Proposal: Erection of Office Complex, at former Odeon Cinema to be known as the Paramount Building
Achitects: Gordon Murray + Alan Dunlop Architects
Status: Full Application 07/01485/DC

Illustration indicates images of scheme as presented to the Glasgow Urban Design Panel 31st May 2007

Presented by: Gordon Murray of Gordon Murray + Alan Dunlop Architects
With assistance from: Reiner Novak of Gordon Murray + Alan Dunlop Architects
Also in attendance: Bruce Hayre, Duddingston House Properties

This is the second presentation by gm+ad of the proposals for the Paramount Building. The panel noted that the concerns about the twisted storeys had been addressed, and that the proposal was now a simple, elegant glass box, although somewhat higher than the original proposal. It was also noted that the memory veil has been amended and that the public/ private interface is now permanently open at ground level. It is hoped that this feature is to be maintained, so that the public space given by the developer remains in the public realm.

Regarding the development of the old Odeon front of house facility, the interesting approach outlined in the first presentation was not shown to have been developed, and while we were assured that this was progressing, it was disappointing not to have it presented to the panel.

Some reservations about the height of the building were expressed by members of the panel, but the distance studies did demonstrate that the building had a small but positive effect on the skyline.

The developer argued that he was trying hard to make the scheme economically viable while maintaining a credible contribution to the public realm.

Given the broadly positive response of the architects to the criticisms contained in the first review by the Urban Design Panel, we would broadly support this proposal, provided that care is taken to maintain the openness of the public/ private split at ground level, and the proposals for the Odeon building bear fruit.

Glasgow Urban Design Panel members in attendance:

Alistair McDonald	Glasgow City Council
Geoffrey Jarvis	Glasgow Architecture Committee
Rob Hay	Strathclyde Police
Pauline Megson	Historic Scotland
Ombretta Romice	University of Strathclyde
Guy Pettigrew	New Glasgow Society
Neil Perrit	Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland
James Spence Watson	Landscape Institute
Nick Barley	The Lighthouse
Murray Russell	Glasgow Institute of Architects
David Hasson	Glasgow Institute of Architects
Peter Trowles	Glasgow School of Art
Niall Murphy	Pollokshields Heritage
Gill Stewart	Glasgow Building Preservation Trust
David Grierson	University of Strathclyde
Dr Steve Tiesdell	Urban Design, Glasgow University
Douglas Pritchard	Mackintosh School of Architecture