



CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, 2nd Fl., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Telephone: 617 349 4683 Fax: 617 349 3116 TTY: 617 349 6112
E-mail: histcomm@cambridgema.gov URL: http://www.cambridgema.gov/Historic

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE

1. The undersigned hereby applies to the Cambridge Historical Commission for a Certificate of (check one box): Appropriateness, Nonapplicability, or Hardship, in accordance with Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws and/or Chapter 2.78 of the Municipal Code.

2. Address of property: , Cambridge, Massachusetts

3. Describe the proposed alteration(s), construction or demolition in the space provided below:
(An additional page can be attached, if necessary).

Site work, above grade fixtures, and landscaping associated with construction of new academic building.
See attached materials for additional information.

I certify that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. **The undersigned also attests that he/she has read the statements printed on the reverse.**

Name of Property Owner of Record: <input type="text" value="President and Fellows of Harvard College c/o Mark Verkennis"/>	
Mailing Address: <input type="text" value="Harvard University Planning and Design, 1350 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA 02138"/>	
Telephone/Fax: <input type="text" value="(617) 496-1879"/>	E-mail: <input type="text" value="mark_verkennis@haryard.edu"/>
Signature of Property Owner of Record: <i>Mark Verkennis</i> (Required field; application will not be considered complete without property owner's signature)	
Name of proponent, if not record owner: <input type="text"/>	
Mailing Address: <input type="text"/>	
Telephone/Fax: <input type="text"/>	E-mail: <input type="text"/>

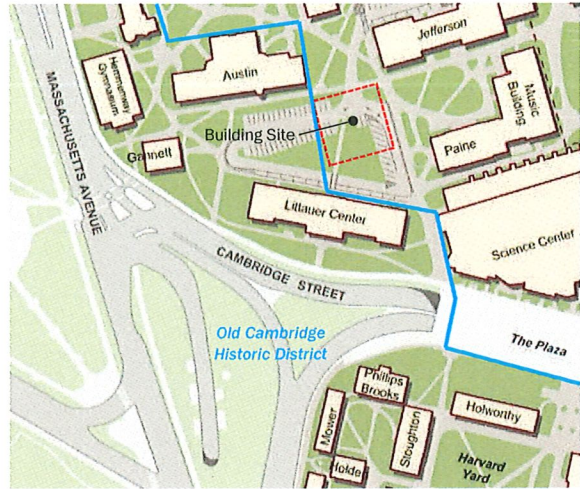
(for office use only):	
Date Application Received: _____	Case Number: <u>5227</u> Hearing Date: <u>12/5/24</u>
Type of Certificate Issued: _____	Date Issued: _____

New Economics Building

Development Site

The Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences is planning to construct a new academic building that will provide a new home for the Department of Economics, currently located in the Littauer Center located on the University's north campus. The new building will be constructed immediately to the north of the Littauer Center, in an area which was most recently used as a surface parking lot.

The development site is adjacent to Austin Hall and Gannett House which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of the larger development site is located within the Old Cambridge Historic District, (see right), however the new building is proposed to be constructed immediately east of the historic district. Within the historic district, new construction is limited to below grade courtyards, landscaping and site furnishings.



Site Context

The development site is currently occupied by a surface parking lot. The site is surrounded by several academic buildings, including Austin Hall and Gannett House, which are both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The existing parking area compromises the setting for these architecturally and historically significant buildings. The site is also adjacent to several campus open spaces and circulation paths whose character is also diminished by the current surface parking lot.



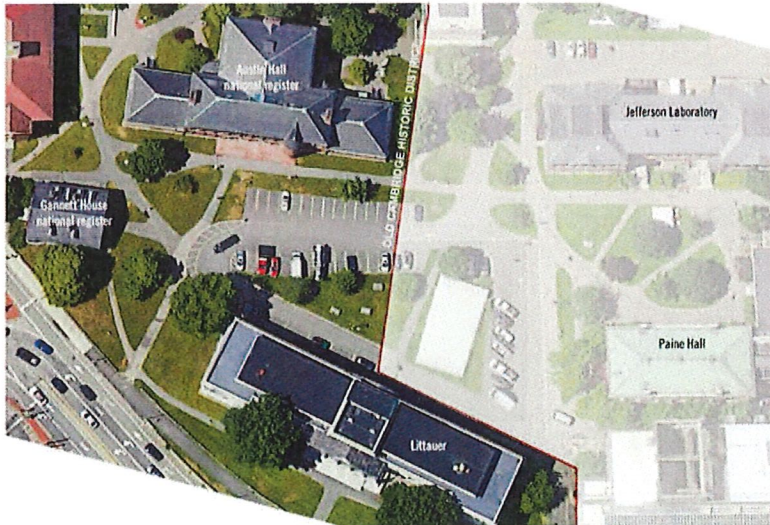
Austin Hall



Austin Hall



Gannett House



Jefferson Laboratory



Paine Hall



Littauer

Existing Conditions

New Building (Outside of Historic District)

The planned building is to be located at the northeast corner of the development site. Its location has been informed by several site constraints including the presence of multiple below grade utilities, limitations on the proximity of new construction to adjacent buildings, and the desire to maintain the existing viewshed to Austin Hall from Cambridge Street.

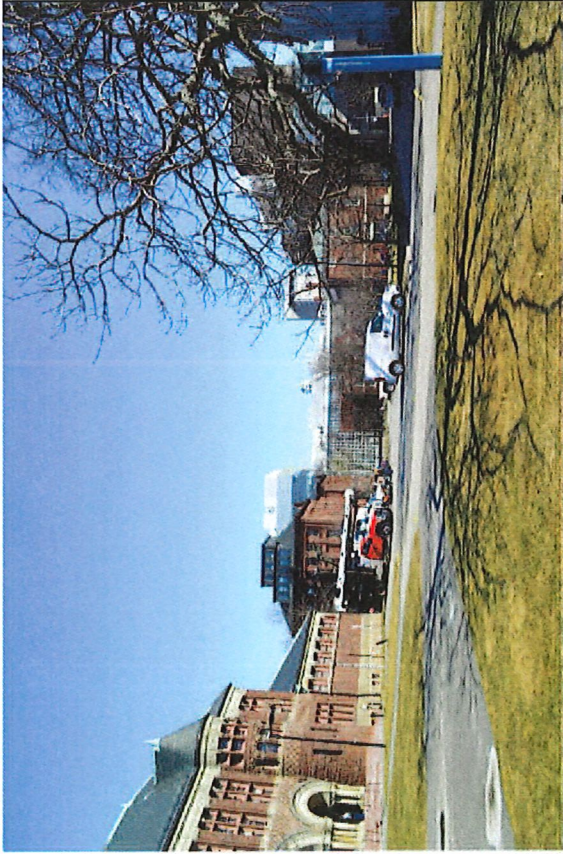
The proposed new building will be eight stories in height and has been designed with a material palette informed by the traditional building materials such as brick and stone found in nearby campus buildings. The façade organization reflects the use of walls and windows as elements of climate control, and the desire to connect interior spaces to the surrounding campus landscape by providing access to views and light.

The new development will transform a key part of the Harvard University campus by eliminating a surface parking lot and replacing it with a new building which reinforces and enhances adjacent campus open spaces and pedestrian circulation. It also dramatically improves the setting for Austin Hall and Gannett House by creating a new landscaped forecourt to these historic buildings.

Proposed Development Plan



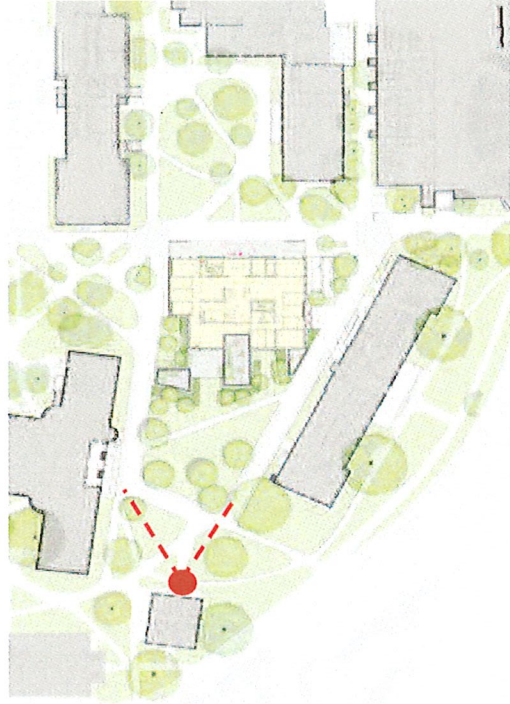
View from Gannett House looking east



Existing



Proposed



Work within the Historic District

A portion of the development site is located within the Old Cambridge Historic District. Project work within this area is limited to the following elements:

- Three below-grade courtyards and a terrace at the west side of the building.
- Landscape elements including new asphalt pathways, pavers, and new plantings.
- Site furnishings including lighting, tables and chairs, and trash receptacles.

Courtyards and Terrace

Three below grade courtyards and a terrace are located at the west side of the building. The courtyards have a low surrounding stone clad retaining wall, topped with simple railings constructed of painted galvanized steel. A planted border will surround the courtyards and feature a variety of native plant materials to provide seasonal interest. The terrace will be surfaced with traffic-grade unit pavers, matching the pathway edging.

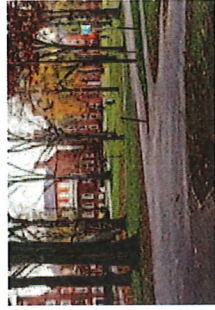
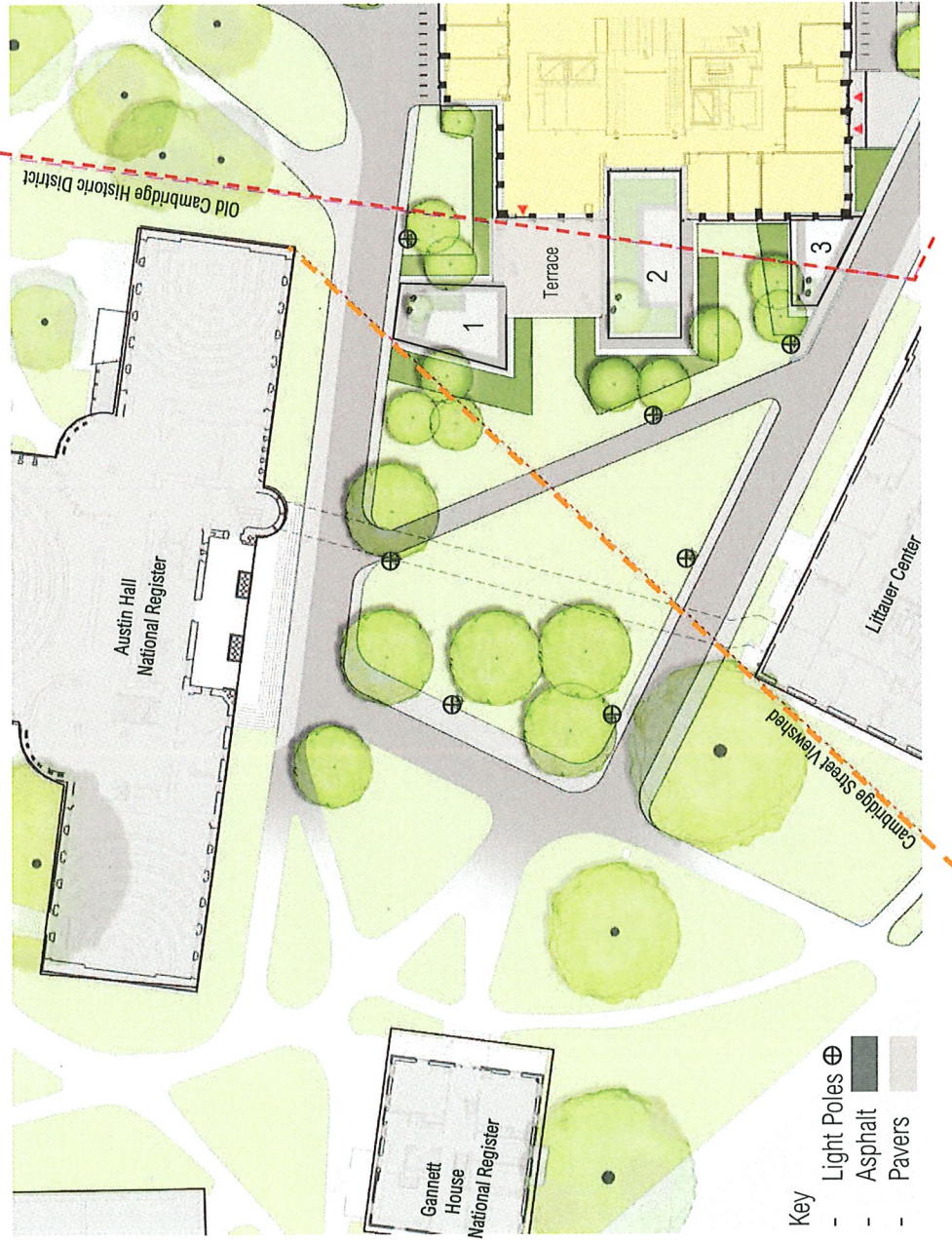
Pathways and Landscaping

New asphalt pathways edged with unit pavers will be constructed to adjoin existing campus paths surrounding the project site. New landscaping will include native canopy tree trees, understory plantings and shrubs. The design of this area will provide a new landscaped setting for Austin Hall and Gannett House.

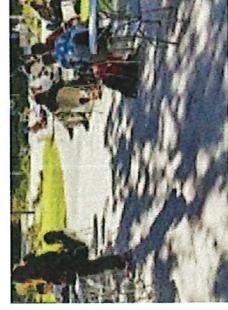
Site Furnishings

New light fixtures will be installed within the landscaped area and will match the existing lighting standard found in Harvard Yard. Other site furnishings will include moveable tables and chairs, and trash receptacles.

Landscape site plan and paving materials within the Old Cambridge historic district



Asphalt pathways

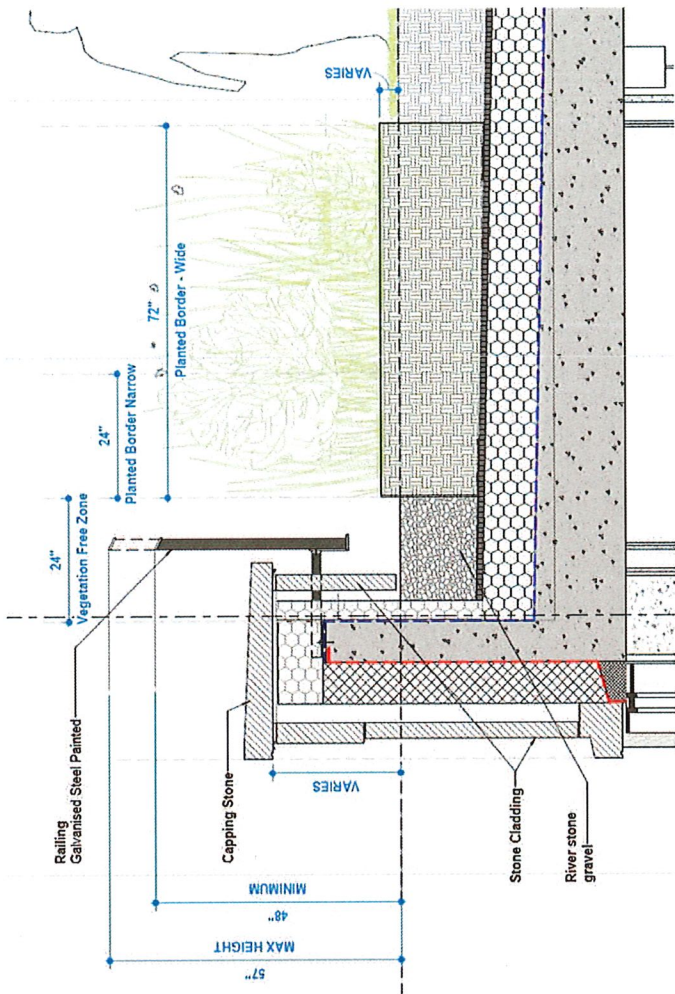


Paver edging + transitions

Landscape garden level courtyards

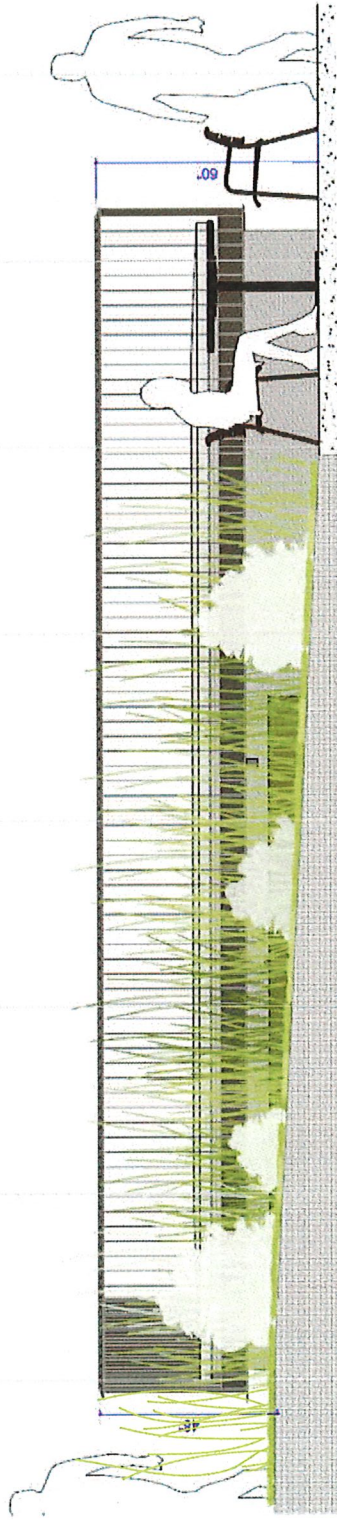


Courtyard Garden 2

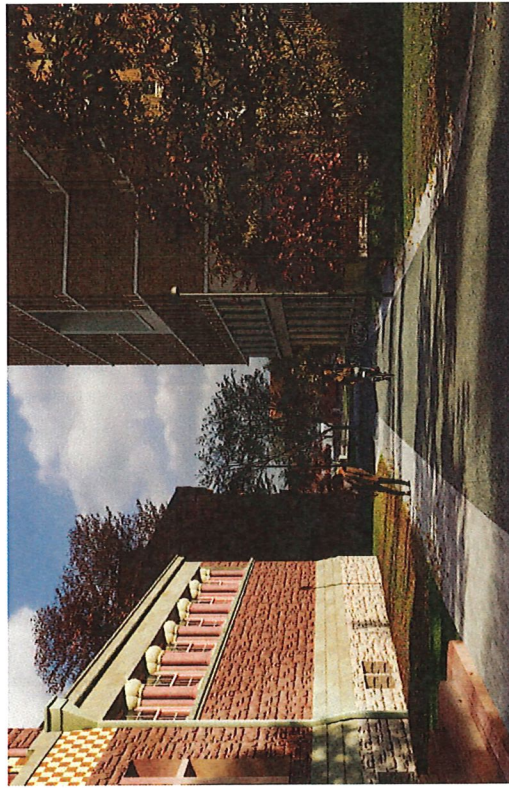


Courtyard Railings Section A-A

Landscape sunken courtyard railing details



Courtyard railings with slope adjacent



View from Austin Hall towards Jefferson

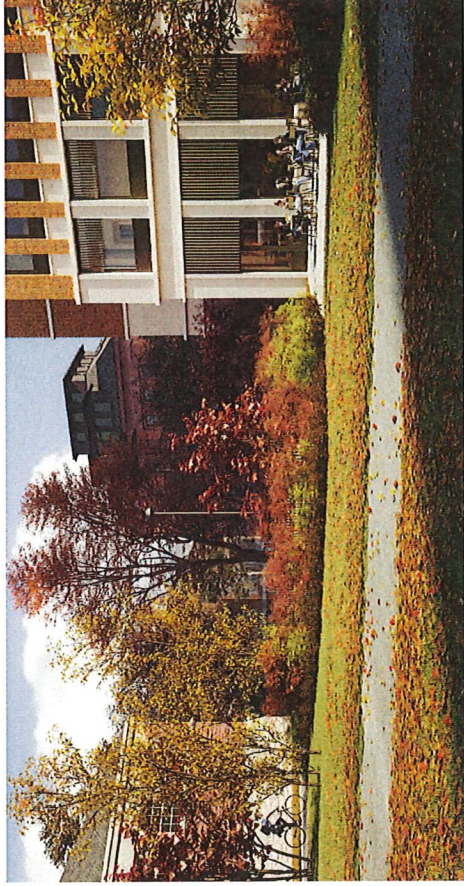


Colors under consideration



Similar railing and metalwork colors at LSE Marshall Building Grafton Architects

Landscape seasonal characteristics



View of Courtyard Landscaping in Fall



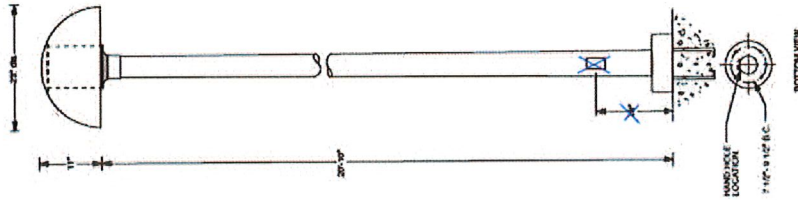
View of Courtyard Landscaping in Winter



Landscape site fixtures



Campus Standard Light Fixture



Tables and Chairs



Trash receptacles

