Hollyburn Mews

Cottage-style duplexes and coach houses











Revised Rezoning and Development Permit Application
submitted to
The Corporation of the District of West Vancouver by
GELLER PROPERTIES LTD.
April 2011

TO
ATTACHMENT +

GELLER PROPERTIES LTD

3366 Deering Island, Vancouver BC V6N 4h9 geller@sfu.ca , 778 997 9980

April 1, 2011

Ms Geri Boyle Manager of Community Planning The Corporation of the District of West Vancouver 750 17th Street, West Vancouver BC V7V 3T3

Dear Ms. Boyle

RE: Hollyburn Mews (Formerly Bowling Green) Reference File Number 08-041 An Amendment to the Rezoning and Development Permit Application for 2031, 2047 & 2063 Esquimalt Avenue, West Vancouver

Many West Vancouver residents are now living in homes or on properties that are *getting too big.* While some are choosing to move into apartments or townhouses, others would prefer a smaller ground oriented home with its own yard and outdoor spaces. Hollyburn Mews is being designed and developed for these buyers.

By this letter, Geller Properties Ltd. (GPL) is pleased to submit an amended application to rezone three single family lots on Esquimalt Avenue, in order to create nine smaller duplex and coach house units. GPL purchased the lands from Bowling Green Townhomes Ltd (BGTL) in September 2010. BGTL submitted the original application in 2008. This application is to be considered along with an Official Community Plan Amendment for the entire block bounded by Esquimalt Avenue, 20th Street, Fulton Avenue and 21st Street, within which the subject properties are located.

The revised plans have been prepared by Formwerks Architectural Ltd. and Durante Krueck Landscape Architects. They have been carefully designed to cater to West Vancouver residents seeking new smaller housing choices in their community. The new designs are intended to reflect the style of smaller West Vancouver cottages and homes.

Attention has been given to the concerns raised by local residents during the Community Dialogue on Neighbourhood Character & Housing. We have also addressed comments heard from the general public and potential purchasers at a Public Open House on September 21st, 2010. Consideration has also been given to earlier comments from staff, the DRC, and feedback from other architects and planners who were asked to review the earlier plans.

This revised application also incorporates my four decades of experience as an architect, planner and developer involved with the design and development of housing catering to seniors and others seeking alternative forms of housing.

GPL recognizes that the consideration of this application, with its somewhat contentious past, is a very important initiative for West Vancouver. With its more intensified land uses and coach houses in an existing single family neighbourhood, this application represents the first of its kind. If it is granted approval and succeeds, it should increase the likelihood of other similar proposals resulting in much needed new housing choices. If it fails, it could discourage consideration of other infill applications in the immediate future.

This report focuses on the revised submission and the changes that have been made since GPL took over the project. We hope that you will agree that it addresses many of the expressed community concerns and now demonstrates an opportunity to create new housing choices for West Vancouver that, as noted in the title of your May 2010 Housing Forum 'fit us' and 'fit in'. We hope it will meet with staff and Council, and ultimately broad community approval.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Geller B.Arch, MAIBC, FCIP













Site Location and Amenities

There is probably no better location in West Vancouver for the type of development being proposed. The property is located only one block north of Marine Drive, two houses away from the Seniors' Centre and new Recreational Centre. Immediately to the south is West Vancouver United Church, and Hollyburn House. St. Stephens Anglican and Christian Science Church are both nearby. The West Vancouver Bowling Greens are immediately to the south-east.

The property is very close to public transit, the West Vancouver Public Library, and the shops and services of nearby Ambleside Village. Moreover, the area is relatively flat which makes it easy to walk to all of these facilities.

The block within which the three lots are located is very unique, by virtue of the surrounding uses and conditions. Fulton Avenue separates it from the more typical single family neighbourhoods to the north. A successful townhouse development was constructed along Gordon Avenue to the north-west and Council is considering a proposal for a new seniors oriented development on the former Wetmore Motors site immediately west of the senior's centre. The Kiwanis Seniors' complex is also nearby.

For all of these reasons, this is considered a most suitable location for a new cluster infill development, offering duplexes and coach houses designed for longstanding West Vancouver residents who are ready to downsize. It will allow them to be closer to a broad array of services and amenities that are easily accessible, without having to get into a car.







Previous Ground Floor Site Plan

One of the concerns with the earlier scheme was the manner in which the buildings were lined up along the lane. There was also a privacy and security concern since the bedrooms of the coach houses were located at grade.



Previous Second Floor Plans

There was also a concern with the suitability and amenity of the large northfacing decks above the garages , serving the upper level of the coach houses.

Previous Plans and Model

This revised application maintains the innovative design concept conceived by Mehrdad Rahbar of Vernacular Design to replace three older single family houses with three duplexes, each designed to appear like a larger single family house, and three laneway coach houses. However, following a careful review of the planning history of this application, GPL thought that the overall site design, individual building designs and landscaping plan could be improved to increase liveability for the residents and improve the overall neighbourhood 'fit'. The following summarizes the key objectives of the design revisions.



Model of Previous Proposal

While the overall concept was considered very innovative and appropriate, there appeared to be too little space between the coach houses and duplexes, and too many pathways traversing the site.

Design Revision Objectives

Improve the overall appearance and neighbourhood fit through the creation of a more traditional West Vancouver cottage-style form of development;

Decrease the 'bulk' of the coach houses while increasing the variation of spaces and buildings along the lane;

Increase the amount of off-street parking;

Increase the distance and sense of open space between the duplexes and coach houses;

Introduce a more informal 'garden-like' landscape character with increased landscaped areas and reduce paved walkways;

Balance the building size, site coverage and floor space ratio across the property;

Improve liveability and accessibility for 'empty nesters' and seniors seeking to age in place on this exceptionally well located property.



As illustrated in this model of the previous proposal, the amount of green space between the duplexes and coach houses was limited. A key objective is to increase the open space between the duplexes and coach houses.



An example of the type of porch being proposed for each Of the duplexes and coach houses.



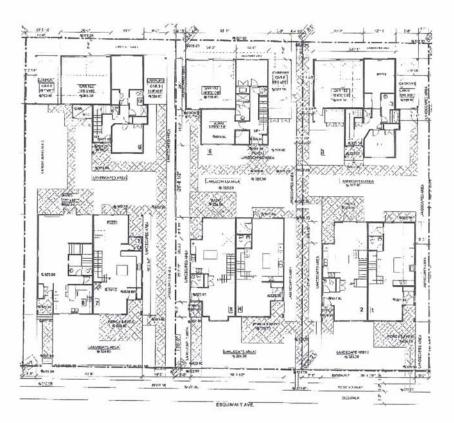
An example of a more communal, informal garden-like landscape character considered appropriate for the site

Previous Site Plan

The previous application maintained the existing property boundaries with a 60' lot at the western end of the property, and two contiguous 50' lots. Three separate residential bare land strata plans were proposed.

While this was seen as a way of maintaining the single family pattern of development along Esquimalt Avenue, it did create anomalies in terms of building size, density and site coverage across the properties. Moreover there was a potential for conflicts amongst the strata corporations over the future maintenance of the landscaped areas.

Since the coach houses had their bedrooms at grade, it was not possible to create individual entries to the units from the lane. This resulted in a less active 'lanescape'.

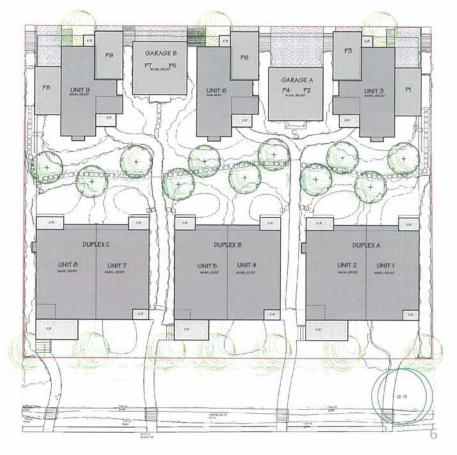


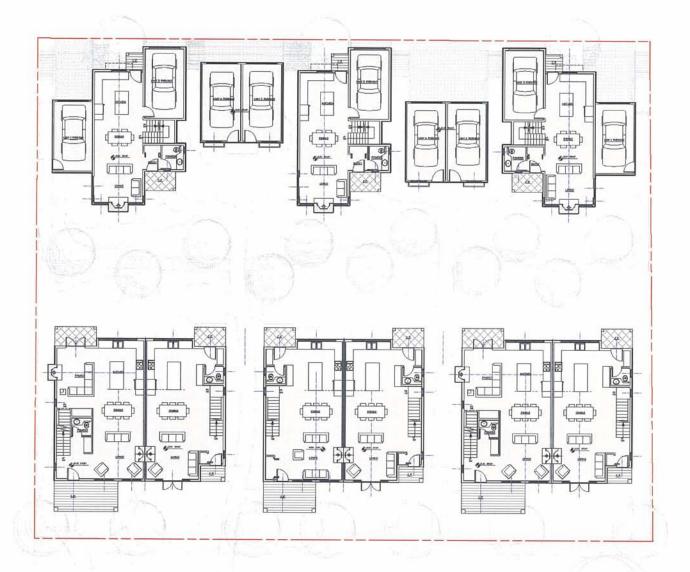
Revised Site Plan

The revised plan maintains a single family pattern with a central 50' lot flanked by two 55' lots. However, it is proposed that the three lots be legally consolidated to allow one strata plan for the development, and more variety in the spacing between the coach houses and parking garages along the lane.

The revised plan results in an improved 'lanescape' by separating some of the garages from the coach house units, and varying the set-backs for the garages. By reversing the coach house floor plans, and putting the living spaces at grade, the coach houses also have 'back doors' to the lane along with increased setbacks.

Given the unusually wide boulevard along Esquimalt Avenue, it is proposed that the front yard setback be reduced to 15 feet from the property line to the building face, thus increasing the separation space between the duplexes and coach house units, and creating a more intimate, 'neighbourly' character along the street.





Features of the new plans

The new site plan generally achieves the design revision objectives. The separation space between the duplexes and coach houses has been increased as a result of a reduction in the depth of some units and the reduced setback along the street.

The number of parking spaces has increased from 10 to 13. Nine of the spaces are in garages. The remaining spaces, primarily for visitors, are located in front of the garages. This is discussed in more detail later in the report.

Each duplex block has a large front porch at its western end, raised approximately 2 feet off grade to accommodate the site grades. There are also small covered porches at the rear of each unit to add amenity and contribute to a greater sense of neighbourliness and privacy.

The coach houses have a small covered porch at each entry from the garden. A second covered entry leads from each coach house to the lane.

The number of pathways from the street has been reduced along with the number of pathways linking the garages to the rear of the units. The east-west pathway has been eliminated and replaced by a stepping stone path to allow neighbours to go from one part of the community to the other.

There are three unit types: a smaller duplex, (4 units); a larger duplex (2 units), and a coach house (3 units). Although the units are not large, considerable attention has been given to the creation of flexible, 'furnishable' and liveable spaces.

'L-shaped' kitchens each have a central island with seating, full height pantries, and large windows over the sink. Each of the homes has a built in desk area to accommodate computers and printers.

The bedroom levels have been revised to provide for two 'master bedrooms', each with its own en-suite bathroom. This is considered appropriate for empty nesters and seniors who often prefer separate bedrooms or an en-suite bedroom for adult children or guests.

Considerable attention has been given to creating $\,$ a variety of covered and open outdoor spaces for each unit .



Landscaping concept

The new landscaping concept is an integral aspect of the revised design. The goal is to create an attractive, informal garden setting with a variety of perennials and planting materials of varying heights. The inspiration for the design comes from traditional West Vancouver 'English Country Gardens' and gardens found in some of the newer 'cottage-style' developments being created in the Pacific Northwest, as illustrated on this page.

There is a need to review with engineering and BC Hydro whether an evergreen tree on the public boulevard near the south-east corner of the property can be retained, noting the obligation to underground the BC Hydro service currently running above this tree.

A new 4 to 5 foot gravel sidewalk is proposed immediately adjacent to the road surface. This location is preferred since it will be easier to connect to a desired sidewalk fronting the properties to the west and east of the subject properties. GPL will offer to extend this sidewalk across the properties to the east and west, in order to create a safer pedestrian route to the nearby seniors centre, at no cost to the owners.

Particular effort has been given to minimizing the number of pathways running through the site. The 6 duplex units are served by 4 pathways from the street. 'Tumbled pavers' are proposed for the pathways and patio areas. A landscaped trellis structure between the duplex buildings will lead to the coach houses that also have separate entrances from the lane.

Drought resistant native plantings, combined with wildflowers and other perennials will be used throughout. However, raised beds will also be provided where individuals can plant annuals if they so desire. Some of the existing plant materials will be reused where feasible.

While some lower fencing may be provided in some areas, the goal is to create a continuous landscaped environment that is not broken up by high fences and property lines.

Two small communal seating areas are proposed along the shared pathways, near the intersection of the east-west stepping stone path.



A new gravel sidewalk is proposed along the Esquimalt Avenue frontage; a large tree near the south east corner of the property will hopefully be maintained (below)





The natural character of the rear lane will be maintained and upgraded; careful attention will be given to new landscaping and accommodating garbage cans



















Tumbled Pavers at Patio's - to be grey in colour



Rectangular Pavers at main walkways thru site



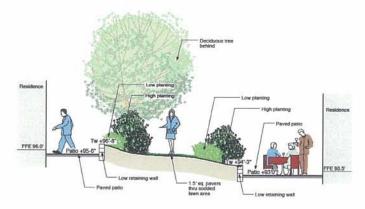
3' ht. Wood fence (as appropriate and if required)



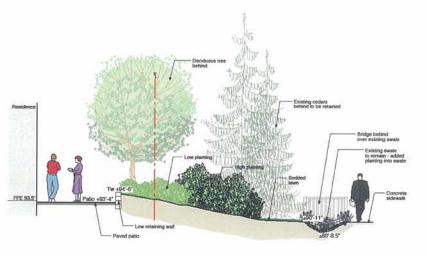
5' ht. Metal fence (as appropriate and if required)



Low retaining wall around patios



Section A - Back Patios of Units 1 and 3 (at north east corner)
Scale 1/4" = 1"



Section B - Front Patio at Unit 1 Facing Esquimalt Ave, (south east corner) Scale 1/4" = 1"



Hollyburn Mews

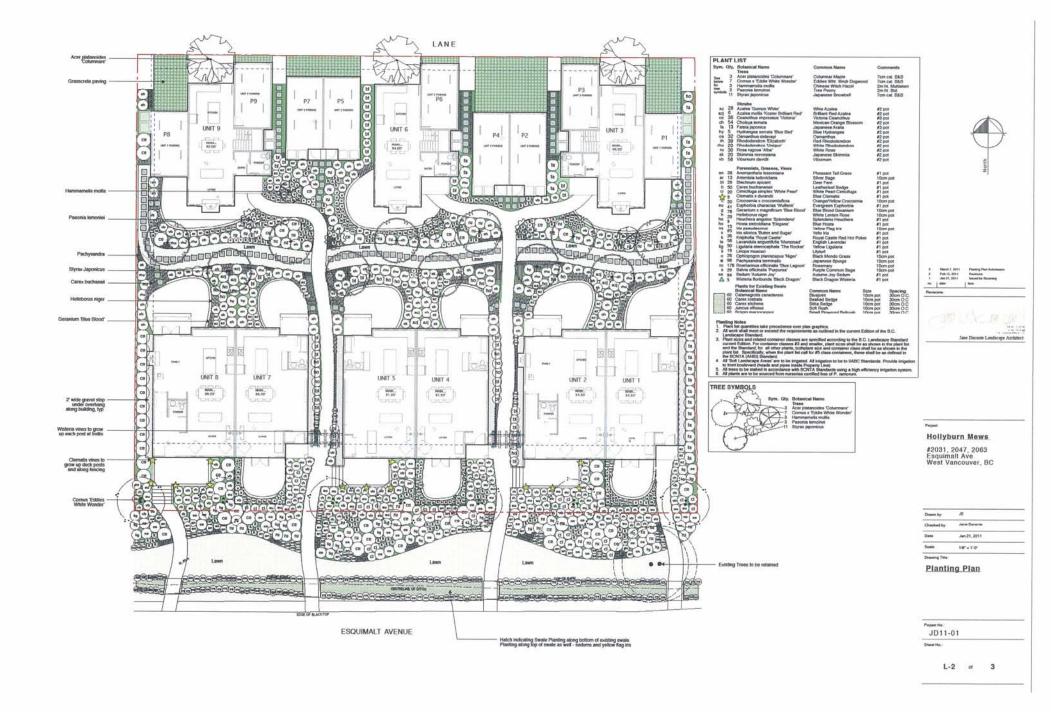
#2031, 2047, 2063 Esquimalt Ave. West Vancouver, BC

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Sections

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Parking

A number of people have expressed the concern that there is a need for additional parking to serve the new residents and their visitors. While the development is expected to appeal to those who are ready to give up one or more cars, it is acknowledged that additional off-site parking would be desirable.

The previous scheme provided 10 parking spaces for the 9 units. Six of the spaces were in garages; the remainder were open carports.

The revised plan offers a different parking solution. There are 9 garages and four open surface spaces for a total of 13 spaces:

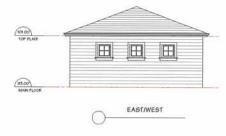
The revised layout avoids having any double garages attached to the coach houses. Instead, single car garages are on either side of the units. The remaining cars are accommodated in two double garages set back from the lane. By varying the garage setbacks, roof designs, exterior materials and design, each has its own distinct character.

It is proposed that the surface parking spaces in front of the separate garages be paved with a 'reinforced grass' product to create 4 tandem parking spaces for visitors and green areas along the lane. This, combined with the varying setbacks should result in a very successful 'lanescape'.



















Setbacks

In order to rationalize setbacks and create a more comprehensive and attractive development, it is proposed that the three lots be consolidated. This will also simplify the planning, development, and future operation of the housing.

Given the very wide public boulevard along the street, and desire to maximize the space between the duplexes and coach houses, GPL is requesting that staff consider a reduction in the front setback to 15'. Not only will this improve the separation space between the duplexes and coach houses, it will also create a more friendly and neighbourly character along the street. Special landscaping will be planted at the western edge of the property to screen the end duplex from its neighbour and transition to the greater front setback for this property. The following summarizes the various setbacks:

The **Front setback** is proposed at 15 feet from the property line, which results in an approximate 45 foot setback from the road surface. The front porch protrudes into this setback.

The Rear setback from the Lane varies quite considerably. Three of the garages are set back 2 feet from the lane; the remainder vary between 6 feet and 18 feet. The coach houses are now set back 8 feet from the lane.

The **Side setback** is generally 5 feet. However, it is proposed that the setback for the two garages be reduced to 4 feet, in order to allow an adequate interior garage width and reasonable separation spaces between the detached garages and coach houses.

It is understood that porches and a chimney flue will be allowed to protrude into the proposed setback areas.

Site Coverage and Density

The proposed site density for the housing is 0.6 and the site coverage is 0.4. This is consistent with the earlier proposal.

However, in order to better respond to the needs of those wanting to downsize into the development from larger single family homes, GPL is requesting that staff allow below ground 'cellars' for each of the units to accommodate mechanical equipment, storage, workshop areas, and other non-habitable spaces.

The cellars will generally be completely below grade, except where the site slope dictates otherwise. No bathrooms or bedroom spaces will be provided or allowed. There will be no access to the cellars from the outside.

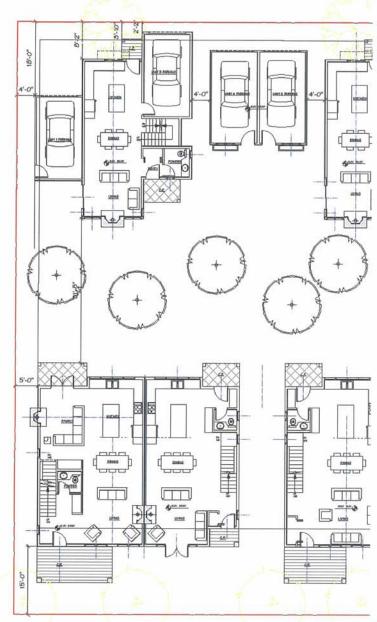
Building Heights

The building heights have been reduced and are well within the maximum permitted under the single family zoning. The overall height at different parts of the roof is set out on the drawings.

Unit Sizes

These new homes are intended to appeal to older West Vancouver residents moving out of larger single family homes. The revised unit sizes are approximately as follows:

Smaller duplex (4 units) Larger duplex (2 units) Coach Houses (3 units) 1430 to 1455 square feet 1625 square feet 1155 square feet



13



Picnic at Mowats's Cottage 1921



Kay Meek's summer home (between 1940 and 1959)



Rush House with cleared fields (between 1923 and 1933)



Faulknor house at 1328 Gordon Avenue 1916



Kilby house 1930's



Dorothy Jone's house at 1252 14th Street 1915

Architectural Character

A key aspect of the revised application is a new architectural character that is inspired by traditional West Vancouver cottages and houses. Illustrated on this page are photographs from the West Vancouver Archives of a variety of older homes built in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. While the new buildings are not designed to mimic these older buildings, they do feature many of the details which are evident in these photos, including:

- · covered porches with open railings, and various gable details
- a mixture of horizontal and vertical siding, shakes and board and batten
- · a variety of window details with smaller panes and special trim
- steeply sloping roofs with dormers, open soffits and other 'traditional' detailing



Kilby house 1910



Pilot Station at Pilot Bay 1906

All photos: Courtesy of West Vancouver Archives





Architectural Character

The illustrations on this page and elsewhere in this report are from projects designed by Ross Chapin, Architect and developed by the Cottage Company throughout Washington State. Some of the details which are being proposed for Hollyburn Mews include:

- open porches with flower boxes and a variety of gable details
- 'Dutch doors' with separate opening top and bottom sections
- · contemporary interpretation of traditional window detailing
- · a range of 'heritage' colours providing harmony and variety
- a mix of horizontal, vertical and board and batten siding
- · selective use of shakes to add variety and interest
- · skylights in selected locations
- · opportunities for solar panels















Puplexes Esquimalt Elevations

Hollyburn Mews



Coach House Lane Elevations



Coach House Garden Elevations

Hollyburn Mews





Sustainability Measures

This development is being designed to generally comply with the Green Building Requirements established by West Vancouver for properties sold by the district. They are intended to create healthier and lower environmental impact residential homes. The following summarizes the key features of these homes and site planning:

Sensitive Site Development

- •On site stormwater management will maintain runoff to pre-development rates
- *A tree planting plan will be prepared and submitted
- •Indigenous plant materials with low water requirements shall predominate
- •The landscape plan shall exceed minimum plant requirements; the limited turf areas shall be drought-tolerant; soil shall meet the specified requirements:
- •Trees and other plantings shall provide shading for at least 50% of hard surfaces within 15 meters of the homes

Energy Efficiency

- Exterior walls shall have Increased insulation values; windows shall have EnergyStar labels
- *EnergyStar appliances shall be installed
- Alternatives to incandescent and halogen bulbs shall be installed in all nonliving spaces and habitable spaces where appropriate
- ·'smart' energy usage display meters will be installed
- •Fireplaces shall be gas fuelled with electronic ignitions and direct vents
- •Hot water tanks shall meet minimum insulation requirements
- •Hot water piping shall meet minimum insulation requirements to avoid heat loss
- •Homes will have 'pre-piping' for future roof-mounted solar panels
- •Garages shall be pre-wired for electric vehicles
- •An EnerGuide Rating System Report shall be prepared prior to occupancy
- •Glazing areas will be designed to support passive solar heating

Water Efficiency

•Dual flush toilets and low flow fixtures shall be installed

Indoor Environmental Quality

- ·Heat recovery ventilators shall be installed
- *Low VOC emitting paints and flooring materials shall be specified

Construction Waste Management

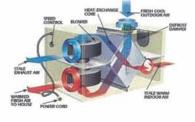
 A construction waste management plan will be prepared in accordance with the Metro Vancouver BuildSmart Waste Management Toolkit guidelines to target a 50% reduction from industry norms.

















Accessibility, adaptability and liveability features

Many West Vancouver residents are now living in homes or on properties that are *getting too big*. While some are choosing to move into apartments or townhouses, others would prefer a smaller ground oriented home with its own yard and outdoor spaces Hollyburn Mews is being designed and developed for these buyers.

While the homes are not large, they will have many features to make them comfortable and liveable for those seeking to age in place. They are homes for those who want to downsize, but not downgrade.

While most 'empty nesters' and seniors would prefer a home on one level, or a master bedroom on the ground floor, due to restrictions on the site coverage, this is not considered feasible on the subject property. Another option might be to provide an elevator, or a rough-in for an elevator. However, this is not considered appropriate for these smaller homes for both cost and space planning reasons. However, the duplexes have been designed with a wider 'straight run 'stair which could easily accommodate a stair lift if required at some time in the future. A stair lift could also be added to the coach house stairs if necessary.

A number of other features have been incorporated into the design to make these homes more attractive and liveable for an aging population. These include:

- •Kitchens with full height pantries, accessible cupboards, drawers in the lower cabinets, 'lazy susans' and a seating area
- •Higher levels of lighting in bedrooms, closets, kitchens, bathrooms and corridors
- •Provision for support bars in bathrooms if and when needed; medicine cabinets and drawers for toiletries and medications
- •Raised electrical outlets and lower light switches
- *Lever hardware on all doors and bathroom fixtures
- •Wider corridors, wider door openings and flush door thresholds
- •Raised planting beds in patio areas
- *Incorporation of SAFERHOME design standards wherever feasible







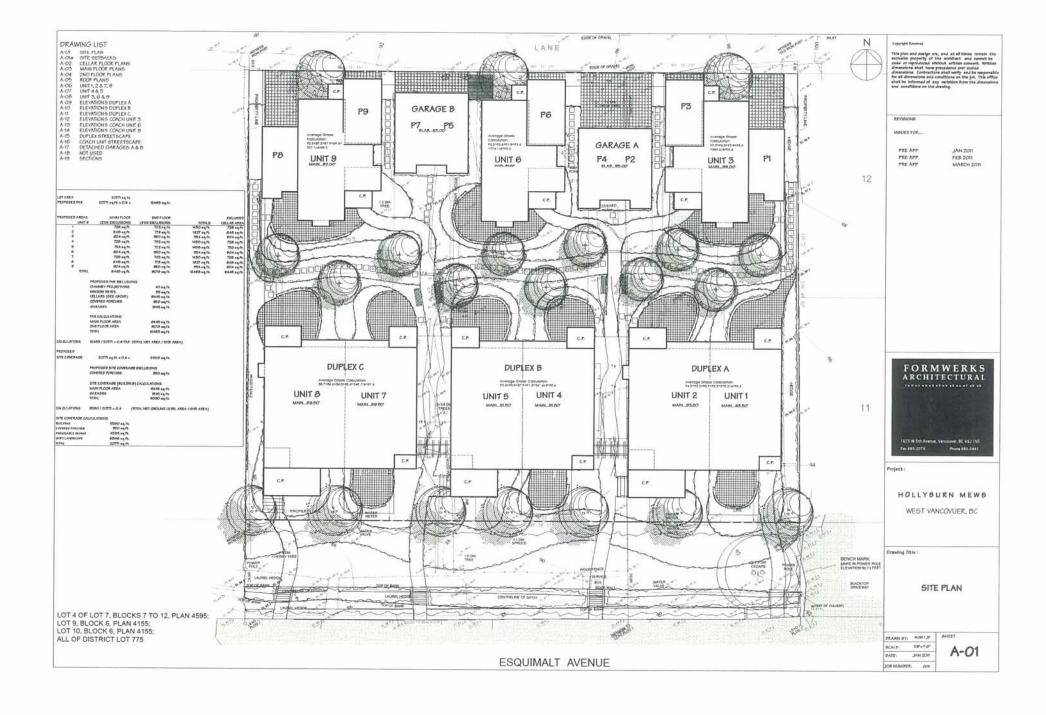


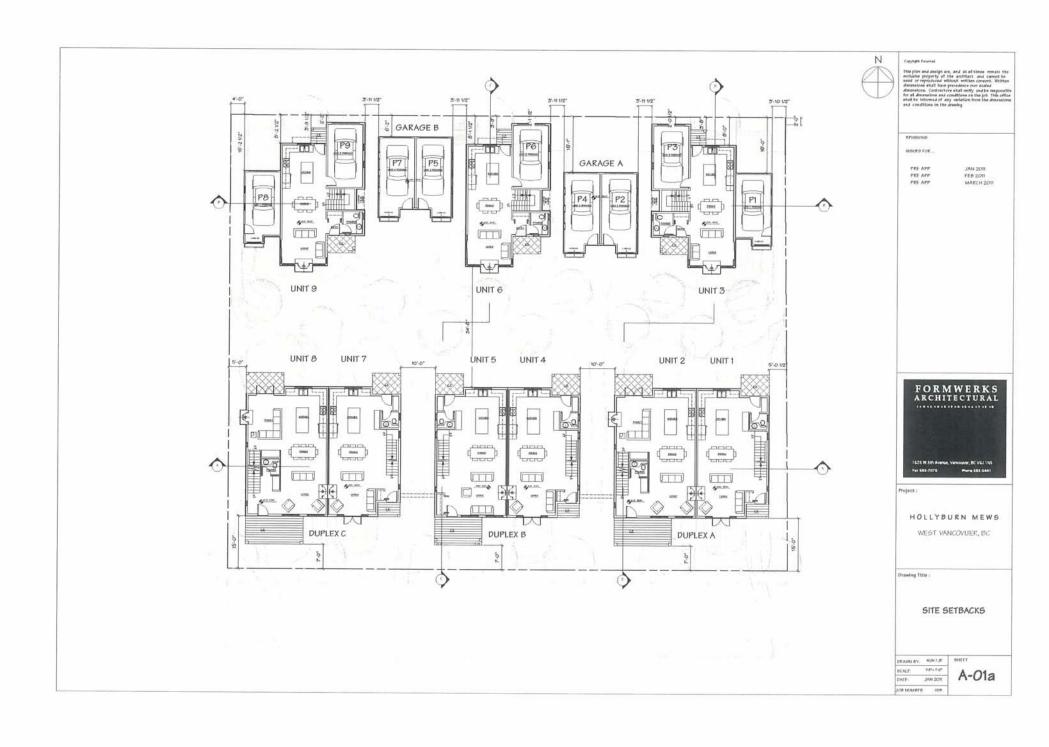


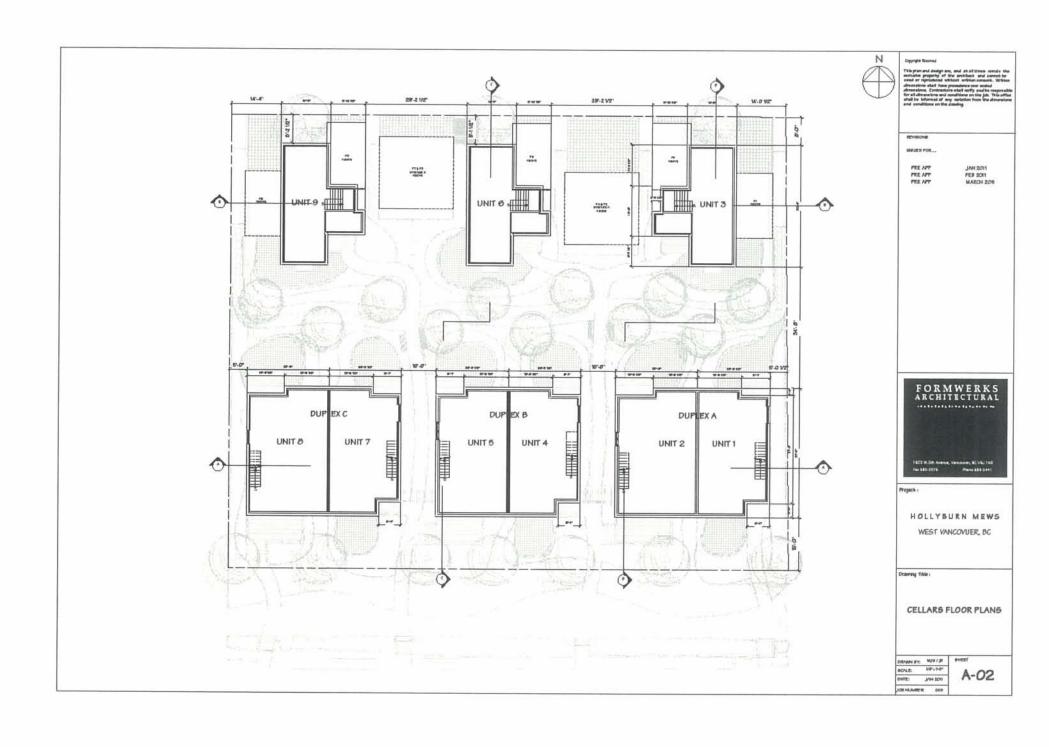


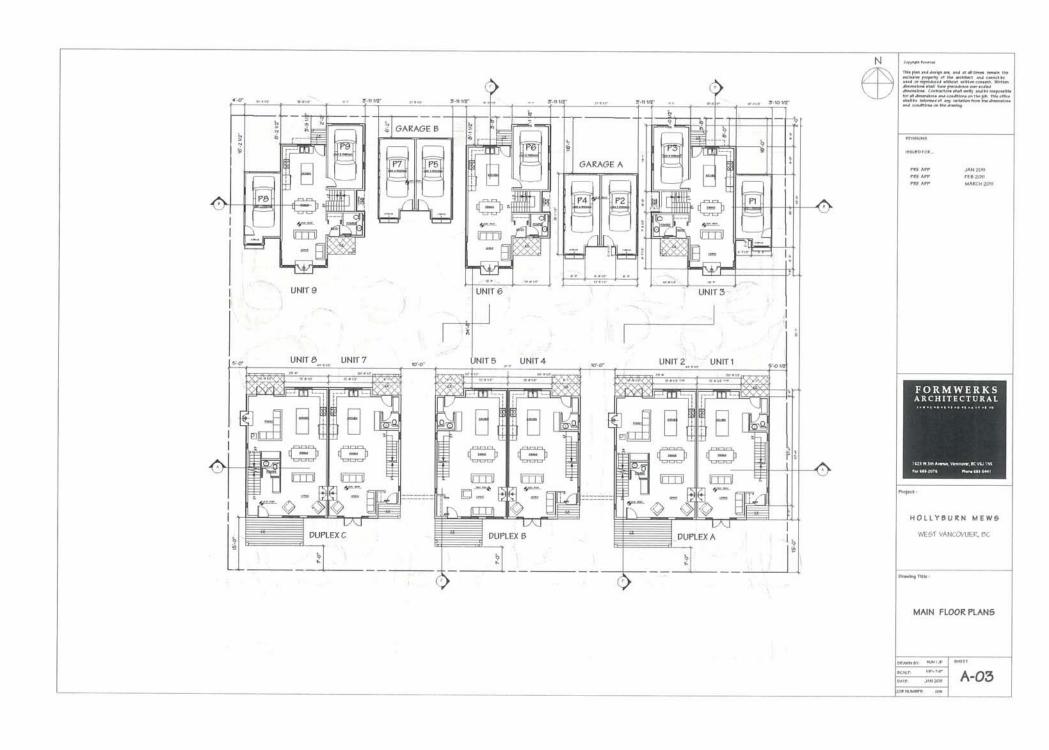


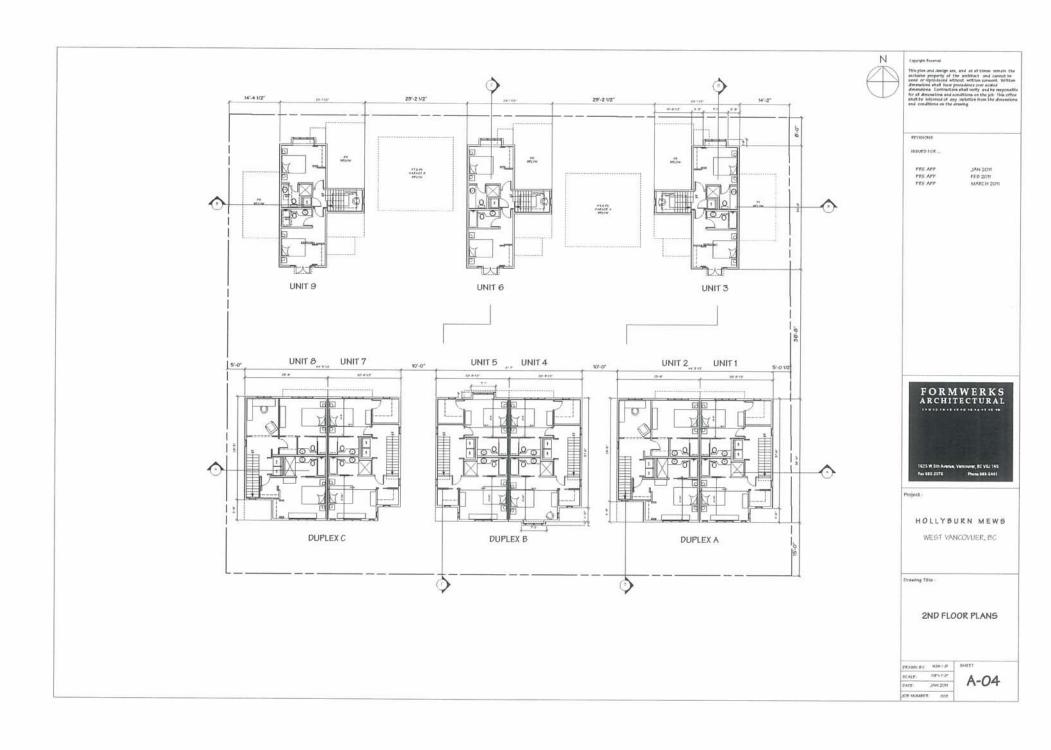


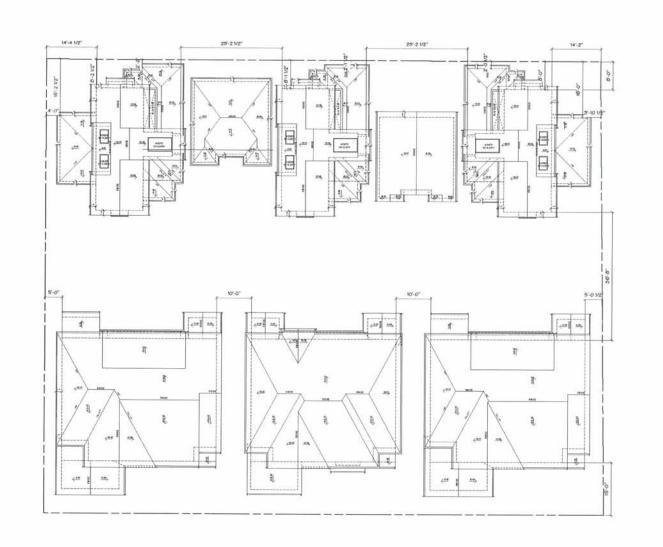














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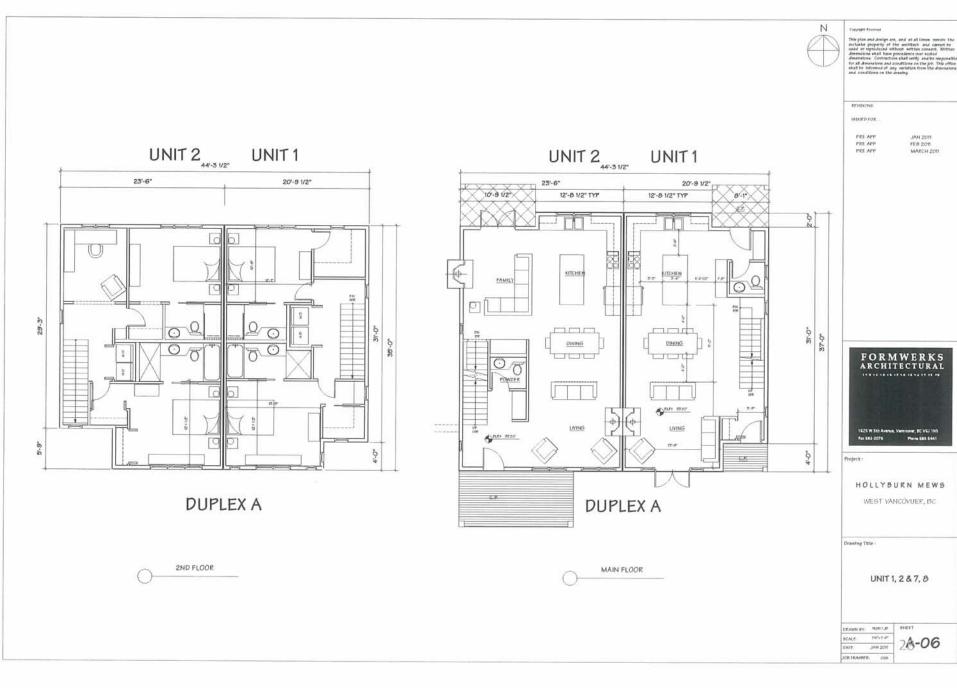
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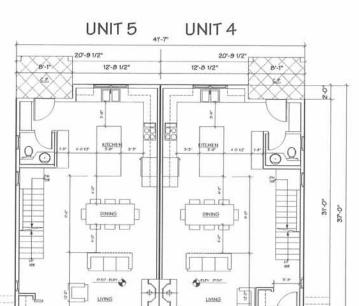
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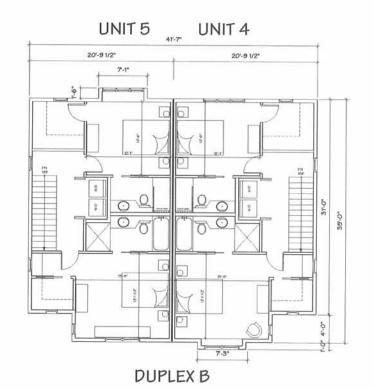
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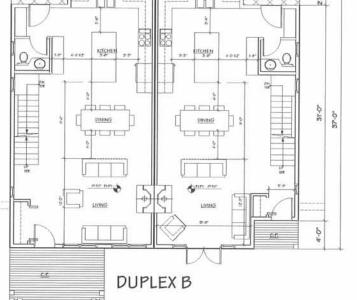
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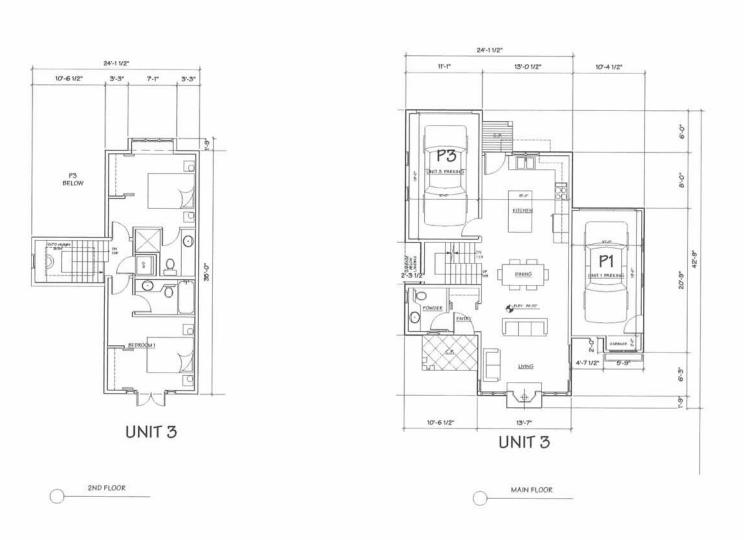
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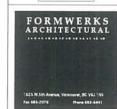
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