

Takeda, Michi

From: John G. Ripley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 10:27 PM
To: commentsHPC
Subject: Proposed alterations to 1246 Mar Vista Ave (Agenda item 3A 11/1/22)

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To the Historic Preservation Commission:

I urge the HPC to deny the addition of a pergola to the front elevation of 1246 Mar Vista. **The proposed project seems wholly inappropriate because it would (1) change the original design and (2) would add a feature in the wrong style.** These two reasons can be further explained as follows:

1. **It is entirely inappropriate to add significant non-original features to the unaltered façade of a contributing house.** In this case there does not even seem to be a practical or functional reason to make a change. If sun in the front windows is a problem, period-type fabric awnings would be the appropriate way to deal with it. The proposed change seems to be purely for the purpose of changing the original design. This is exactly what the landmark district was set up to prevent. Whether the proposed change is thought to look good or bad is not really relevant – the original design should be protected. And the more so in this case because the house was designed by a noted Pasadena architectural designer.
2. **The proposed new feature is not at all in keeping with the style of the house.** This 1922 house is, broadly speaking, along English and French period revival lines. Such houses almost never had pergolas in front, and there is certainly no evidence that this house ever had one. Front pergolas were common in the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles, but they were practically never seen in the European revival styles of the 1920s. I checked all the English/French revival houses in Bungalow Heaven and not a single one has a visible pergola. The small roofed front porch, just a shelter for those at the door, is very typical of this style.

So I strongly urge the HPC to deny the project.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Ripley
Bungalow Heaven resident and historian