

The Mothers On Queens 2550 Queens Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING **APRIL 2023**

Hosted by Kasian Architecture, Interior Design & Planning



District of West Vancouver - Official Community Plan (2018):

Full-Page Screenshot Excerpts (Pages 24 and 25)



POLICIES

Regenerating our neighbourhoods with an estimated 300-400 new sensitive infill units

- 2.1.1 Amend neighbourhood subdivision standards (including consideration of site-specific applications) and consider alternate site configurations, such as panhandle lots, to enable the development of smaller houses on smaller lots in existing detached residential areas (see Man 1)
- 2.1.2 Update zoning provisions (including consideration of site-specific applications) to increase the supply of coach houses ("detached secondary suites") in existing detached residential areas (see Map 1) by:
 - a. Allowing coach houses to be stratified to increase home ownership opportunities;
 - Providing floor area exemptions for rental coach houses secured through Housing Agreements;
 - c. Considering allowance of a coach house and a basement suite on a single lot; and
 - d. Removing other potential regulatory barriers to the supply of coach houses (e.g., enabling more flexible off-street parking requirements).
- 2.1.3 Expand opportunities for duplex housing by:
 - a. Reviewing regulations to ensure the development viability of the building form;
 - b. Continuing to allow a basement suite in a duplex;
 - c. Identifying areas appropriate for rezoning to allow duplex construction; and
 - d. Considering site-specific rezoning applications to allow duplex construction appropriate to the subject site and context.

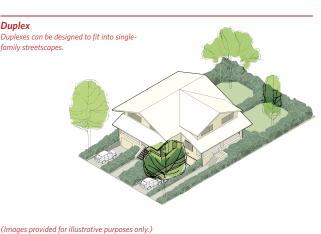


The following illustrations show examples of subdivisions, coach houses and duplexes, which can provide sensitive infill options that respect the scale and character of our neighbourhoods.

Subdivision Subdividing large lots into smaller lots can allow for smaller homes.

HOUSING & NEIGHBOURHOODS





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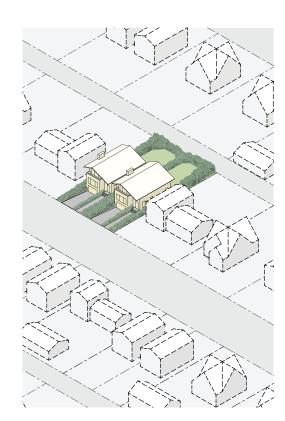
HOUSING & NEIGHBOURHOODS

Preliminary Development Proposal for Sensitive Infill Housing

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HOUSING & NEIGHBOURHOODS



The Mothers On QueensProposed Design



The Mothers on Queens' Project

It is our pleasure to submit a Preliminary Development Proposal in the Dundarave neighourhood that will replace a 1950s structure with a sensitive infill housing project that responds to the recent Neighbourhood Character Working Group recommendations, including:

- 1. Reduced maximum building size,
- 2. Adding a Secondary suite to the homes,
- 3. Limited visual impact of buildings from the street, and
- 4. Substantially improve the landscaping from current conditions.

Project Management and Owners

I will be managing the design and my wife will manage the construction of the homes. My wife and I will be living in one of the homes as our retirement home. Our project is called "The Mothers on Queens". The houses are named after our mothers who have left us in body but not spirit. We strive to honour them with a project that is both personal and important to us. Our hope is that Doreen and Mary will grace the neighbourhood for many generations.

While we have been homeowners in the District from 2008 to 2021, we are currently renting a few blocks away as we search for a site to build our ideal retirement home. We are eagerly awaiting moving back into our own designed and built home. The 2550 Queens Avenue site offers good access to services as well as the ambience which we have come to cherish in the Dundarave neighbourhood.



The Mothers On QueensProposed Design



Current Status

The lot at 2550 Queens Avenue is 1,112 m2 featuring a home constructed in the 1950s which is nearing the end of its economic life. Queens Avenue is on the 251, 30-minute service bus route and is a designated major bicycle route. The site is on the downslope, south-side of Queens Avenue and drops approximately 8 m down from Queens to the lane at the rear of the lot. The site is well suited to development as it would not impact any existing natural watercourse or sensitive habitat. No protected trees have been identified on the site survey.

Official Community Plan Guidance and Zoning Regulation

The subject site is zoned Residential Single Family Dwelling Zone 3 (RS3). To give effect to Council Official Community Plan [OCP] Policy encouraging and regenerating existing neighbourhoods with new sensitive infill units, a text amendment is required to amend the subdivision standards within the RS3 zone to facilitate the proposed infill subdivision.

In reviewing the 2018 Official Community Plan Policy 2.1.1, we believe this site is ideally suited for consideration of a site-specific zoning amendment application to enable the development of smaller house on smaller lots in the Dundarave neighbourhood. We also propose to incorporate secondary suites and high-performance energy conservation, in conformance with recently updated zoning provisions. The proposed homes would respond to new regulations controlling the scale of new single family dwellings and within that reduced scale context, continue to respect neighbourhood context, history, character, streetscape and natural features (See Slide 6 for further details into the proposed house designs).

Following the lead of the OCP Policy, implementation requires a zoning amendment to enable subdivision. In responding to the OCP policy, we submit no OCP amendment is required.

Respectively, the District of West Vancouver Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw may be accessed at:

https://westvancouver.ca/government-administration/strategies-reports/strategies-plans/official-community-plan. https://westvancouver.ca/government-administration/bylaws-licensing/find-bylaw/zoning-bylaw.



Design Considerations

We will be applying the Energy Step Code 5 to advance community energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions. Adding some gentle density in this location supports the operation of Queens Avenue as a major bicycle route and a transit route. Access to the new homes will be from the lane, so it will not impact Queens Avenue for operation of either bicycles or transit vehicles. In fact the new homes remove the existing auto access from Queens. In its place we have the opportunity to do courtyard features and enhance the pedestrian, cycling and transit experience along the street.

As part of the design team we will have landscape architect designing soft and hard landscaping to integrate the house into the neighbourhood.

Design of the homes features:

- a) Sensitive landscaping and placement of windows to minimize impact on neighbours to the east and west,
- b) The site slopes down from the west to the east.
 - The permitted and proposed roof elevation is approximately 2.5 m higher than the existing home.
 - The houses will have low roof profiles to minimize visual impact on views from neighbouring homes.
- c) Elimination of Queens driveway access and the creation of pedestrian friendly entry courtyards.
- d) Utilization of the existing lane to provide garage access in keeping with the zoning bylaw.
- e) Employment of low-impact storm and rain water management techniques including infiltration and absorbent landscaping to mimic natural conditions and move the site back towards pre-development drainage conditions.
- f) Building massing that is complementary to neighbouring contemporary home designs.
- g) Energy efficient design (glazing, heat pumps, water conserving features, solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations). We will be exploring leading edge energy efficient design and are targeting Passive Haus certification.
- h) Quality materials. Materials will be chosen for green attributes, maintenance ease, durability and compatibility with the neighbourhood.
- i) The houses are designed to accommodate a one bedroom suite on the lowest level.



Neighbourhood Context - General

The subject site is zoned RS3 and is 1,112 sq. m. in area. The site is developed with a two-storey (south face) single family dwelling with vehicle access from Queens Avenue, and a lane access (currently unused by this lot) on the south. The property, located in the Dundarave neighbourhood, is surrounded by single family dwellings. The site survey identified no protected trees, and the landscaping would benefit from replacement.

We propose to subdivide 2550 Queens into two smaller lots. A rezoning is required to allow the subdivision as the proposed lots (493 sq. m. for Lot A, and 619 sq. m for Lot B) do not comply with the current minimum site area of 975 sq. m. (Zoning Bylaw Section 203.3). In order to permit the creation of the new lots and accommodate the proposed development zoning variances are required (see Zoning Variances).

The immediate neighbourhood is historically comprised of modest homes, and recently larger single family homes, built from approximately 1945 to 2023. The site sizes within a '10-minute City' walk of 2550 Queens have a huge range from 377 sq. m to 2,300 sq. m. or more (WestMap), reflecting the historical development of this part of West Vancouver from the early 20th Century. Within a 5-minute walk, current lot sizes range from approximately 670 sq. m to 2,300 sq. m.; while within an immediate 1-2-minute walk (+/- 100 m radius) lot sizes still have a considerable range from 771 sq. m to 1,673 sq. m.



Neighbourhood Context - House and Lot Sizes

Like the variety of lot sizes, existing house sizes also vary widely in the immediate and walkable neighborhood. Their sizes are approximately 140 sq. m (1,500 sq. ft.) bungalows to large 500 sq. m+ (1382 sq. ft.+) houses which typically make up the majority of current single family development applications. Again, the house sizes reflect the diverse development history of West Vancouver and the original Dundarave neighbourhood. While responding to the OCP Policy direction to support smaller lots in selected locations, the proposed lot sizes are also within the range of existing historical lot sizes within a convenient walk from the site.

In supporting infill, the proposed site areas are still significantly greater than the smallest lot allowed in a single family zone in the District (325 sq. m.), and larger than lots being developed regularly in greenfield sites in other jurisdictions. The existing RS-3 zone in the District has numerous historical examples of lots of these sizes on Queens, Roseberry and Palmerston Avenues, one as small as 377 sq. m.. Recently, Council has supported other infill lots of 509-600 sq. m.(see RS-4 Sec. 204.15 (2).



Neighbourhood Context - Immediate Neighbours - Positive Impacts

The subject site is bordered by single properties to the east and west, and a lane and a single property to the south. The south shared lot boundary is subject to a utility access right of way, with installed sanitary and storm services.

The proposed front yard setback aligns with the location of the building fronts of the neighbouring homes to the west and east.

Under existing zoning regulations, the lot could be developed with a house of approximately 410 sq. m. (4,400 sq. ft.) plus additional basement area below grade.

The proposed subdivision will have a positive impact on the Queens Avenue streetscape as the creation of new homes move direct access to the lane and eliminate a driveway access onto Queens Avenue; improving the pedestrian, bus and cycling access to the street, while also improving the view of the site through soft and hard landscaping from the street.

The proposal for two relatively smaller houses will also provide a positive benefit to the neighbourhood character by reducing overall building bulk. If approved, the resulting houses on each of the new lots will be consistent in design character with surrounding properties. Further, the proposed combined site coverage of 23% is less than the 40% permitted on the existing un-subdivided lot.

Smaller houses would be in keeping with the scale and character of the historical homes in the neighbourhood. Subdivision of the lot also helps to meet objectives in the OCP by preserving neighbourhood character with regeneration of an existing single family neighbourhood. The proposal offers a relatively more affordable family-friendly smaller detached housing project. Also, the subdivision would avoid the current trend of constructing houses in existing neighbourhoods that are much larger than those around them, and historically available in Dundarave.



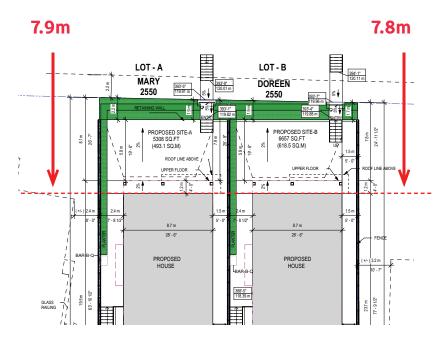
Zoning Variance

A simple, effective mechanism to achieve an OCP policy goal such as gentle density and sensitive infill while also respecting community building standards and unique topography is to encourage a site-specific approach to both the zone and standard setbacks. A site-specific zoning amendment and related development variance permit is proposed.

Anticipated variances proposed to be considered along with the Zoning amendment are for front yard, combined side yard and site width.

FRONT YARD

Front yards have been set for consistency with setbacks on existing houses to the west and east to help maintain neighbourhood character.



VARIANCE TYPE	BYLAW SECTION	REQUIRED	PROPOSED	VARIANCE
Front Yard	203.07,	8.8 m ¹	Lot A: 7.9 m	Lot A: 0.9 m
(minimum)	120.29 (4) (a) (ii)		Lot B: 7.6 m	Lot B: 1.2 m

1. 120.29 (4) (a) (ii)

Proposed Front Yard Setback Compared to Neighbouring Homes.

(See Slide 25 - Site Plan)



Zoning Variance - Continued:

'COMBINED' SIDE YARD

Variance is proposed only for the combined side yard minimum criteria (0.7 to 0.9 m variance). The proposed variance is consistent with a sensitive infill that respects neighbourhood character and side yards in nearby zones (RS-4 through RS-9).

VARIANCE TYPE	BYLAW SECTION	REQUIRED	PROPOSED	VARIANCE
Side Yard and	203.09 (1),	(a) 1.22 m	(a) 1.52 m - 2.5 m	a) no variance
Combined Side	120.29 (4) (a) (ii)	(b) combined, 20% of site	(b) Lot A: 31% of site	b) % of width – no variance
Yard(minimum)		width, no less than 4.6 m	width, 3.9 <u>m .</u> Lot B: 29%	b) Combined. Lot A: 0.7m; Lot B:
		or more than 12. 4 m ¹	of site width, 3.7 m.	0.9 m

1. 120.29 (4) (a) (ii)

SITE WIDTH

In supporting an infill approach, the proposed site width of each respective Lot (Lots A and B) is still significantly greater than the narrowest width allowed in a single family zone in the District (8.7 m), and wider than lots being developed regularly in other jurisdictions.

VARIANCE TYPE	BYLAW SECTION	REQUIRED	PROPOSED	VARIANCE
Site Width (minimum)	203.04	18.3 m	12.6 m	5.7 m



Implementing the Zoning Bylaws

The RS3 zone is proposed to be amended to allow the proposed subdivision of 2550 Queens Avenue only. Site-specific subdivisions where text amendments to zoning is necessary is considered by Council on a case-by-case basis.

Sustainability

The proposed rezoning will facilitate an infill subdivision recognized as a sustainable land use tool within the OCP. Infill subdivisions allow new ground oriented family friendly housing to be integrated within existing neighbourhoods including utilization of existing infrastructure such as roads, sewer and water.

The proposed buildings will comply with the District's current Sustainable Building Policy, targetting a Step 5 high-performance standard under the BC Energy Step Code and Passiv Haus certification. The applicant acknowledges inclusion of energy efficient design will be a likely condition of the District issuing a Development Variance Permit.



Public Consultation Overview

A zoning amendment in the District requires three readings of a bylaw by Council, followed by consideration of adoption. A development variance permit may be considered concurrently with the zoning amendment. If approved, the zoning amendment and the development variance permit would then facilitate a separate application to the District for subdivision, followed by application for building permits and finally construction.

Public input is provided through the District's Development Procedures Bylaw which may be accessed here: https://westvancouver.ca/sites/default/files/media/documents/4940%20DEVELOPMENT%20PROCEDURES%20BYLAW%204940%202017%20 %28CONSOLIDATED%20UP%20TO%20AMENDMENT%20BYLAW%205224%202022%29.pdf

And Preliminary Public Consultation Policy which may be accessed here: https://westvancouver.ca/sites/default/files/dwv/assets/gov/docs/bylaws/DWV-_1270066-v1-PRELIMINARY_PUBLIC_CONSULTATION_POLICY.pdf.

This Pre-Application Public Information Meeting is a first step in public input. Other input opportunities may be provided by either the applicant or at the discretion of District staff and Council. The applicant will be required to install a development information sign in front of the property prior to public hearing. Should the proposal advance, the applicant will be required to update the sign information with particulars about the required public hearing and any other required public meetings.

At a minimum, in compliance with the Local Government Act (LGA) and Development Procedures Bylaw No. 4940, 2017, the proposed zoning amendment bylaw is subject to a public hearing. Notice of the public hearing will be given in accordance with LGA requirements and District procedures.



Summary:

The infill housing proposal for the 2550 Queens site as illustrated through the attached slides meet multiple District objectives. The proposed infill housing achieves local and regional housing diversity goals: the regeneration of an existing neighbourhood that is supported by its local businesses with new gentle density that is reduced in scale and continues to respect the existing history, character and context of its surroundings in terms of quality, architectural design, building massing, landscaping, natural features and vehicular and pedestrian access. We would be proud owners and continue to be residents of the neighbourhood we have spent our lives in through the realization of this development.

Douglas Johnson, Architect AIBC, Applicant and Project Architect Susan Power, Owner and Project Manager



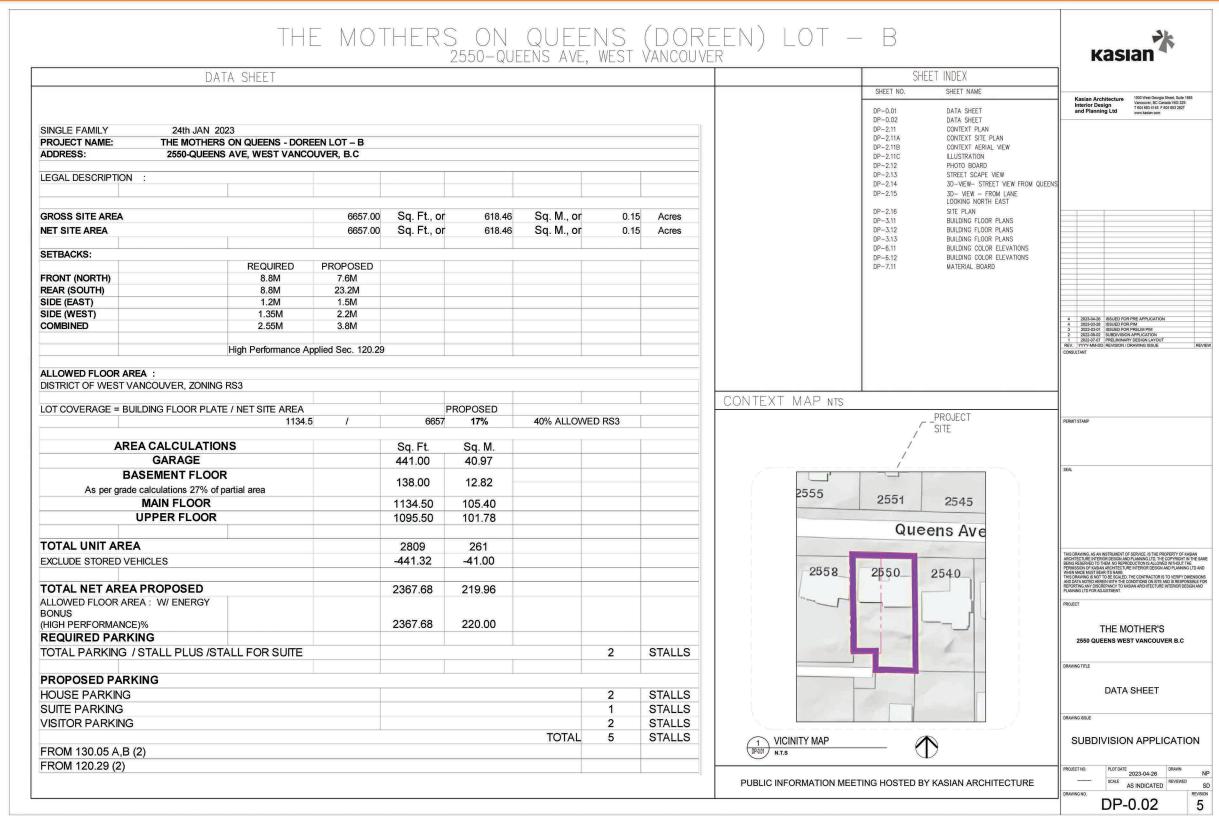




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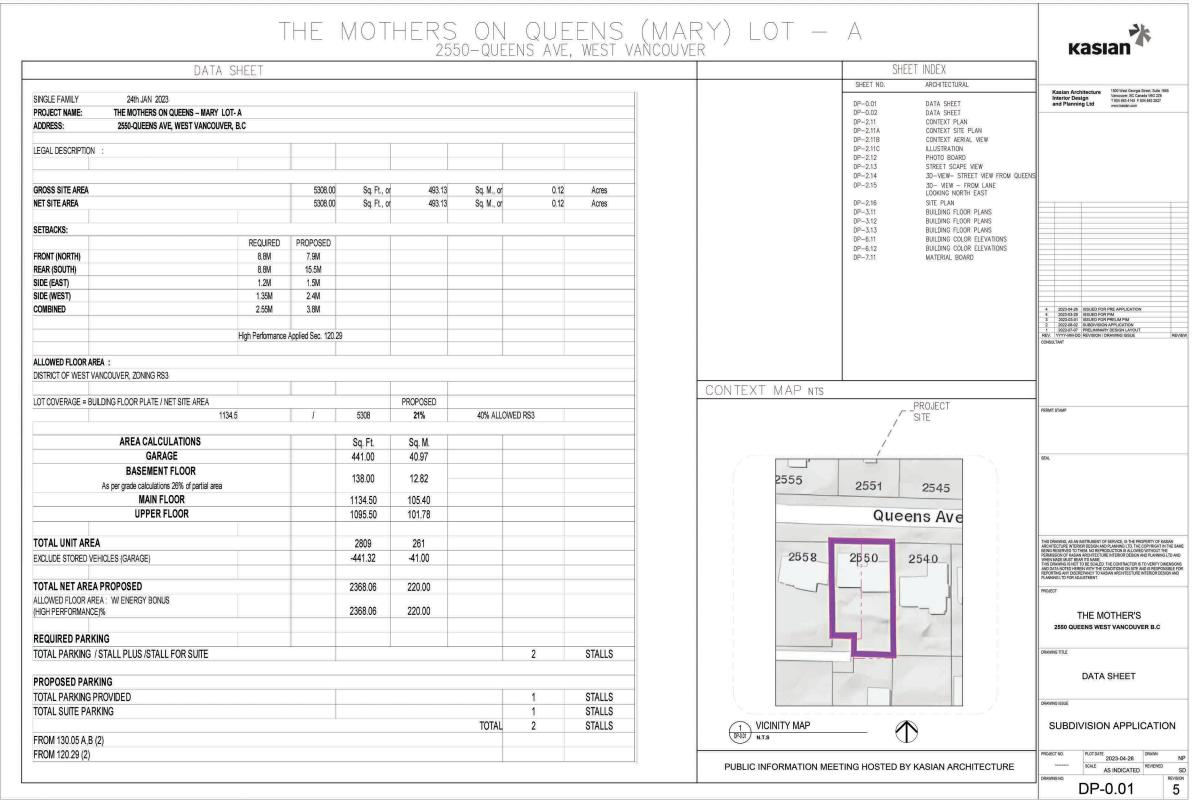
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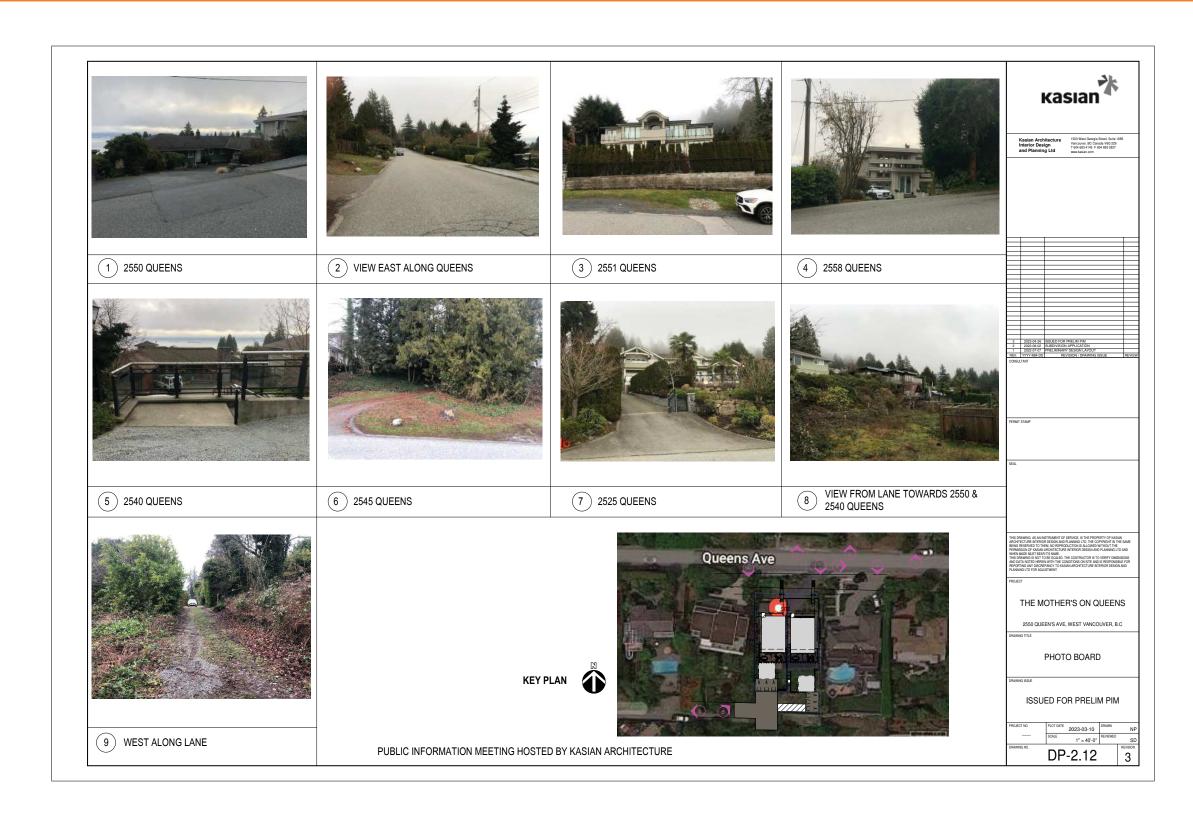














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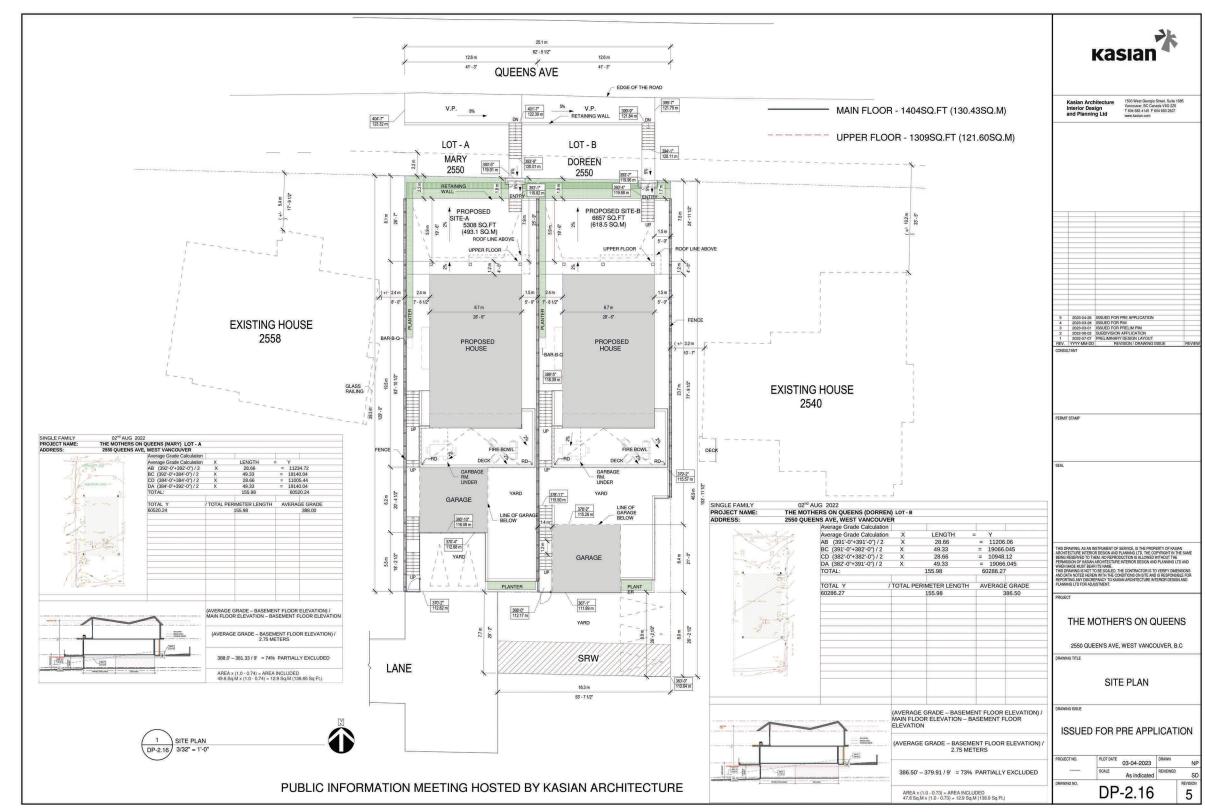


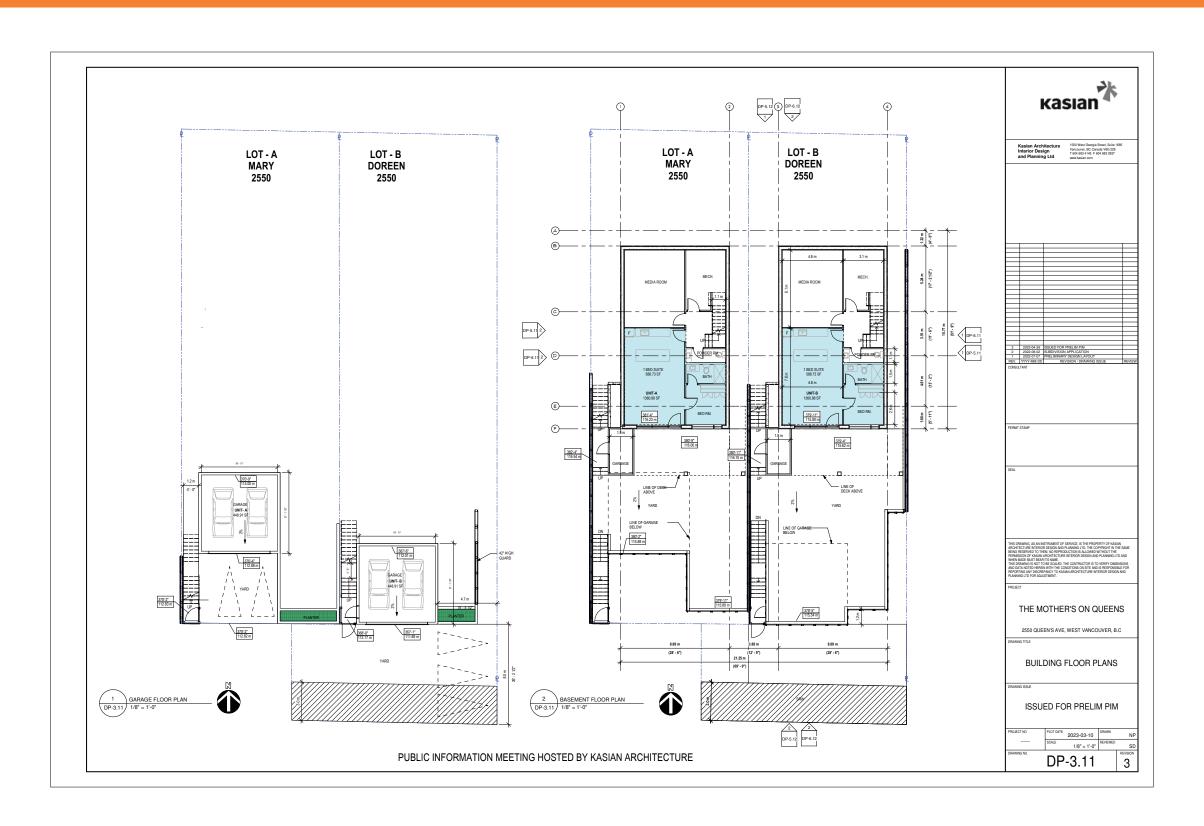




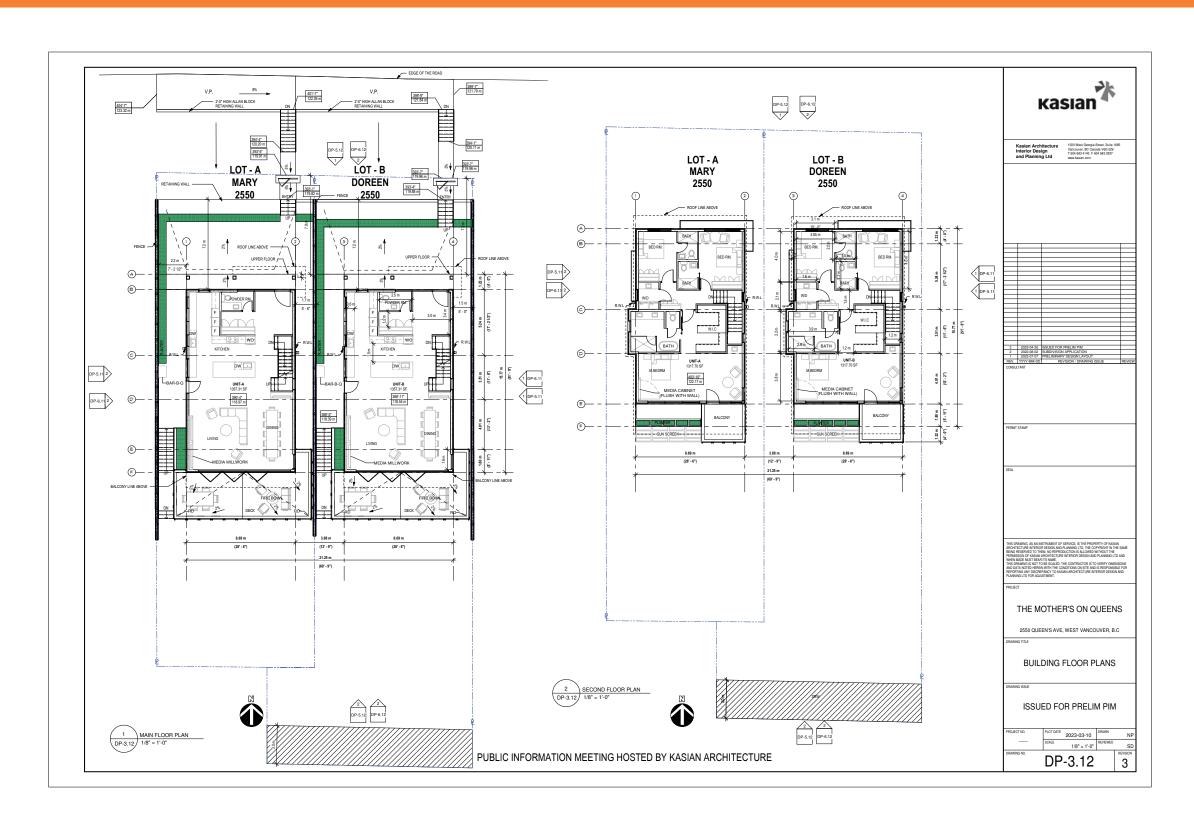


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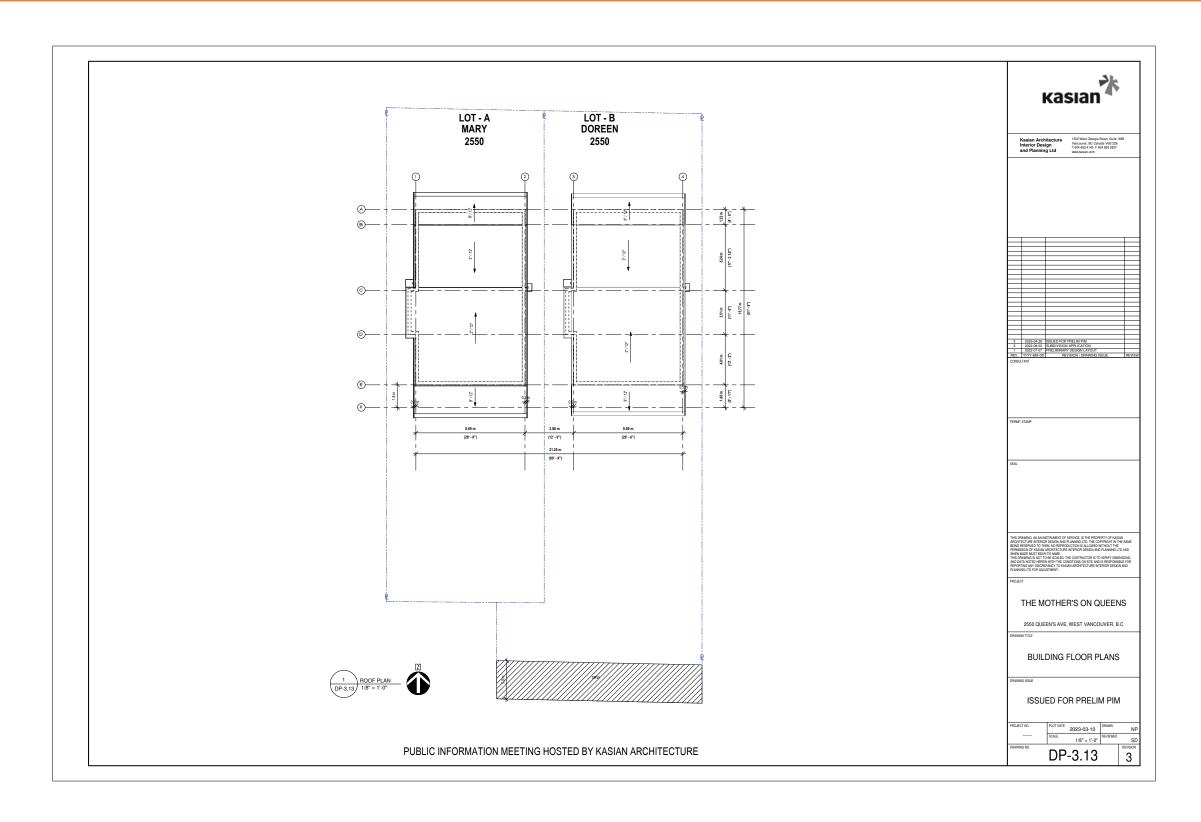




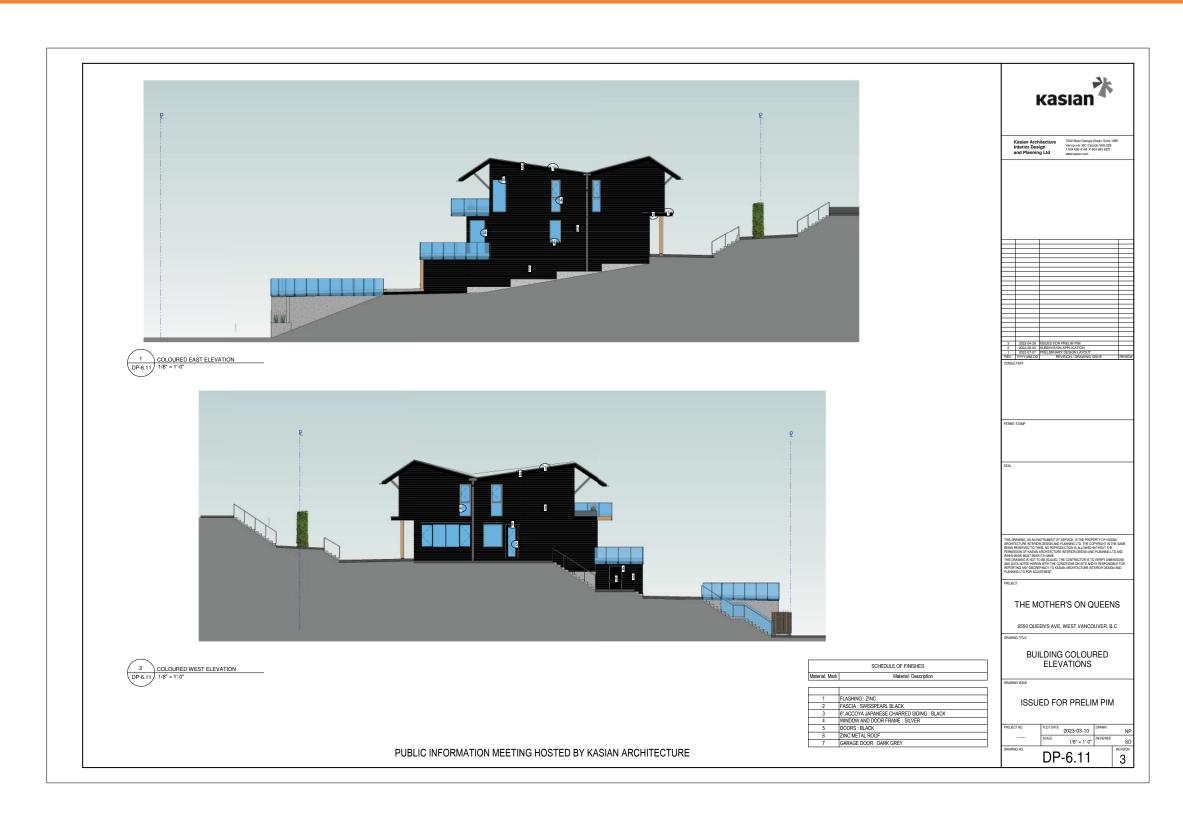






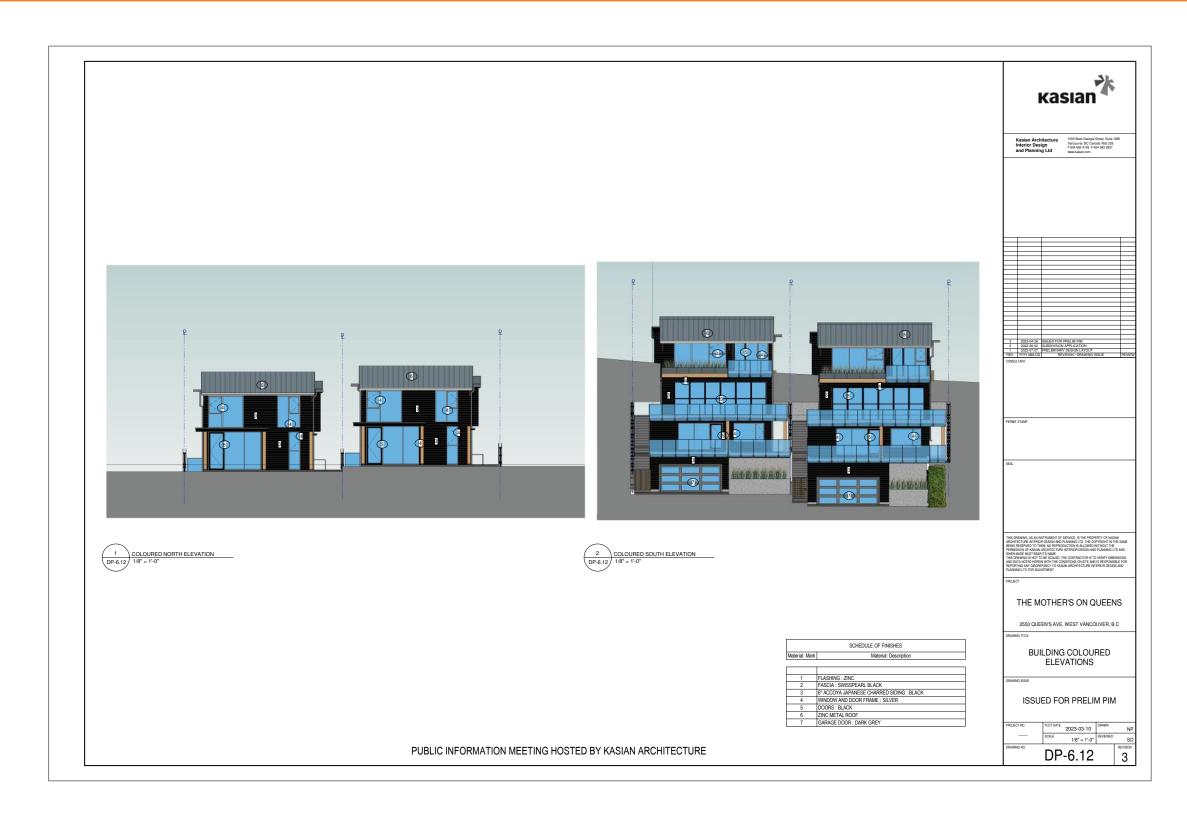








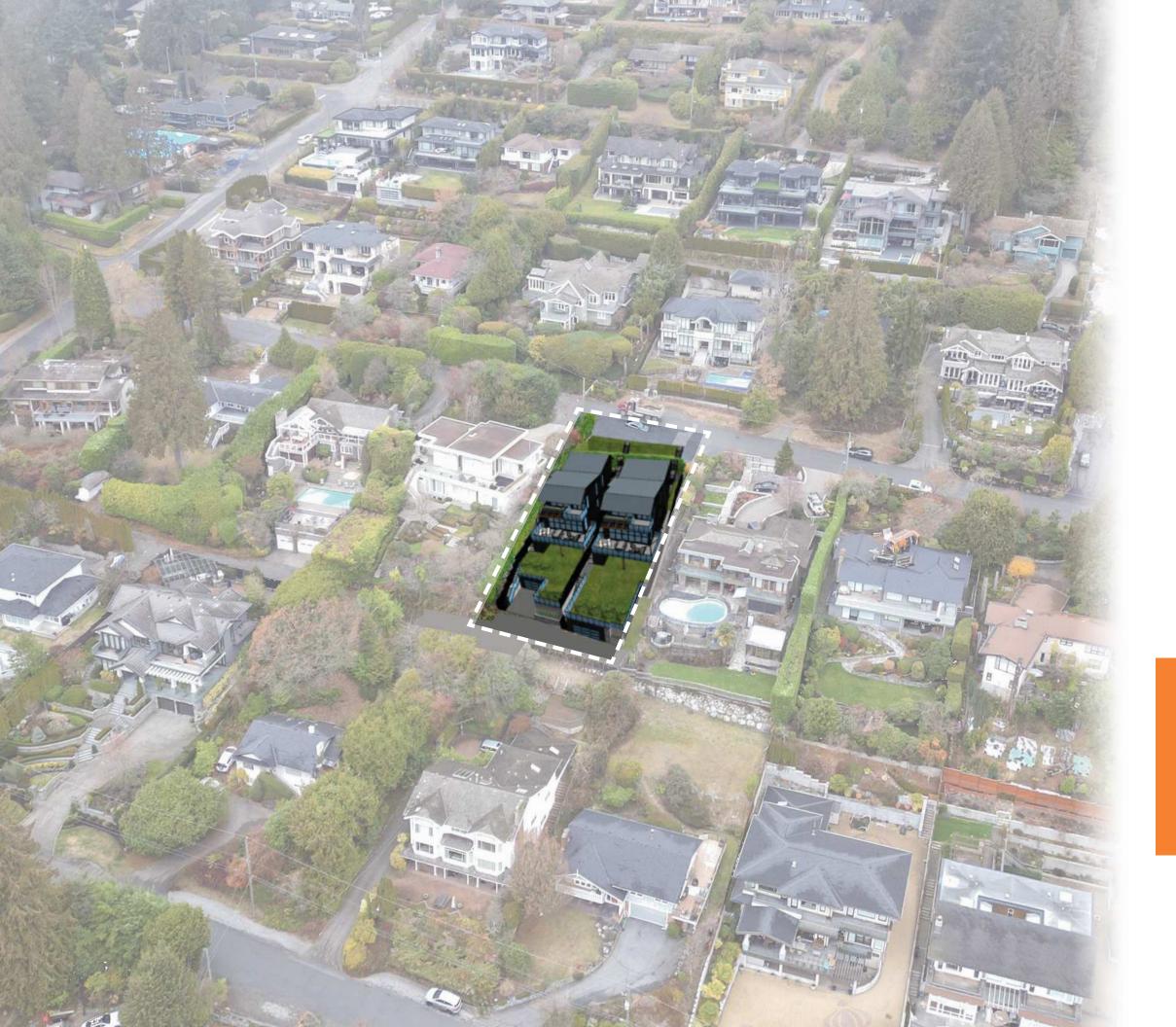
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