



Landmark Certificate of Appropriateness Info Sheet

Printed Date: April 03, 2025

Property Address:

3300 MAYFIELD RD CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH 44118

Detailed Project Description

The iconic Park Synagogue is about to undergo a significant restoration to preserve Erich Mendelsohn's 1950 architectural masterpiece while adapting it as a community arts center. A development plan for the Park Synagogue property has been underway for the past year to envision a potential future for the 28-acre wooded property surrounding the historic synagogue. The multi-phase plan envisions retaining the park-like character of the wooded site, celebrating the architecture of Mendelsohn's synagogue, retaining some of the existing ancillary buildings, and exploring opportunities for new buildings. The goal is to create a multi-generational campus with creative arts, community services, and multi-family housing. The first new development on the site in 25 years will be townhouse apartments located in the southeast corner of the property over existing parking lots, designated as "C1" in the development plan. The curved townhouses mirror that of the synagogue's school wing and preserve the open view of the dome when entering the site from Euclid Heights Boulevard. The National Park Service [NPS] and the State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] have set a few parameters for the proposed townhouses that respect the significance and experience of the historic synagogue while creating a manageable density for new development. These parameters include a setback distance from the school wing of at least 100', a height of no more than 35', and a break between the row-houses when seen from the main entry of the synagogue. While the fifteen townhouses will face the synagogue and the meadow to the northwest, their entries will be from the rear, where the curved buildings conceal a small parking lot and gathering space. This results in an undisrupted mass like the school wing and introduces shifts between the first level and the upper two levels to break the scale of the buildings down similarly to the sides of the temple building. The three-story flat-roofed townhouses range from 32' to 34' in height as the grade drops from the southeast to the northeast. A linear brick in an earth tone has been chosen as the dominant material, and a light wood-like vertical batten has been introduced as a complementary material.

Large vertical punched openings are composed on a grid and shift between singular and grouped geometries to break up the façade.