



May 9, 2022

City of Pasadena Design Commission  
Attn: Michi Takeda  
Hale Building  
175 N. Garfield Ave., 2nd Floor  
Pasadena, CA 91101

**Re: 350 Cordova St.**

Dear Members of the Design Commission,

Pasadena staff and Advocacy Committee members would like to thank ONYX architects for hosting us at their studio several weeks ago to review two of their current projects. We provided comments on this project during our discussion, and some of our concerns and ideas have been addressed. Our outstanding comments are the following:

- We agree with commissioner comment #9, as outlined in the staff report. The current courtyard serves primarily as an axis through the site, but it could read as a series of interconnected spaces, each with its own identity. The landscaping could be modified to help enclose each space, while still allowing sightlines through the project. For this to occur, the planters should define the edge of each individual space, with the center serving as programmable space. This concept would provide more private open space for residents to enjoy.
- Lean into the Modern design more, and use primary colors as accent. There are elements of Gerrit Rietveld's designs in the building, which could be further explored.
- We strongly support the new balcony design with no tinted glass panels which we thought detracted from the overall design.
- We prefer the simpler, rectangular window scheme, which provide more light for residents and emulates a modern rowhouse façade.
- If allowed by code, we suggest that the stoops have a small gate for security.

We are neither supporting or opposing the project at this time, but do feel it has been positively refined. We thank City Staff and the Design Commission for continuing this project so it could see improvements.

Sincerely,

Susan N. Mossman  
Executive Director

Andrew Salimian  
Preservation Director