



LOCUST CLUB PROPERTIES UPDATE

March 14, 2008

In the early months of 2008, a variety of preparatory projects have taken place on the site of Curtis's proposed expansion. Condition assessments of the historic façades at 1610 and 1618 Locust Street have been completed and approaches to their restoration are being studied. Netting has been placed over areas where fragments of stone could break loose. Within the next month, vulnerable elements such as the bay on the 1618 building will be removed and stored for safekeeping. An initial phase of work late this summer will include installation of temporary bracing to support the façades during subsequent construction.

In addition, as plans for the proposed new facility begin to take shape, our architects, Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, are exploring "green" design, with environmental sustainability in mind. The United States Green Building Council certifies buildings for sustainability according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. According to the council, "LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality."

How might a new building be built more "green"? During construction, effective waste management can reduce waste sent to landfills. A new building can be sited—as this one is—to encourage use of public transit by occupants and employees. It can be designed to encourage recycling in daily operations, to conserve energy with the efficient use of natural light and ventilation, and to conserve water through use of rainfall for some functions. It can be built with materials produced in a highly sustainable way, such as wood from renewable forests.

Not all building projects can aim for or attain the highest level of LEED certification, but Curtis has a "green" mindset early enough in the design process to assure that sustainability will remain an important concern throughout design, construction, and daily operations.

Look for further updates on the Locust Club Properties site at www.curtis.edu.

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