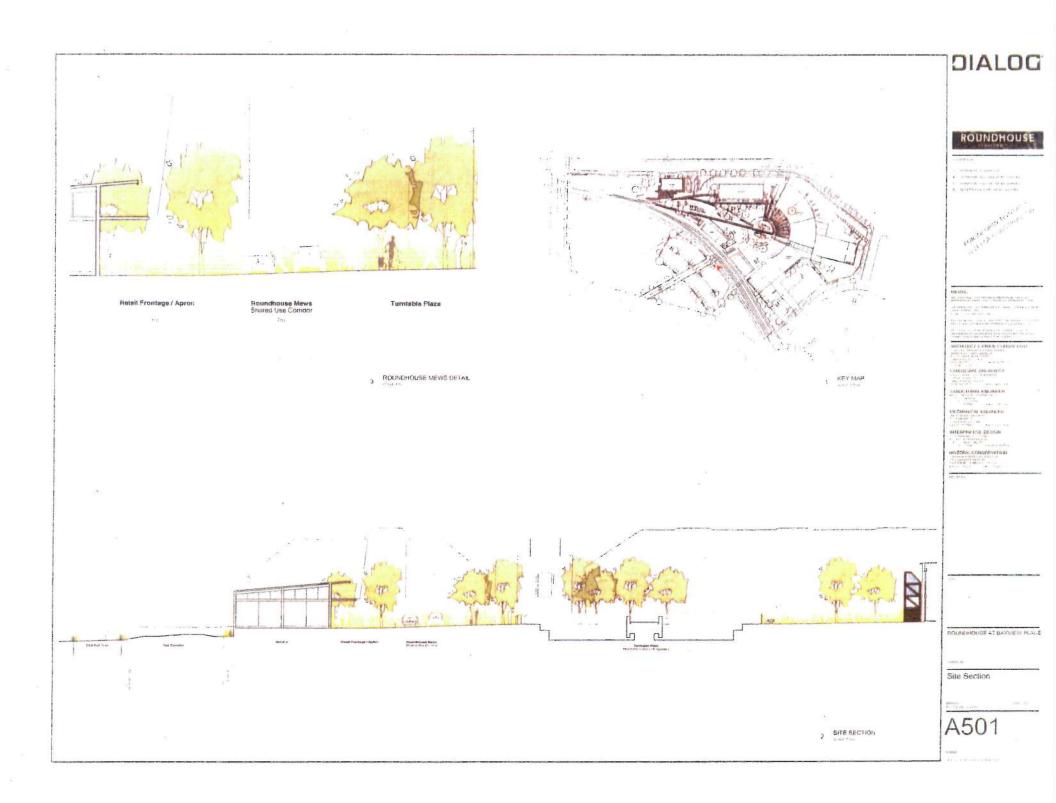


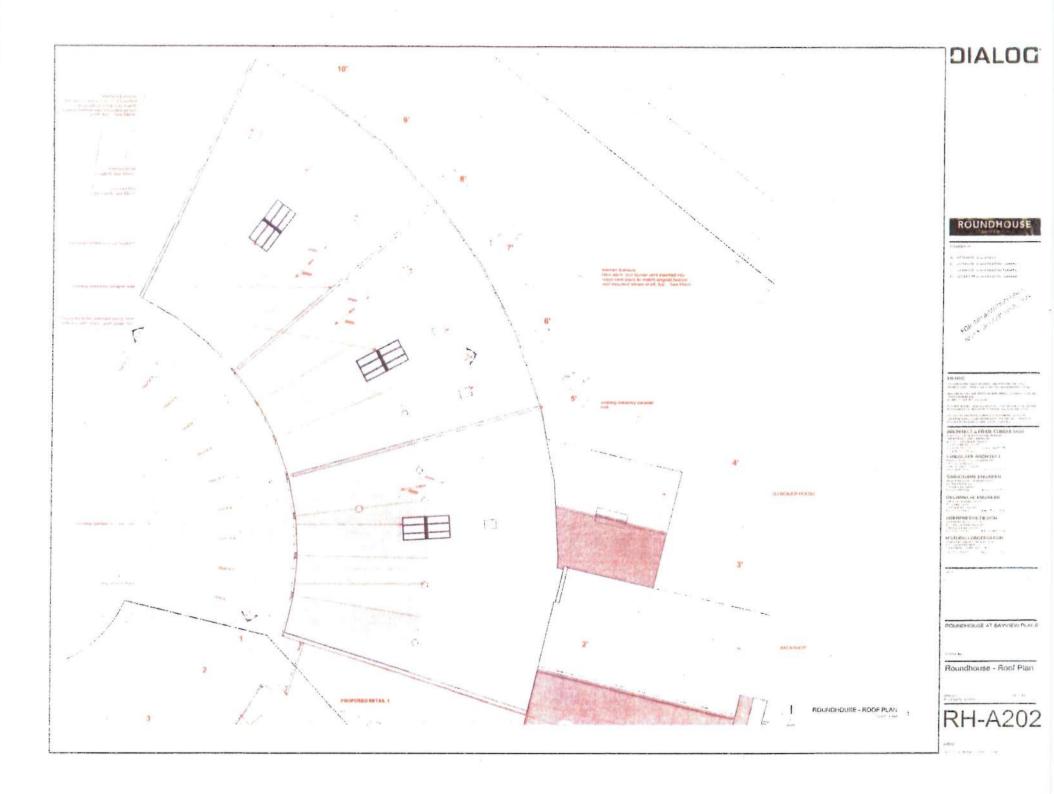


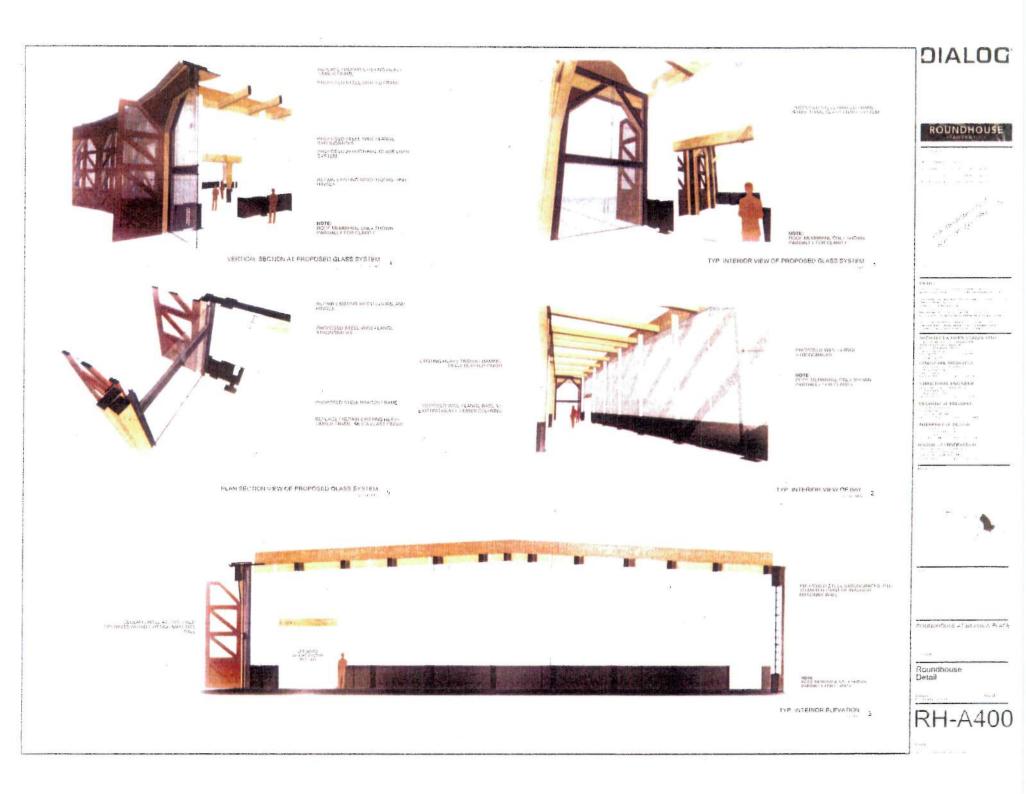












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