



Beneath the Surface

Podium Membrane Replacements and
Sustainable Design Considerations for New Construction

Heather Reid, P.Eng.

March 13, 2025

BCBEC Luncheon

hreid@pci-group.com

Topics for today!

- Background – why me, why this, why now
- Legal – Professional responsibilities
- Technical – Membrane replacement process, high level
- Management – Client FAQ/Support, Involved Parties, Scope
- Sustainability – embodied carbon & waste considerations

Some slides are heavy text. That's for future use and reference.

About me



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

TN NAFTA Professionals



ENGINEERS &
GEOSCIENTISTS
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Technologist, Engineer
P.Eng – Building Science

Consulted for ~20 years. Specialties: building science, façade access & fall protection

I'm not a legal, finance or real estate professional. I do not take responsibility for content in this presentation of these subject matters. Verify this information.

Why this, why now

- Podium membrane replacements – end of service life 80s/90s
- My condo experience
 - Scope errors and omissions, insufficient detail, budget vs cost variance
- Registered Professional Engineer (P.Eng.) – code of ethics
 - Uphold the value of the engineering profession (previous version)
- Share experience with peers and newcomers to the industry
 - Foster learning and development
 - Support the construction industry, collaboration
 - Help to provide better / consistent service to the public (clients)

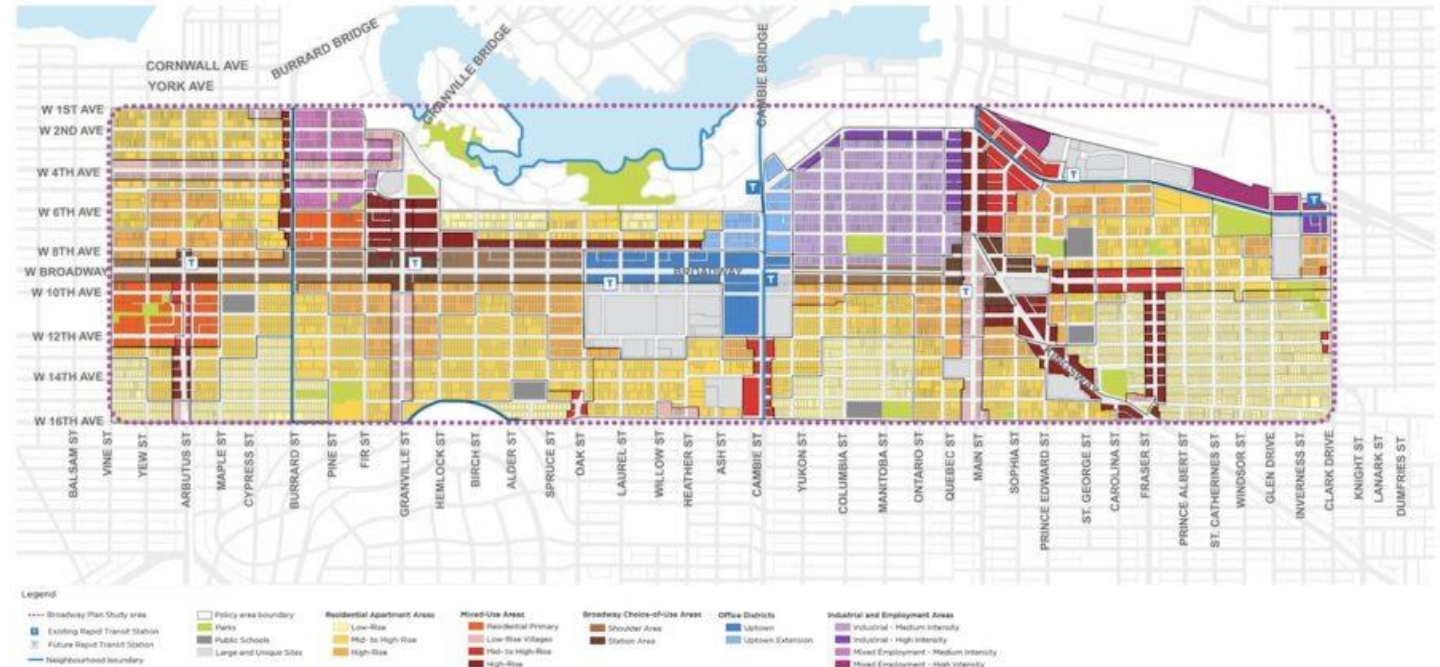
Renewal or Redevelopment?

Land values & development are costly

Higher density still doesn't pencil for many existing properties

Existing buildings are “greener” than demo / new

Renewal will be common



Broadway Plan

Podium Renewals – what drives the need?

- Depreciation Report – end of service life
- Reported leaks
- Visible concrete spalling and corroded rebar
- Crack injection program advancing & costly
- Other planned work – proper sequencing

Any of these trigger a
Condition Assessment

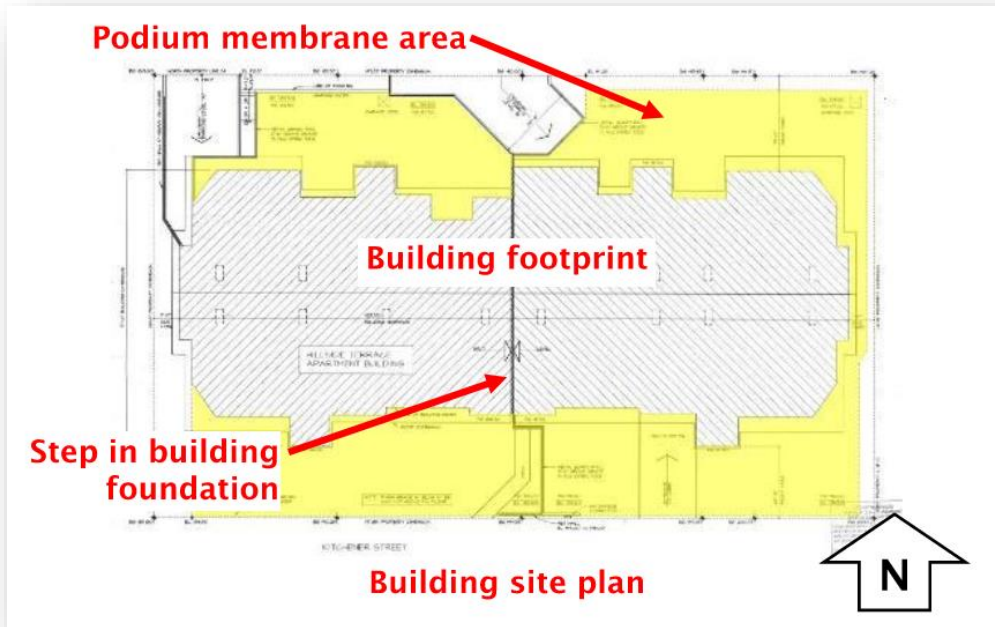


Condition Assessments

Answer these questions

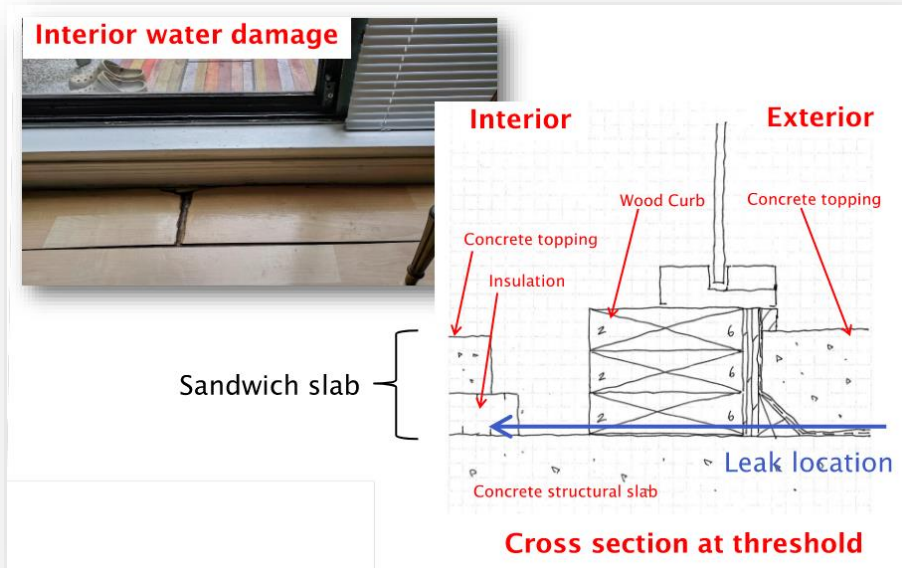
- Is there a problem? What is the nature?
- Localized or systemic problems, and severity of conditions
- Risks if left unaddressed – health & safety, property damage, aesthetic, maintenance increases. **Be realistic not catastrophic.**
- Recommendations to address – short term, long term
- How long before work needs to be done?



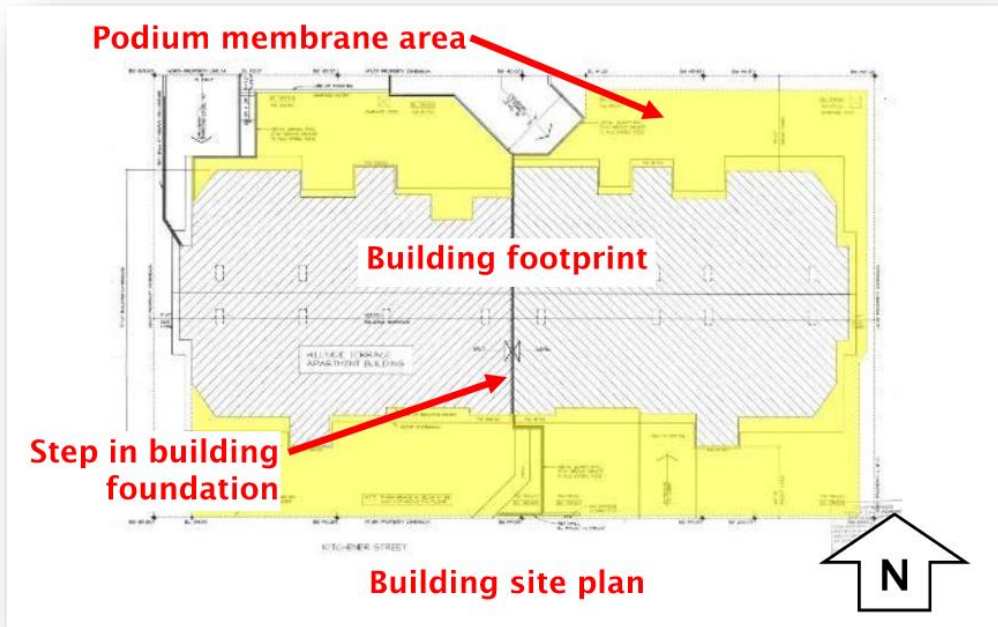


Condition Assessments

- Provide context
- Understand conditions – sandwich slab?
- Make the case: H&S, property damage
- Make strategic openings
- Ask the owner group specific questions
- Focus investigation on key issues



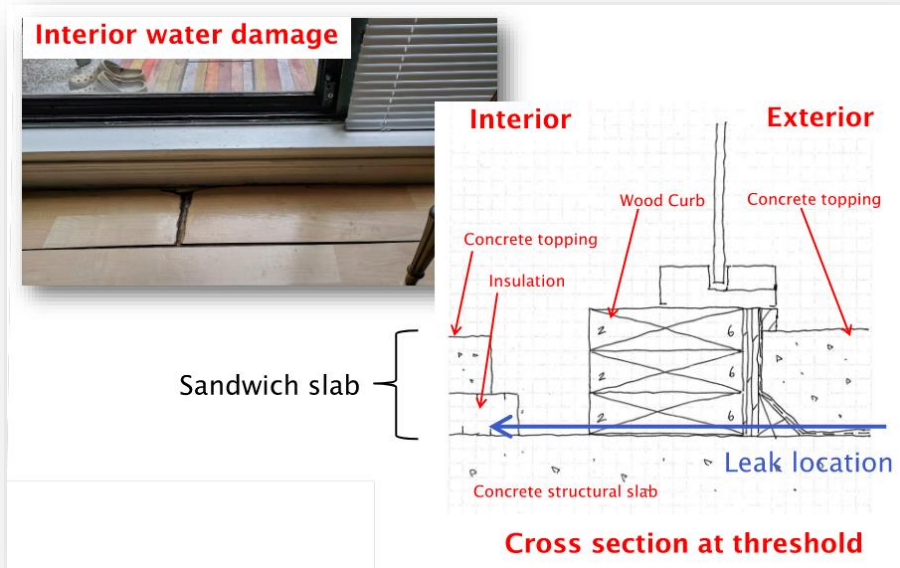
This damage is at the base of structural bearing walls
The conditions are causing interior damage to property



Condition Assessments

Ask yourself

- Was the review extensive enough to assess the issues?
 - Openings, resident survey, leak test, etc.
 - Do a few test pits provide enough info?
- Anything beyond your expertise?
 - Structural, mechanical, etc.
- Is there an urgency to deal with issues?
- Is more extensive review required?



Consider the value of a report that is inconclusive...

Engineer/Architect reports & impacts

- Engineering reports have *serious and permanent implications* to owners and properties.
- Be reasonable, prudent, practical given the conditions.
- Strata Owners are Everyday People. This is Real Money.
- **Readers should understand conditions and have enough info to make informed decisions**

EGBC Code of ethics (paraphrased)

1. Hold paramount safety, health, welfare of public...
2. Practice only in fields where competent in training & ability
10. Present clearly the possible consequences if professional judgements are disregarded
12. Undertake work & documentation in accordance with applicable standards



<https://www.egbc.ca/complaints-discipline/code-of-ethics/code-of-ethics>

Ok... so Podium Renewal is required...



Membrane replacement is simple!

Not quite...
There's a lot more to it. Who's responsible and what are clients expecting?
And once it's covered up, it's expensive to diagnose and correct deficiencies...

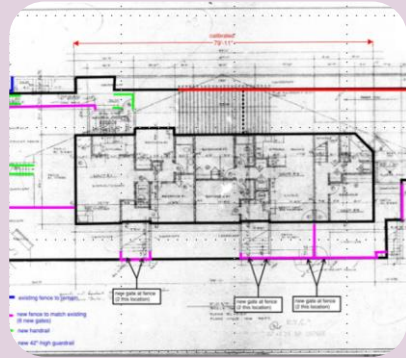


Membrane replacement is ~~simple~~ not simple!

- The membrane replacement is often the “easy part”
- The “hard parts”
 - Pre-construction coordination & sequencing, multiple professionals
 - Demolition – access, equipment, planter walls, base of walls & tie-ins
 - Delineation of scope/professional responsibility
 - Patio, fence, landscape design
 - Trees and plants, and soil depth thickness and drainage
 - Code requirements for egress paths, etc.
 - Drains & piping
 - Tie-ins to existing components and materials

The *Design intent* for all these aspects and more need to be in the *contract documents*.

...The role of the *Coordinating Registered Professional*...



Assess

- Is there a problem
- How bad is it
- What's the extent
- What are some solutions
- When to do them
- Expected outcomes
- Risks of not doing

Design/Budget

- Scope of work
- Owner decisions
- Unknowns/allowances
- Supporting professionals
- Warranty expectations
- Permit expectations
- Schedule
- Expected outcome
- Maintenance & renewal

Tender/Permit

- All disciplines are included & coordinated
- Scope creep/gaps identified and mitigated
- QA/QC expectations are clear
- Review & qualify bids
- Post-tender meetings
- Scope revisions
- Sep/Alt prices

Contract admin

- Certificates of Payment
- Field review
- Shop drawing review
- Substitution requests
- Mock-ups
- Mfr reviews
- Changes – RFI, SI, CO
- Review and certify timesheets for contingency or T&E work
- Supporting details
- Regular site meetings
- Budget updates to client

Close out

- Schedules received
- Permit closed
- Warranty docs to client

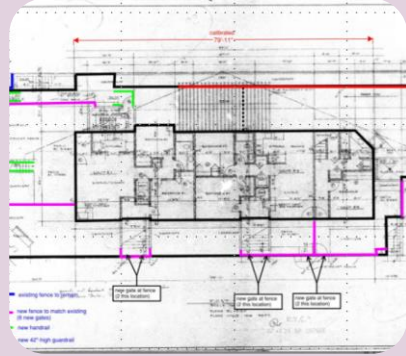
Professionals that are *typically required*

- Building Envelope specialist – Typ. engineer or architect
- Coordinating Registered Professional (CRP) – architect/engineer*
***Bulletin-34 status. Confirm expectations with AHJ prior to design.**
- Arborist – what trees stay/go; tree protection plan
- Landscape architect – what replaces the trees, soil, plants
- Hazardous materials – abatement?
- General Contractor or Construction Manager
- Manufacturers' Representatives – warranties, guidance

Required for
building permit

Professionals that *may also be required*

- Mechanical or civil engineer – drainage, mech systems in areas of work (hydronic systems at base of walls)
- Structural engineer
 - Impact of current conditions on structural integrity (assessment)
 - Design of temporary shoring
 - Confirm adequacy of existing conditions to support proposed work
 - Etc.
- Plumbing design/build contractor – drainage, piping
- Supporting professionals – Schedule S
 - E.g. guardrails, doors/windows, fencing
- CP (Certified Professional) – Vancouver only/VBBL



Design is a key step

Assess

- Is there a problem
- How bad is it
- What's the extent
- What are some solutions
- When to do them
- Expected outcomes
- Risks of not doing

Design/Budget

- Scope of work
- Owner decisions
- Unknowns/allowances
- Supporting professionals
- Warranty expectations
- Permit expectations
- Schedule
- Expected outcome
- Maintenance & renewal

Tender

- All disciplines included
- Scope creep/gaps identified and mitigated
- QA/QC expectations are clear
- Review & qualify bids
- Post-tender meetings
- Scope revisions
- Sep/Alt prices

Outline the scope

Ensures an accurate budget

Make sure Owners understand what they're paying for

A lot of work is required, and supporting professionals

Contract admin

- Shop drawing review
- Substitution requests
- MR reviews
- Changes – RFI, SI, CO
- Review and certify timesheets for contingency or T&E work
- Supporting details
- Regular site meetings
- Budget updates to client

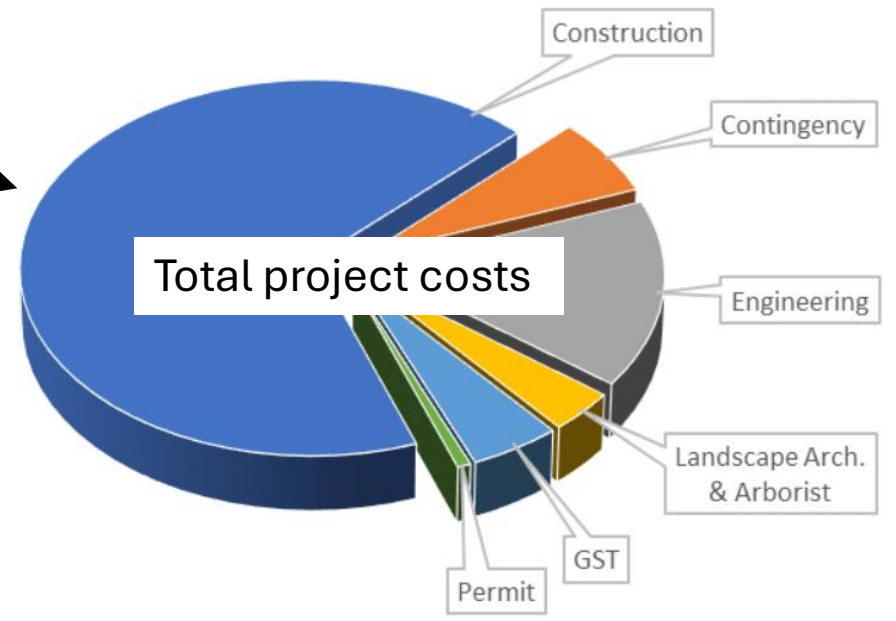
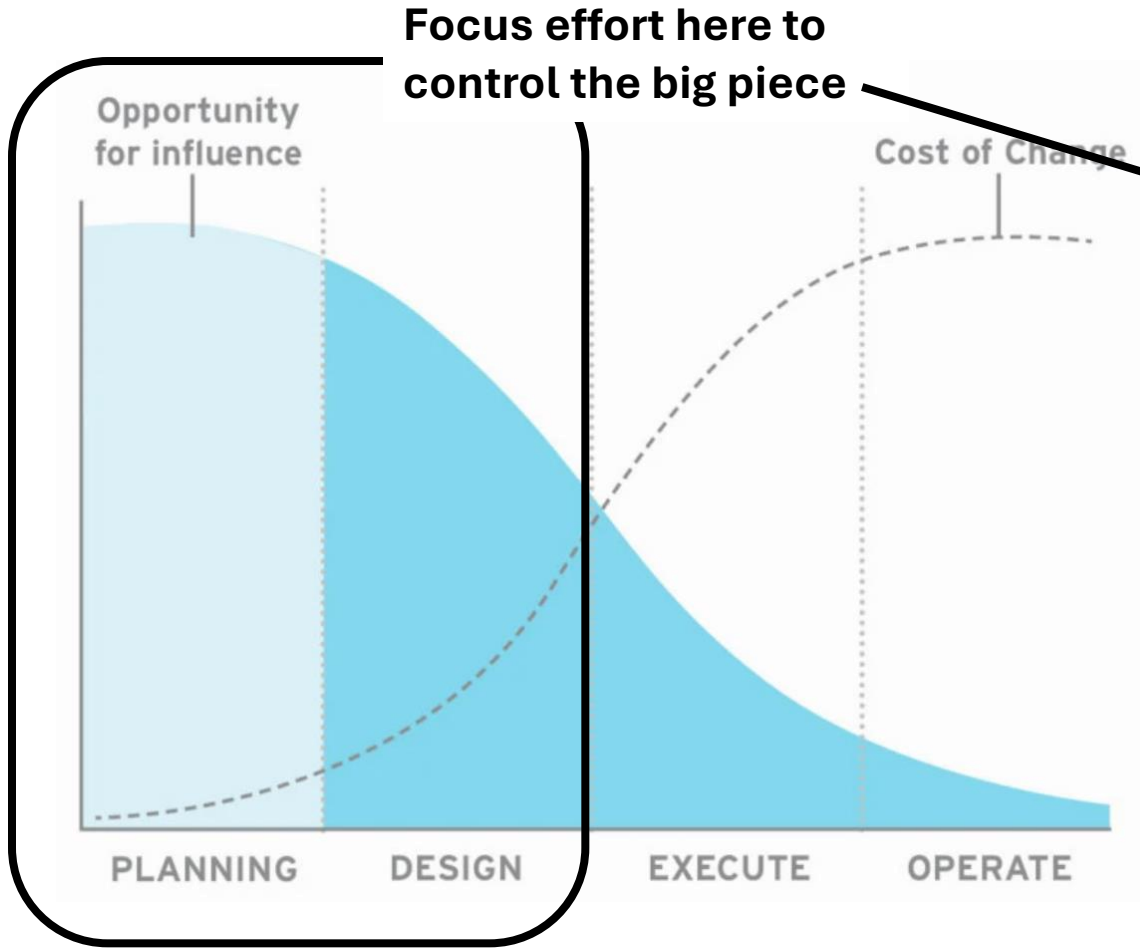
Close out

- Schedules received
- Warranty docs to client

Design for Cost Control

Charge the fees to prepare the right scope of work
Code of ethics, values peers & profession

COE #12 - Undertake work & documentation in accordance with applicable standards



- Cost of changes are much higher later in the process
- Get the scope “tight” for tender
- Good design controls the biggest piece – construction
- Poor design = risk of delays, difficulties, deficiencies, contention, increased costs

This is all built up

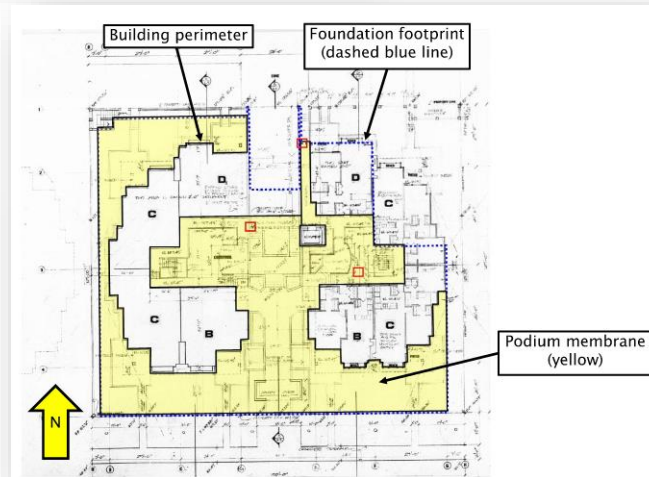
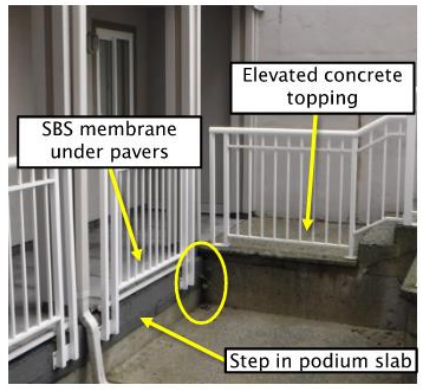
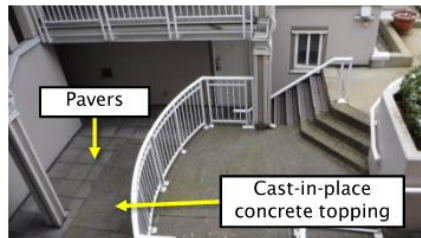
Design / Budget

- What's the extent of the work?
- What are all the considerations?



Access for demo/work
Different slab levels
Egress paths - widths
Railings, attachments
Stairs – dimensions, nosings
Planters
Rainwater leaders
Topping slabs
Etc...

Podium overburden

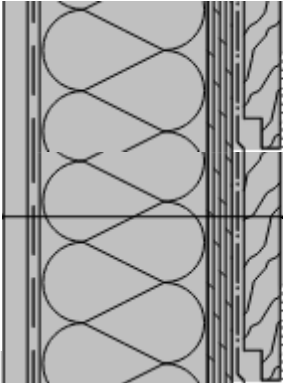


Need to include in scope
Need to quantify
Need to detail accurately
Design intent must be clear and viable to price & execute

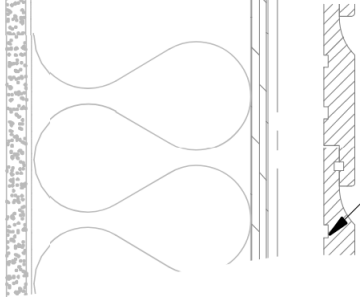
Design / Budget

- You know the typical details. That's easy.
- What about...
 - Substrate conditions
 - Substrate construction

Design / Budget

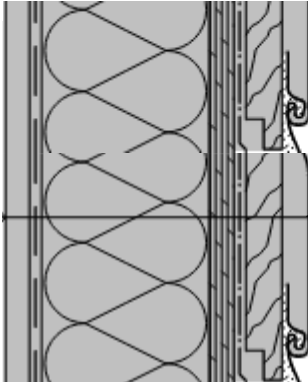


Cedar siding on 2x wall
(original construction)



REMOVE AND REINSTALL EXISTING VINYL
SIDING AS REQUIRED TO ALLOW FOR
WATERPROOFING INSTALLATION

Current project doesn't show cedar.
This will be an extra when work starts.
Details will need to be redrawn during
construction.



Vinyl siding on cedar
siding on 2x wall
(overclad since original)

Discovered during balcony renewal and detailed as such

Design / Budget

- You know the typical details. That's easy.
- What about...
 - Substrate conditions
 - Substrate construction
 - Adequacy of structure for demo equipment
 - Condition of tie-in materials
 - Egress paths, fire safety
 - Door attachment/conditions & wall tie-ins
 - Drainage
 - Etc.
- Identify as many things as possible that could be included in scope
- Determine what is your expertise and what's not

WHAT ABOUT OWNER DECISIONS?

More assessment is generally required to confirm details and construction

Don't rely on original drawings (if you have them)

Are there newer drawings available from a recent rehab that include more info?

...Due diligence...

Design / Budget – Owner Decisions

Level of finish and extent dictates price
Owners should have control over some decisions
Need to know this info for construction documents

Finish options for patios

Block walls

Pavers

Example

Block walls

Pavers

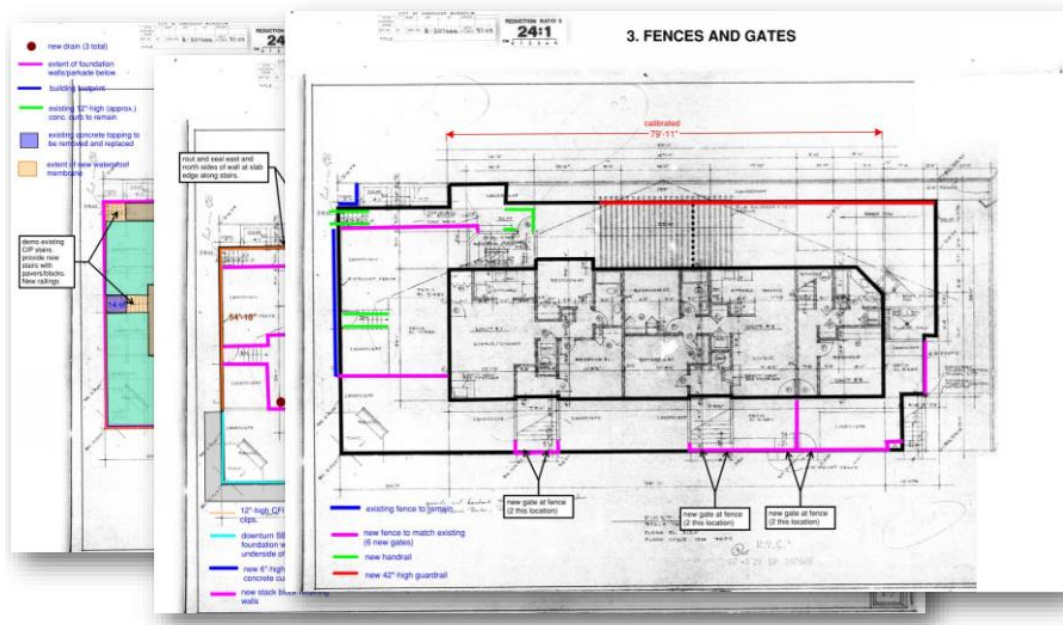
Fence options for patios

Fence options

Design / Budget – Pricing Assistance from QS, GC

Outline scope of work

- Make it clear & easy for a contractor to bid/price.
- Contractors are busy and they look to you for extent of design.
- Demonstrates to owners/contractors that you've done your due diligence.
- Confidence on all levels.

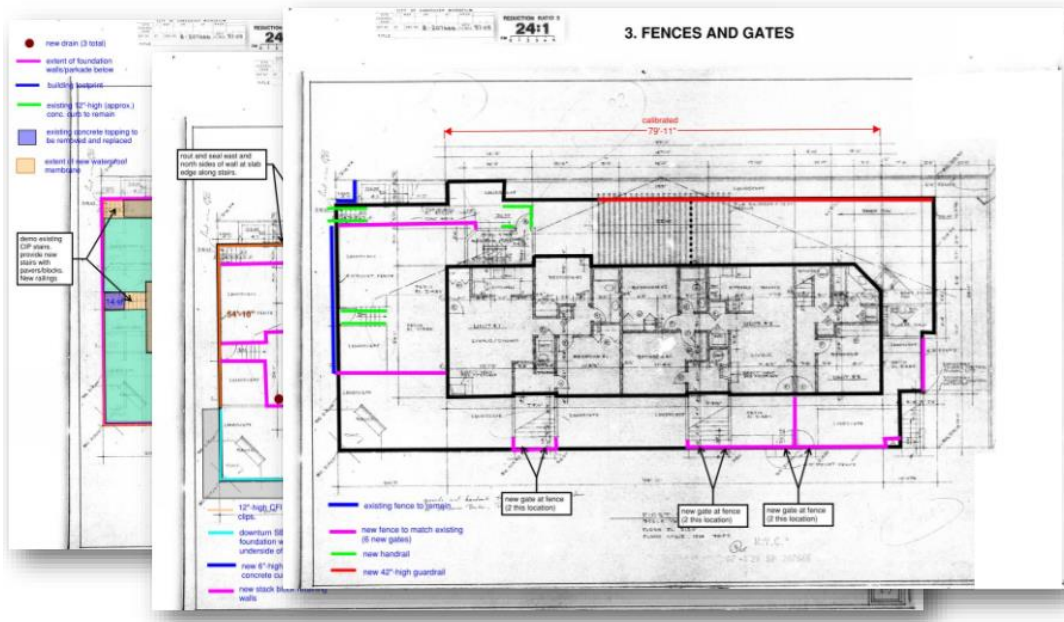


Hard costs				
	QTY	Unit rate	Unit	Cost
general conditions (\$/mo construction) - fencing, safety, parking, hoarding, egress, etc.			monthly	\$ -
demo & excavation			SF	
conc repair, surface prep @ podium field area & upstand walls			SF	
membrane (field), incl drain bodies			SF	
membrane, perimeter - turn down incl. excavation & backfill. Assume term bar/mech attach			LF	
membrane, perimeter - assume PMMA termination in saw cut			LF	
membrane, base of wall incl. flashings & 12"W gravel strip - excl. door re/re & tie-in			LF	
plumbing connections in parkade, allow for 50 LF			allowance	\$ -
overburden (drainage layers) drain mat, 2" gravel, filter fabric			SF	
overburden (soil above filter fabric), excl plants - avg depth 12"			CF	
hardscape - patios (pedestal pavers), incl. edging @ softscape interface, assume 100 SF/ste			SF	
hardscape - property perimeter & beyond patios (stack block ret. Walls x 3H blocks)			LF	
hardscape - stairs, ramps, etc., primarily along lane. Some at entrance.			allowance	\$ -
fencing - 6'H x 8'L Home Depot panels or equiv., incl. connections to found'n & pedestals			LF	
gates x 12			each	
sealant @ exposed cold joints ext. side of perimeter upstand walls			LF	
misc details - vent shaft, stairs, entrance			allowance	\$ -
perimeter upstand walls (int/ext/top), surf prep (light grind) & crack repair, urethane cap			LF	
Subtotal, hard costs (excl. plants)				
Contingency (% hard costs)			10%	\$ -
OH&P (% hard costs incl contingency)			10%	\$ -
Management (% hard costs incl contingency)			10%	\$ -
Total, hard costs (rounded)				
Total project costs				
			Total soft costs, rounded	\$ -
			Total hard costs, rounded	
Total project costs, rounded (soft + hard)				
approx. cost/suite				
approx. cost/SF podium area				
Alt prices				
alt price - door re/re & wall/podium tie ins				
alt price - patio finish upgrades, specific units				
alt price - new doors				
alt price - plants				

Design / Budget – Pricing Assistance from QS, GC

Outline scope of work

- Make it clear & easy for a contractor to bid/price.
- Contractors are busy and they look to you for extent of design.
- Demonstrates to owners/contractors that you've done your due diligence.
- Confidence on all levels.



Take-offs & assumptions			
	Qty	Units	
Construction duration, projected/approx.		6 months	
approx SF podium area	5500	SF	
approx LF podium perimeter @ foundation walls	500	LF	
approx LF podium perimeter excavation (for downturn)	250	LF	
approx LF podium perimeter w upstand wall (for turn-up/gumlip & ext sealant)	250	LF	
approx LF building base of wall	510	LF	
approx SF patio areas (hardscape), approx 100 SF per patio x 12 patio	1200	SF	
approx LF patio perimeter (3 sides, excl building), approx 30 LF x 12 patio	360	LF	
approx SF softscape	3800	SF	
approx vol. gravel strip (12" wide x 4" deep) - 0.25 CF/LF base of wall (30% base wall length)	40	CF	
approx depth of overburden throughout podium where occurs (avg) - 2 stack blocks	12	Inches	
approx LF fencing @ 6' high	700	LF	
Soft costs			
	Unit rate	Unit	Fees
construction documents - RFI sketches by GC to clarify work and correlate pricing		1 fixed fee	
arborist		1 fixed fee	
landscape architect		1 fixed fee	
surveyor		1 fixed fee	
permit		calc.	
PM/CM - schedule, tender, planning		1 fixed fee	
contract admin, incl. field review (\$/month construction). Note: = 10% contract		month	\$ -
Total, soft costs			
Hard costs			

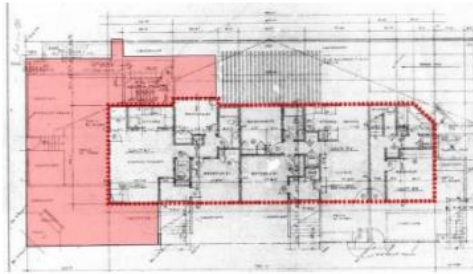
You can approximate quantities, but include caveats!

- Values are approximate based on visual review, non-destructive testing, drawing review, etc.
- Contractor to field verify
- Subject to further review...

Options – Extent of work

\$400k

Targeted renewal

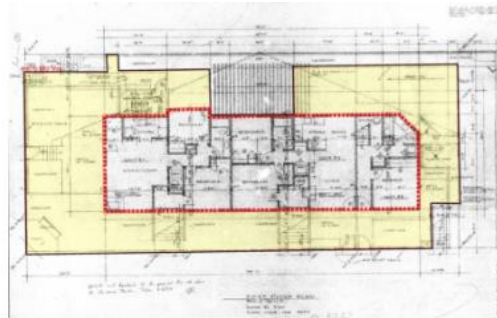


Area with issues



\$800k

Full renewal

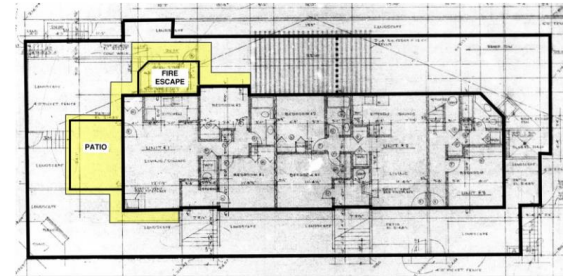


Entire podium area



\$200k

Targeted repair



- Risks at tie-ins
- Likely no warranty
- Lowest cost (small owner group)
- Addresses water ingress and drain deficiencies



Provide options if practical and feasible. Targeted repairs may be a viable solution. Even if a reduced scope is not the *best* option, clients may still want to know and assess their risk tolerance. Ultimately, it's the client's decision as to what work is done. It's the job of professionals to provide the necessary information for clients to make *informed decisions*. Understand clients' needs & limitations, and your areas of expertise and professional liability.



New conc. curb



Temp shoring req'd

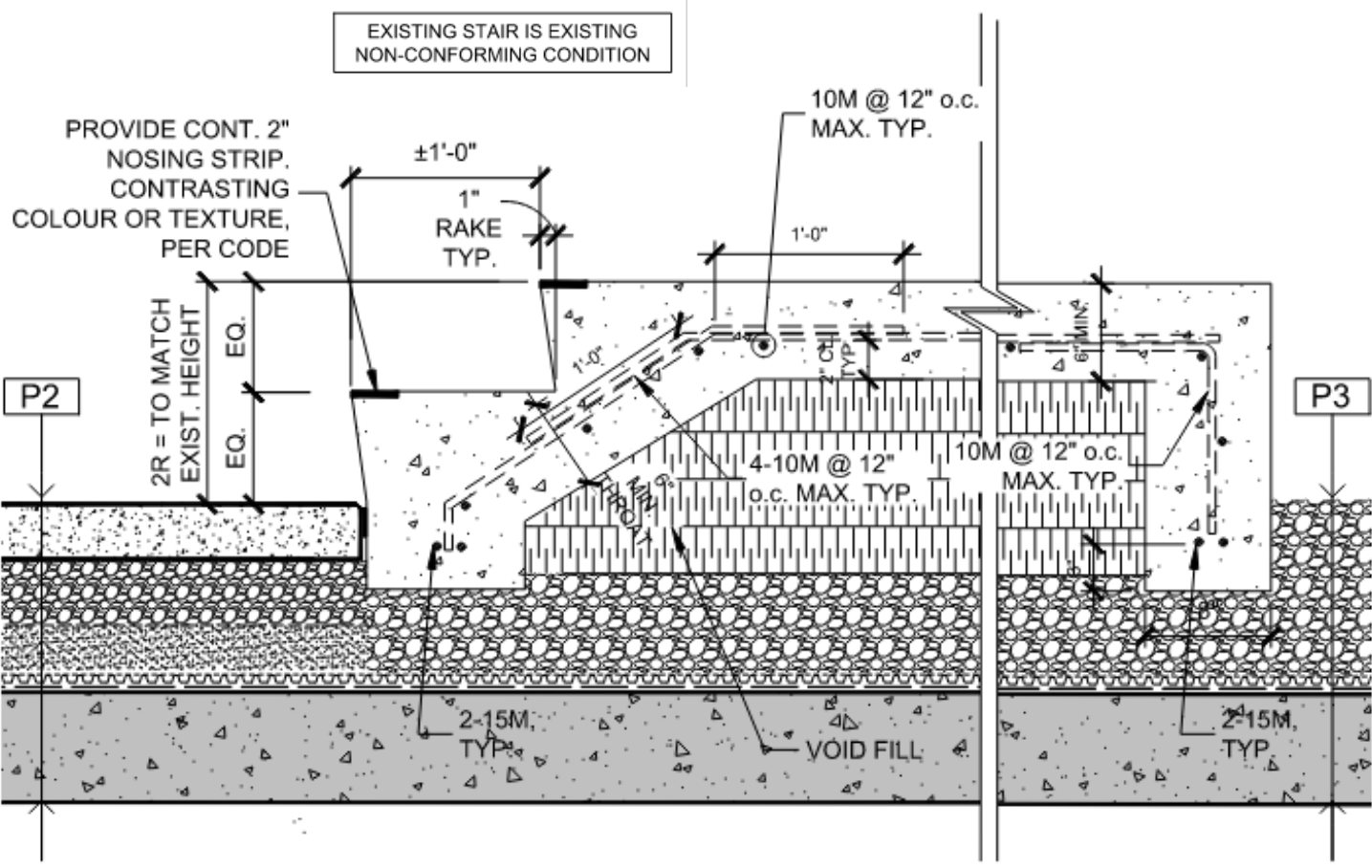
Design/budget – other disciplines

- Sill plate, column replacement = structural
- Temporary shoring required = structural
- New concrete curb = structural
- Include in contract before tender



Design/budget – other disciplines

Stairs = structural, code

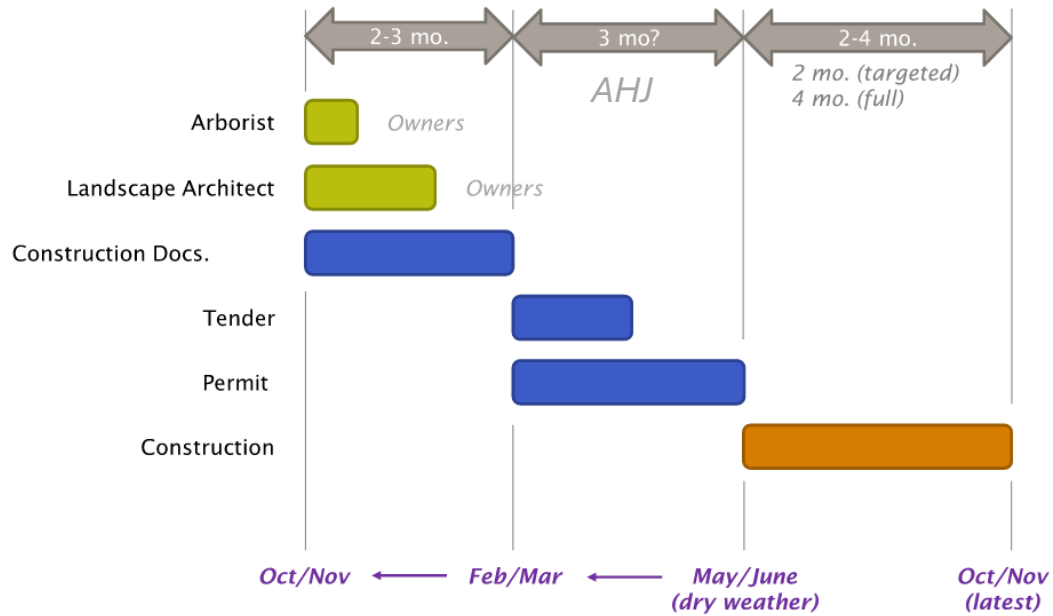


Give clients an idea of schedule

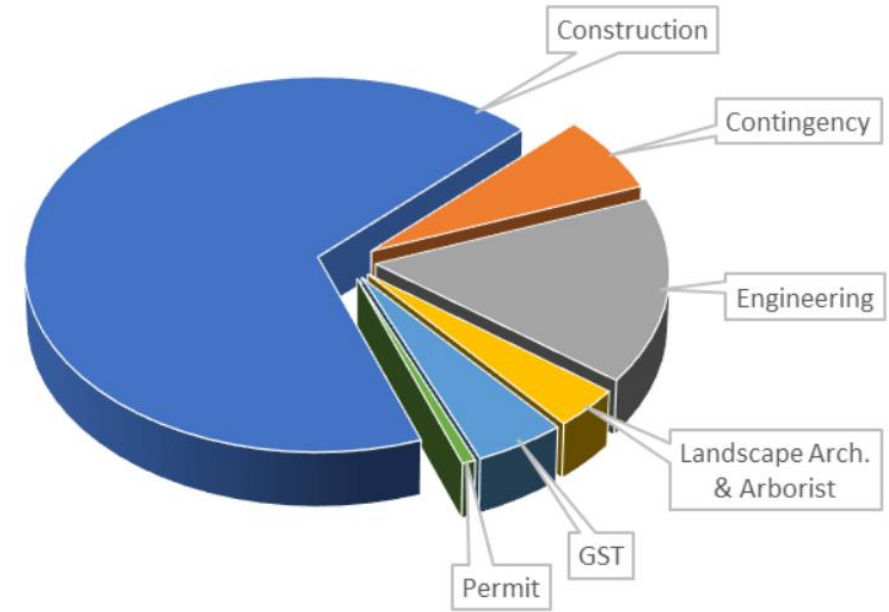
Helps them plan, budget and understand process

Justify the need for engineering fees in early stages – helps control the biggest piece (construction)

Ideal project schedule

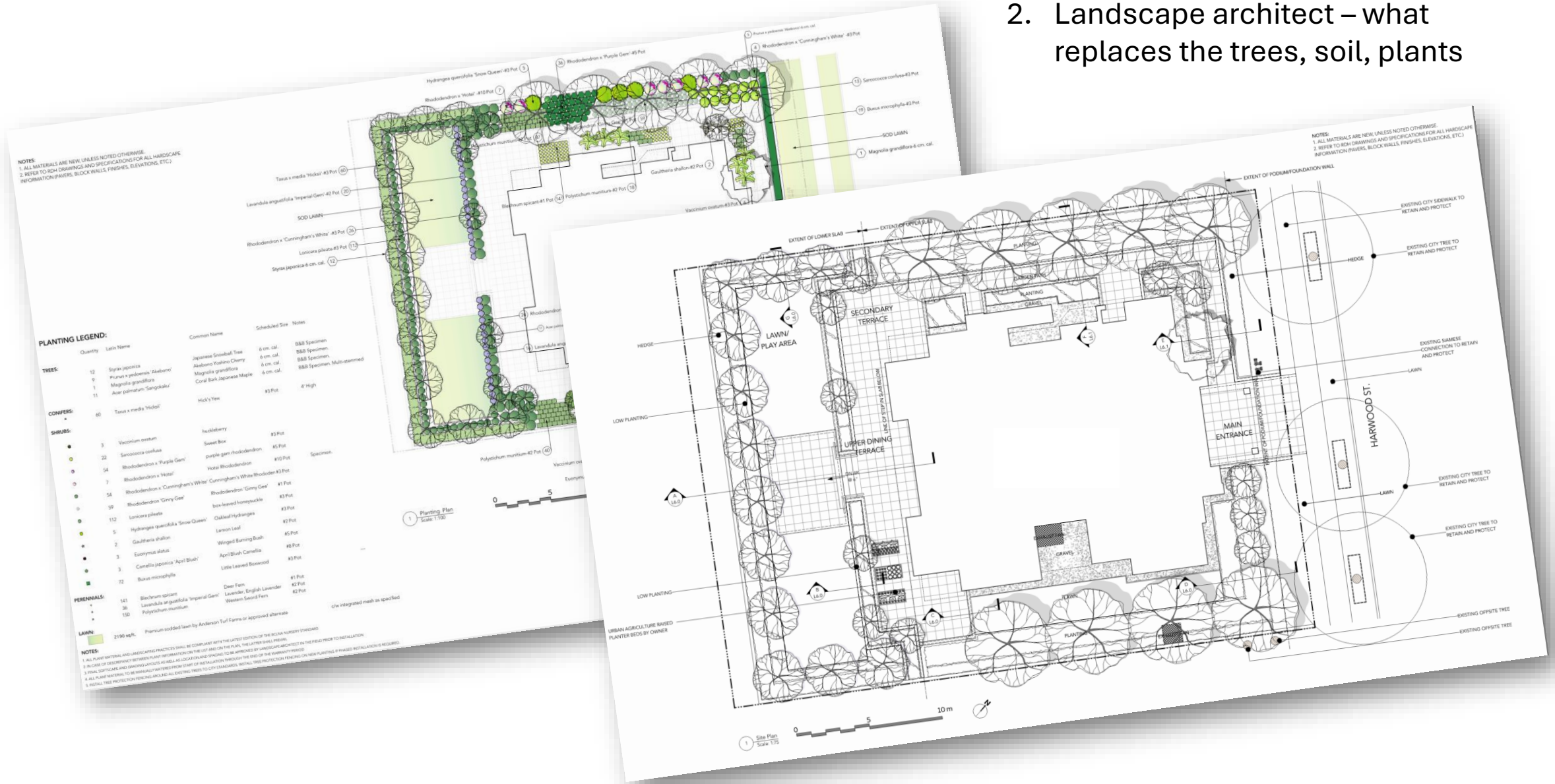


Breakdown of project costs

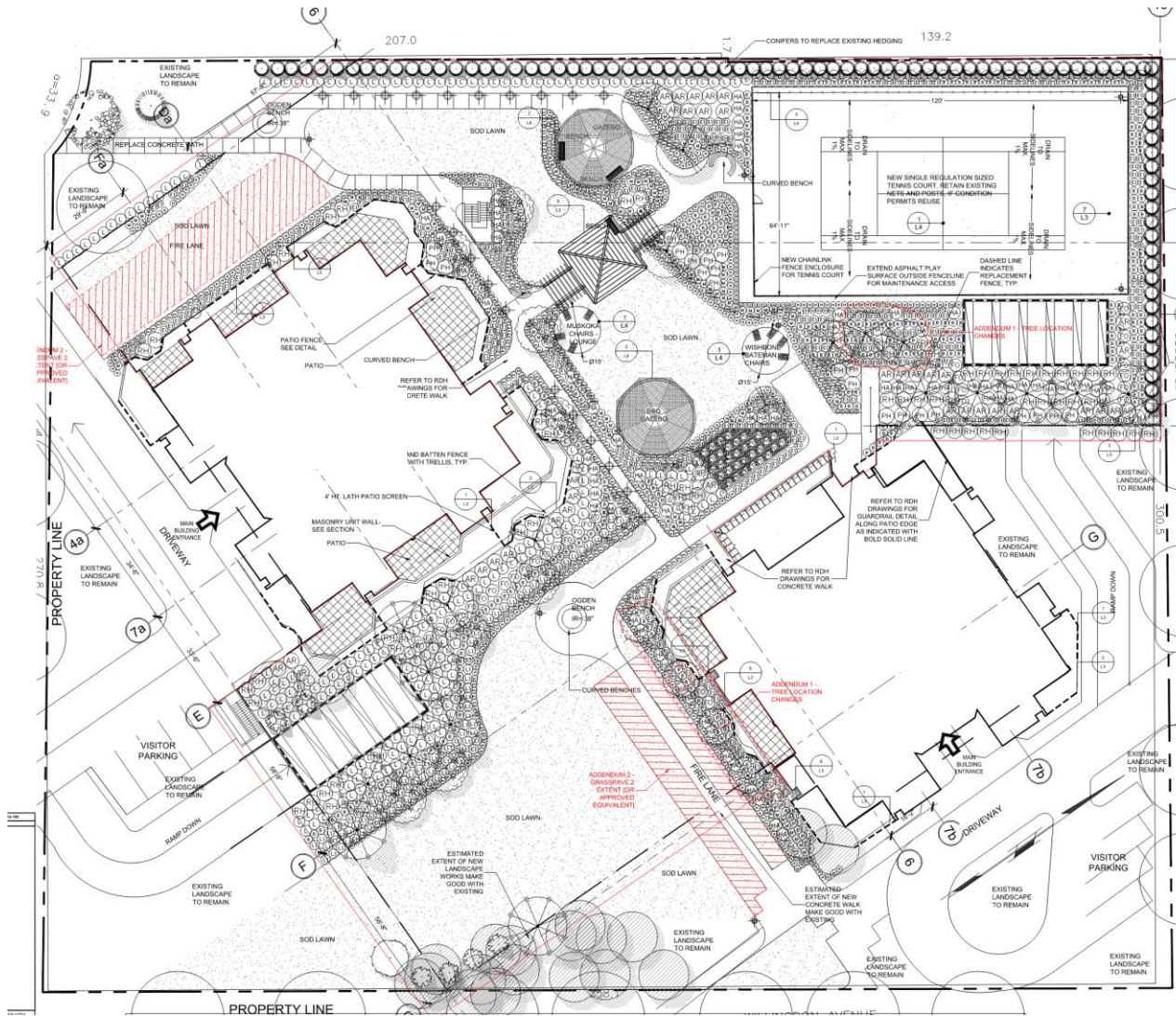


Landscape design is a big piece!

1. Arborist report – what trees stay/go
2. Landscape architect – what replaces the trees, soil, plants



Huge scope, multiple disciplines

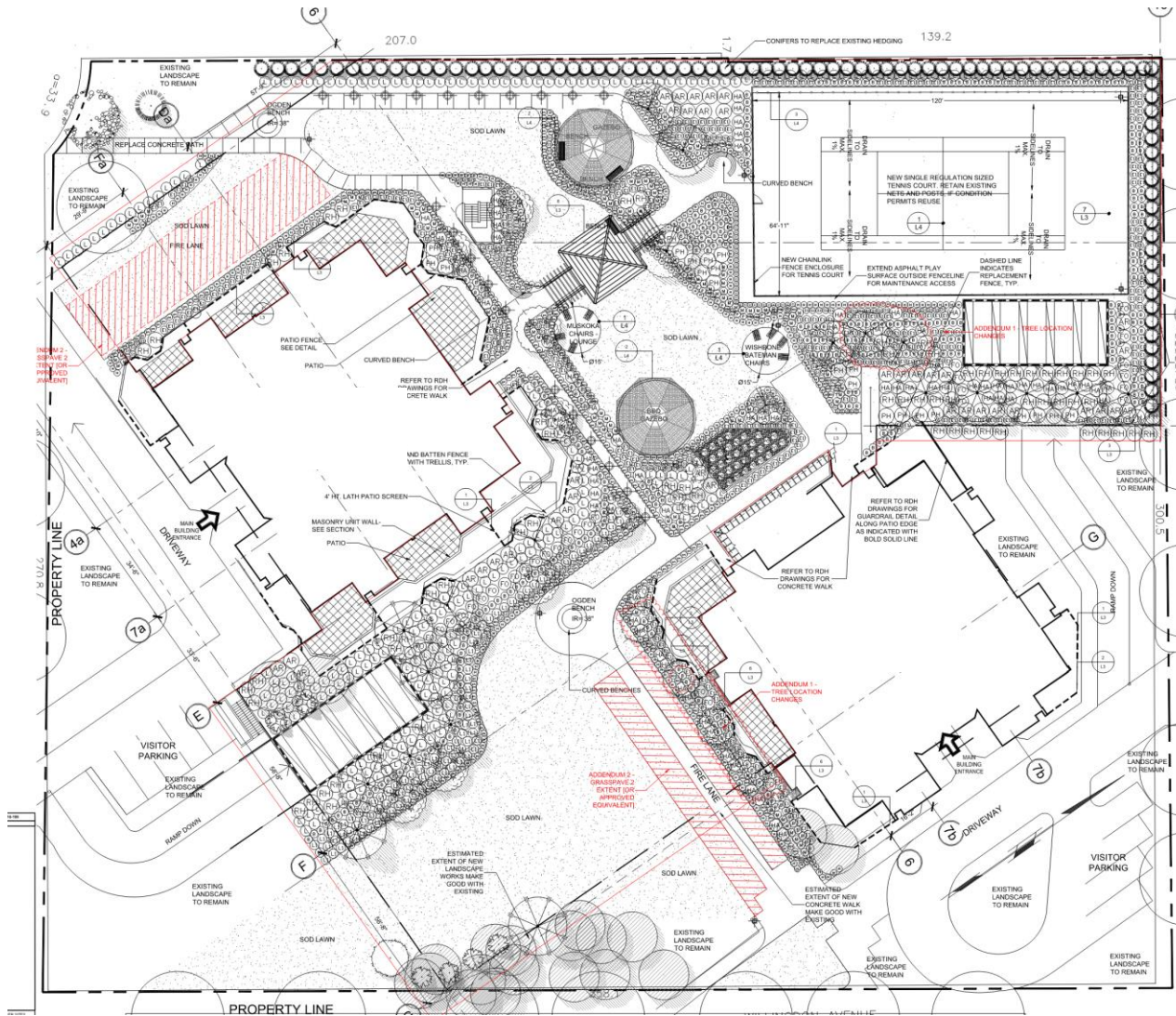


- Fire lanes
- Tennis courts
- Wood arbor & support piers
- Benches
- Ramps, stairs
- Egress paths
- Fences – wood, chain link
- Lighting
- Irrigation
- Guardrails
- Drains
- Perimeter drainage issues
- Adjacent property excavation
- New doors

Who's responsible?
To what extent?
Stay within your area of expertise...

the podium slab and foundation walls are precast panels

Huge scope, multiple disciplines



- Fire lanes – structural?
- Tennis courts – trade engineer
- Wood arbor & support piers - structural
- Benches – landscape architect
- Ramps, stairs – code consult. / architect?
- Egress paths – code consult. / architect?
- Fences – wood, chain link
- Lighting – landscape architect, electrical
- Irrigation – landscape architect, plumbing
- Guardrails – trade engineer
- Drains – mechanical, plumbing
- Perimeter drainage issues – civil
- Adjacent property excavation – lawyer
- New doors – trade engineer

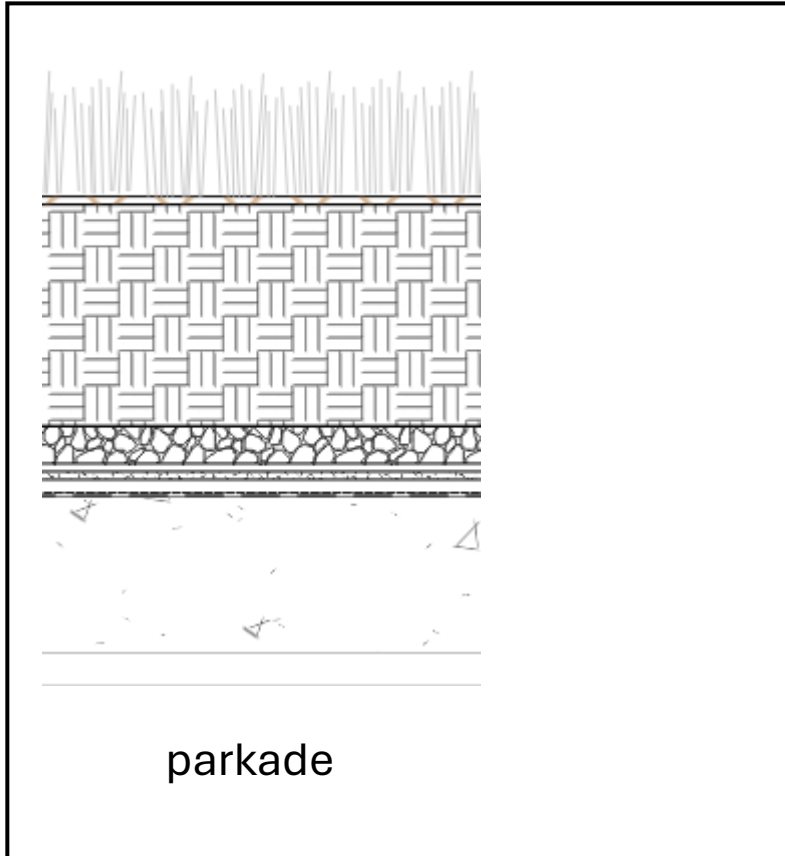
These may vary for your project

Stay within your area of expertise...

the podium slab and foundation walls are precast panels

Assemblies & multiple disciplines

What is your area of expertise?



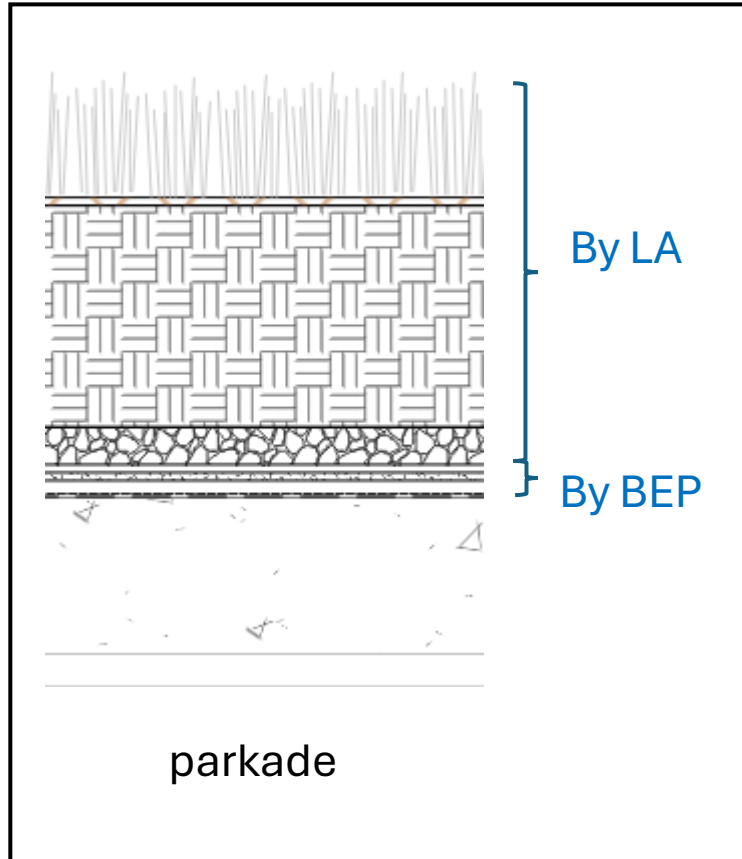
Assembly – top to bottom (**bold** is new)

- **Lawn/plants**
- **Xxx” growing medium**
- **Xxx” sand**
- **Filter fabric**
- **Xxx” gravel (specify type)**
- **Drainage mat**
- **Root barrier**
- **Membrane**
- **Xx” Topping? – slope to drain**
- Existing structural concrete slab

Total assembly thickness not to exceed xx”

Assemblies & multiple disciplines

What is your area of expertise?



In BEP drawings...

Assembly – top to bottom (**bold** is new)

- Lawn/plants
 - Xxx” growing medium
 - Xxx” sand
 - Filter fabric
 - Xxx” gravel (specify type)
 - **Drainage mat**
 - **Root barrier**
 - **Membrane**
 - **Xx” Topping? – slope to drain**
 - Existing structural concrete slab
- Refer to LA drawings
- Ensure assembly design and weight is within the limits of the existing structural slab

Total assembly thickness not to exceed xx”

Must make sure the overall assembly thickness works for door thresholds, planter walls, curbs, base of wall details, etc.
COORDINATE.

Soil Issues... after patios & fences were in



Soil did not meet spec = drainage issues
LA handled this aspect of scope

Rectified easily before completion
No dead plants, no disputes, no added costs

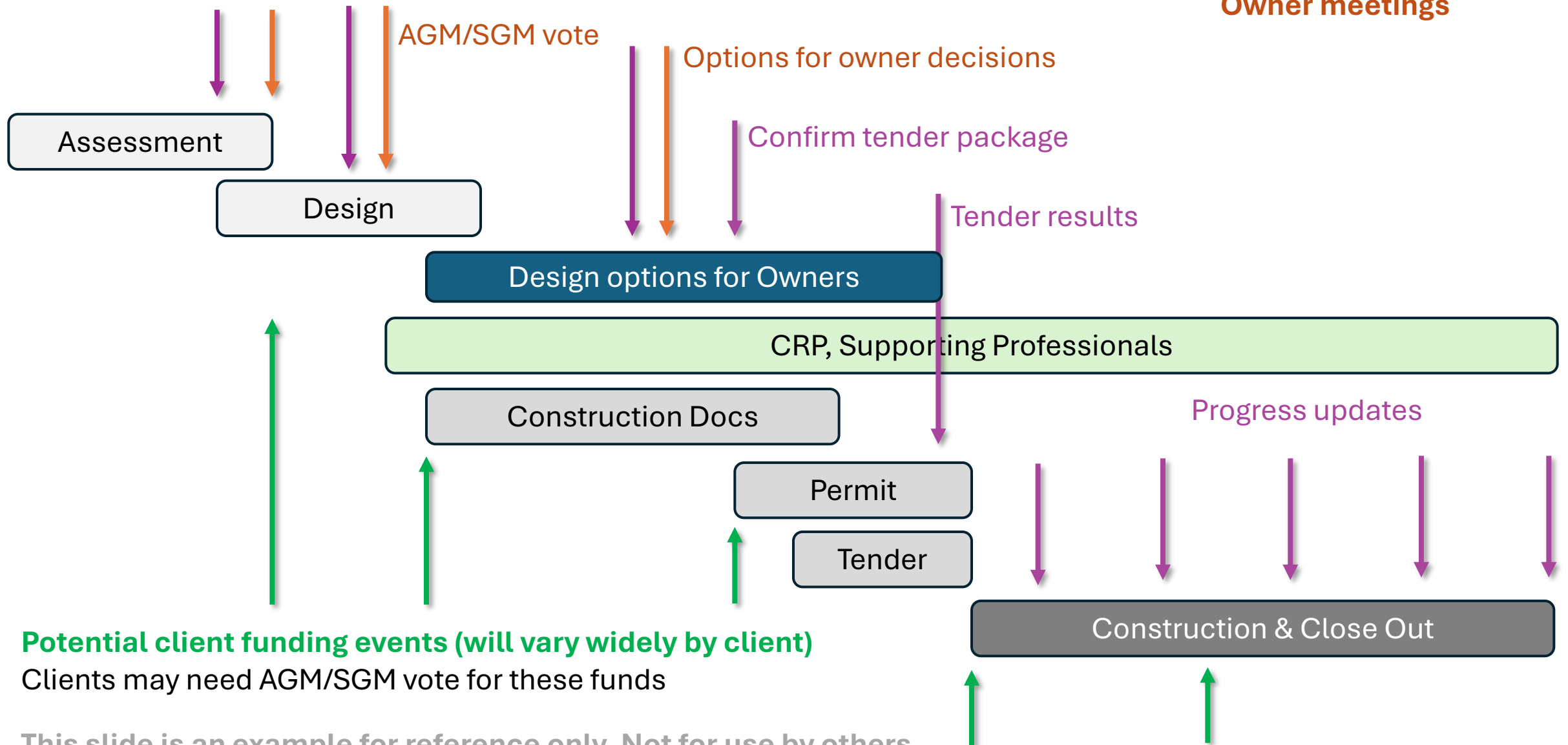
Ideal Results

- Built per design intent, on schedule and budget
- Everyone got paid
- No disputes
- Scope met Owner expectations
- Feeling of satisfaction and trust
- Happy clients who appreciate engineers, architects and contractors
- Referrals and more work
- No callbacks

Best Practice – Client Management

- **Assessment**
 - Owner meeting to present results (if work is required). Get buy-in early. Get face time.
- **Design/budget**
 - Owner meeting(s) as required until Owners generally accept work & cost. Face time. Trust.
 - Enclosure professional attends to address questions. Support council, avoids misunderstandings.
 - Further design/budget for Owner decisions – fences, patios, hardscape, etc.
 - Contingency planning
 - Straw poll owners at meetings to gauge approval or “pain points”
 - SGM/AGM to vote. Ideally go to vote when straw polls show majority of owners in favor.
- **Detailed Design (Construction Documents), Tender, Permit**
 - Owners engage supporting professionals. Help lead/coordinate disciplines & drive pre-con schedule.
 - Develop pre-construction schedule identifying key milestones and responsible parties.
 - Owner meeting(s) as required to confirm Owner decisions/scope. Include supporting professionals as required.
 - Get owner sign off on tender set prior to tender. Do a drawing page flip focusing on key items.
 - Owner meeting to present tender results and contract info.
- **Construction**
 - Regular meetings with council to update on progress & budget
 - Communicate need for changes early. Come with solutions. Encourage expedience. Delays add costs.
 - Close out documentation & permit close out

Best Practice – Client Management

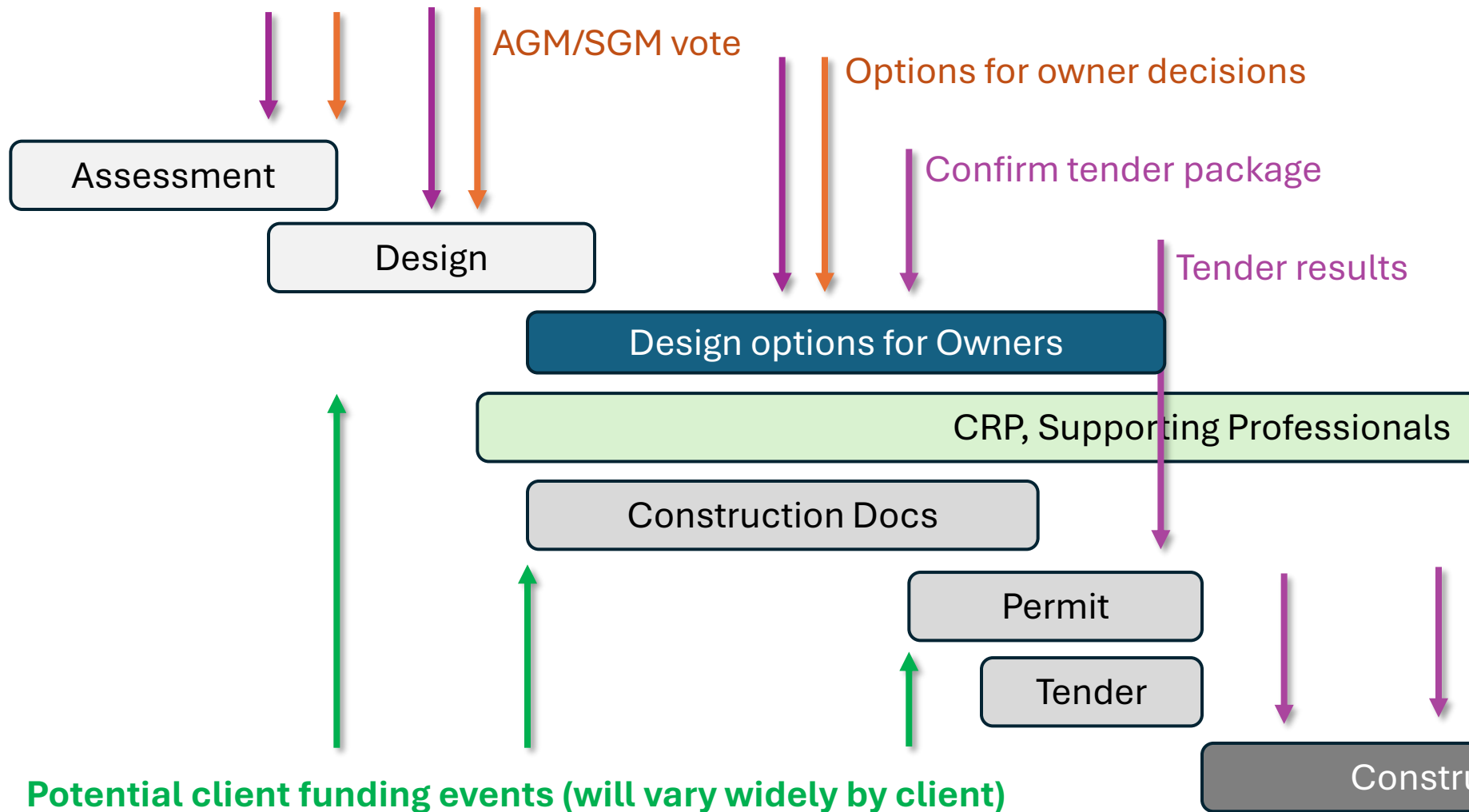


Potential client funding events (will vary widely by client)

Clients may need AGM/SGM vote for these funds

This slide is an example for reference only. Not for use by others.

Best Practice – Client Management



Potential client funding events (will vary widely by client)

Clients may need AGM/SGM vote for these funds

Suggest preparing a similar gantt chart to help illustrate the overall process to clients and key milestones.

It also helps with overall project management with supporting professionals.

This slide is an example for reference only. Not for use by others.

Client FAQ

- Is this necessary – provide sufficient evidence to support recommended work
- How much does it cost – depends on the scope, some owner decisions
- What will this do to my property value
- What's included in the work? Can it be sequenced? Can we do a repair only?
- How will we pay for it – CRF/special levy
- What if I can't afford it
- Can it be deferred so we have more time to raise money
- How many payments, how much and when
- When does it need to happen
- How long will it take
- What about the trees
- What about my patio and the upgrades I've done
- Where do I put my stuff while the work is going on
- How will the work affect me if I work from home
- My suite is not affected by the work, why do I have to pay for it

Suggest preparing a deck with typical FAQ and answers.

Use on multiple projects. Efficiencies save time and money.

Be mindful of answering questions that are not your area of expertise, e.g. legal, code, financial = RISK

It's ok to say it's not your area of expertise, but you should inform clients who they can rely on for professional gaps.

Best Practice – Design/Budget

- Contractors need quantities & specs to price accurately
 - Include allowances as placeholders for early budgets until supporting professionals provide quantifiable design. Get input for allowances.
 - Use contractors who have completed numerous projects successfully.
- Dimension / quantify as much as possible
- Identify items Owners will need to decide on
 - Prepare design options with budget/risk info for decision before tender
- State assumptions – like engineering school, remember!?
- Alternate & separate prices – for Owners’ decisions. Most control over pricing.
 - Need to include design intent for each alt/sep price (delete/add items from base scope)
- Include a contingency, on construction at a minimum

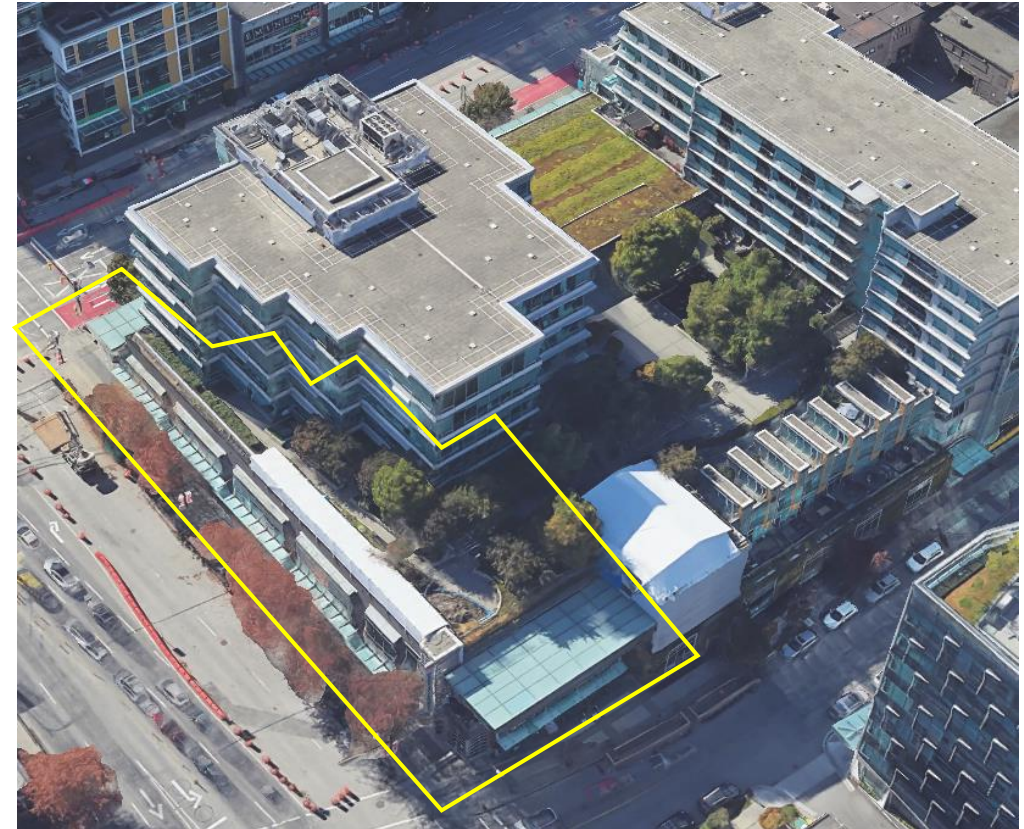
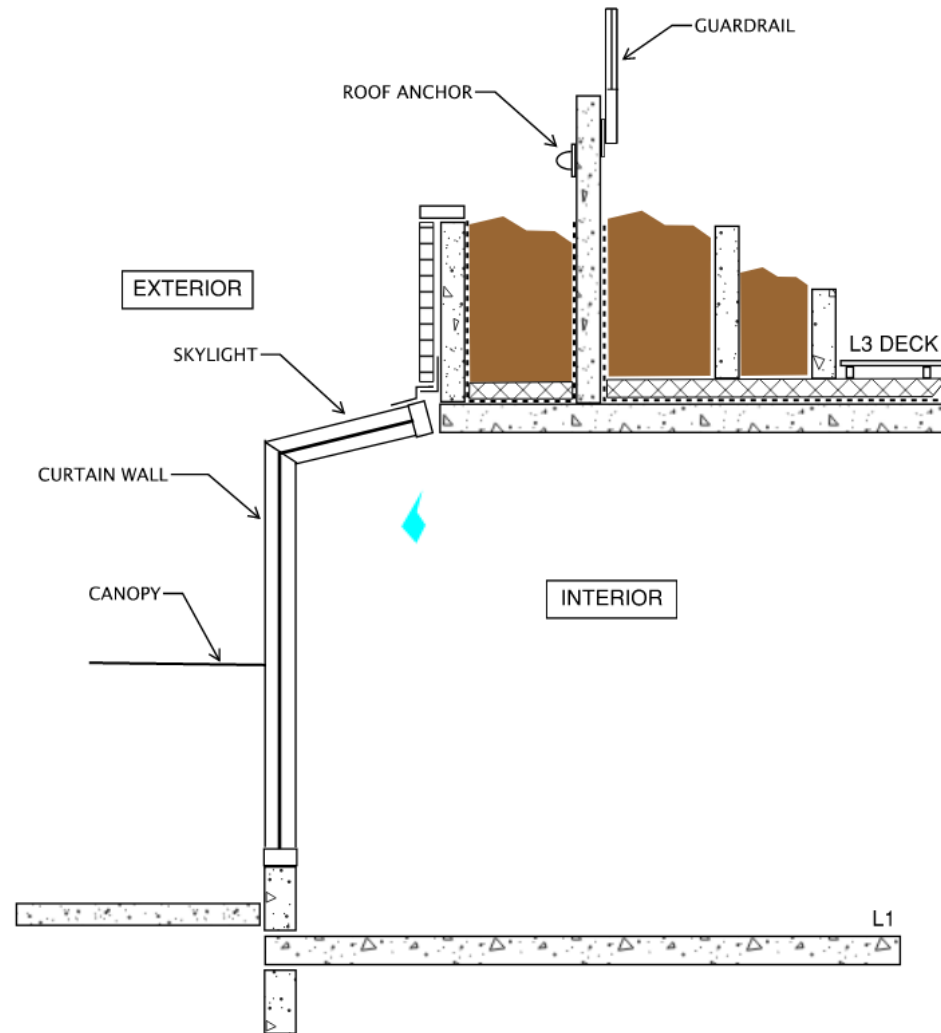
Best Practice – Design/Budget

Take-offs & assumptions				
	Qty	Units		
Construction duration, projected/approx.		6 months		
approx SF podium area	5500	SF		
approx LF podium perimeter @ foundation walls	500	LF		
approx LF podium perimeter excavation (for downturn)	250	LF		
approx LF podium perimeter w upstand wall (for turn-up/gumlip & ext sealant)	250	LF		
approx LF building base of wall	510	LF		
approx SF patio areas (hardscape), approx 100 SF per patio x 12 patio	1200	SF		
approx LF patio perimeter (3 sides, excl building), approx 30 LF x 12 patio	360	LF		
approx SF softscape	3800	SF		
approx vol. gravel strip (12" wide x 4" deep) - 0.25 CF/LF base of wall (30% base wall length)	40	CF		
approx depth of overburden throughout podium where occurs (avg) - 2 stack blocks	12	Inches		
approx LF fencing @ 6' high	700	LF		
Soft costs				
	Unit rate	Unit	Fees	
construction documents - RFI sketches by GC to clarify work and correlate pricing		1 fixed fee		
arborist		1 fixed fee		
landscape architect		1 fixed fee		
surveyor		1 fixed fee		
permit		calc.		
PM/CM - schedule, tender, planning		1 fixed fee		
contract admin, incl. field review (\$/month construction). Note: 1 = 10% contract		month	\$	-
Total, soft costs				

Hard costs				
	QTY	Unit rate	Unit	Cost
general conditions (\$/mo construction) - fencing, safety, parking, hoarding, egress, etc.			monthly	\$ -
demo & excavation			SF	
conc repair, surface prep @ podium field area & upstand walls			SF	
membrane (field), incl drain bodies			SF	
membrane, perimeter - turn down incl. excavation & backfill. Assume term bar/mech attach			LF	
membrane, perimeter - assume PMMA termination in saw cut			LF	
membrane, base of wall incl. flashings & 12"W gravel strip - excl. door re/re & tie in			LF	
plumbing connections in parkade, allow for 50 LF			allowance	\$ -
overburden (drainage layers) drain mat, 2" gravel, filter fabric			SF	
overburden (soil above filter fabric), excl plants - avg depth 12"			CF	
hardscape - patios (pedestal pavers), incl. edging @ softscape interface, assume 100 SF/ste			SF	
hardscape - property perimeter & beyond patios (stack block ret. Walls x 3H blocks)			LF	
hardscape - stairs, ramps, etc., primarily along lane. Some at entrance.			allowance	\$ -
fencing - 6'H x 8'L Home Depot panels or equiv., incl. connections to found'n & pedestals			LF	
gates x 12			each	
sealant @ exposed cold joints ext. side of perimeter upstand walls			LF	
misc details - vent shaft, stairs, entrance			allowance	\$ -
perimeter upstand walls (int/ext/top), surf prep (light grind) & crack repair, urethane cap			LF	
Subtotal, hard costs (excl. plants)				
Contingency (% hard costs)		10%		\$ -
OH&P (% hard costs incl contingency)		10%		\$ -
Management (% hard costs incl contingency)		10%		\$ -
Total, hard costs (rounded)				
Total project costs				
Total soft costs, rounded				\$ -
Total hard costs, rounded				
Total project costs, rounded (soft + hard)				
			approx. cost/suite	
			approx. cost/SF podium area	
Alt prices				
alt price - door re/re & wall/podium tie ins				
alt price - patio finish upgrades, specific units				
alt price - new doors				
alt price - plants				

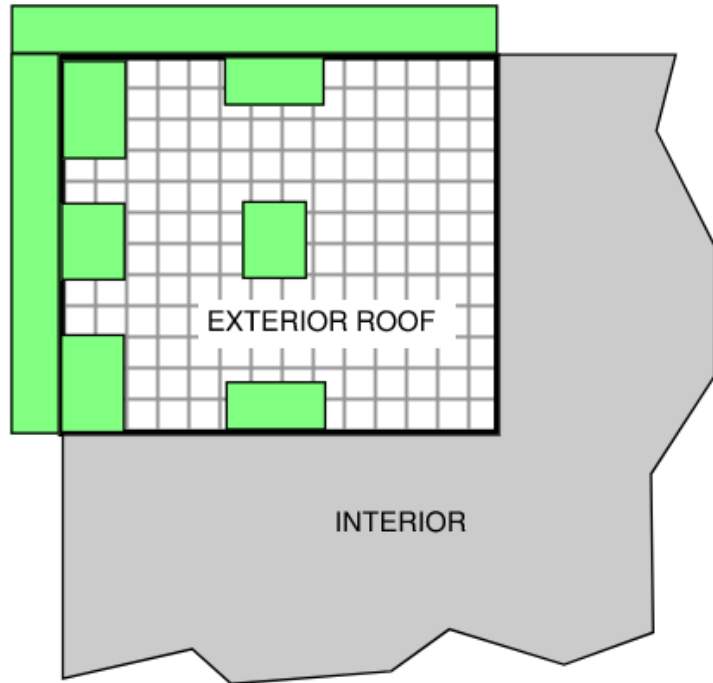
Sustainable design for new construction – case study

Common design



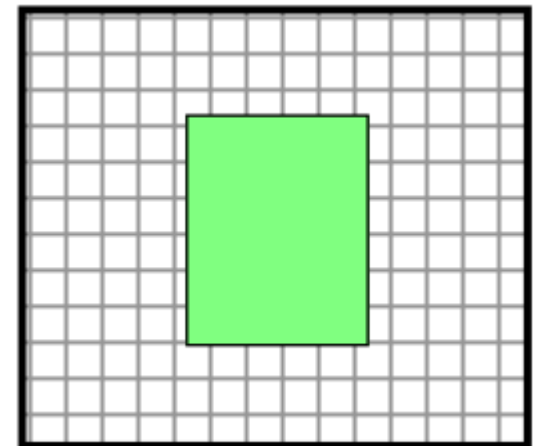
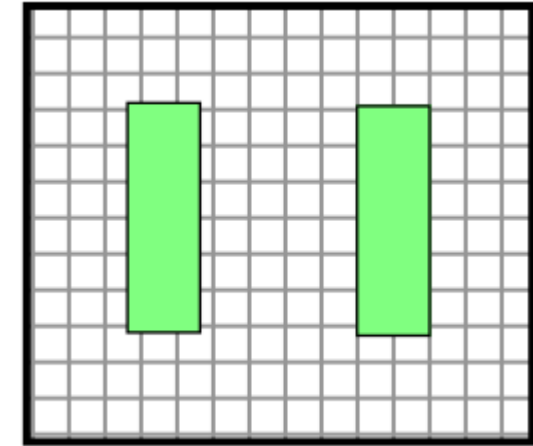
Challenging to investigate safely
Costly to access
Difficult detailing
Several unsuccessful costly repairs

Sustainable design for new construction – concepts



Common design

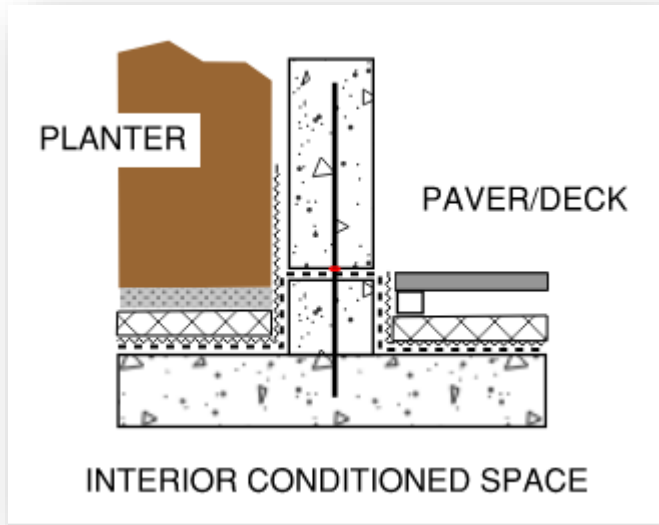
- Guardrails
- Access to outboard planter
- Detailing – labour, risk
- Drainage/scuppers
- Materials – excess
- Material waste
- Poor for renewal/maintenance
- Added risk**
- Added cost**



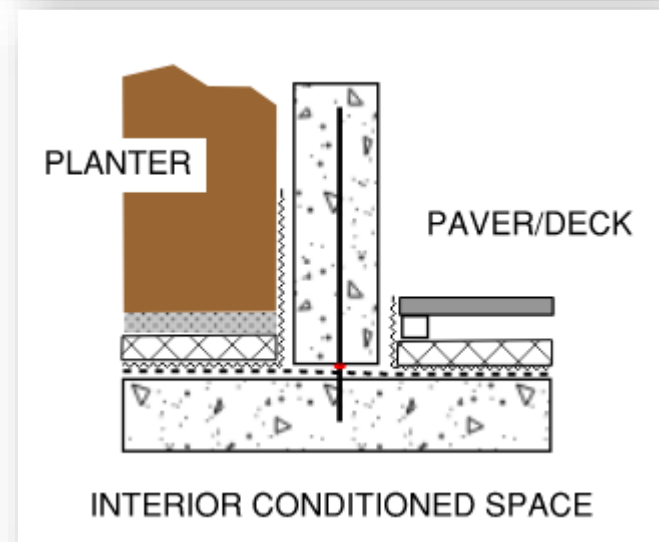
Why such intricate landscape designs?
Can landlords charge more rent for these features?
Are they required for Rainwater Management?
If so, could we achieve the same result with fewer and larger?

Sustainable design for new construction – planter walls

Typical new construction

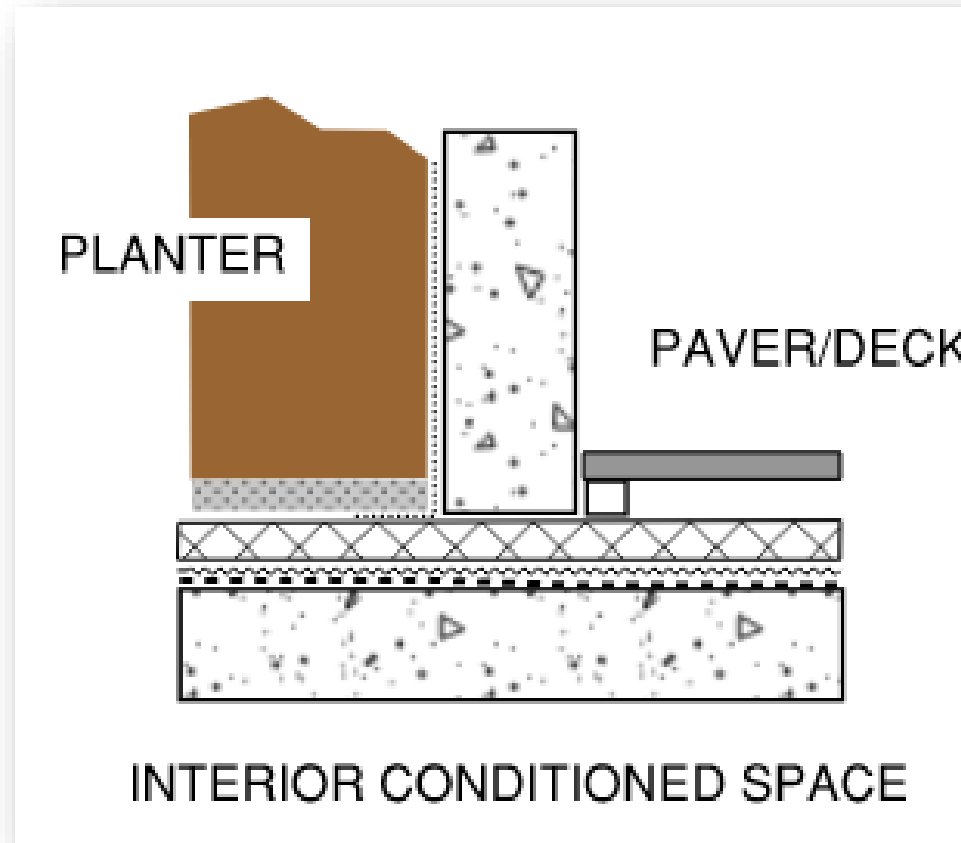
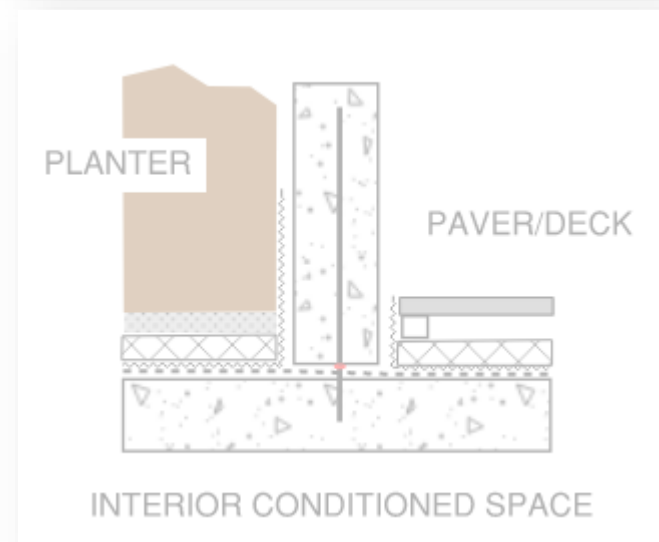
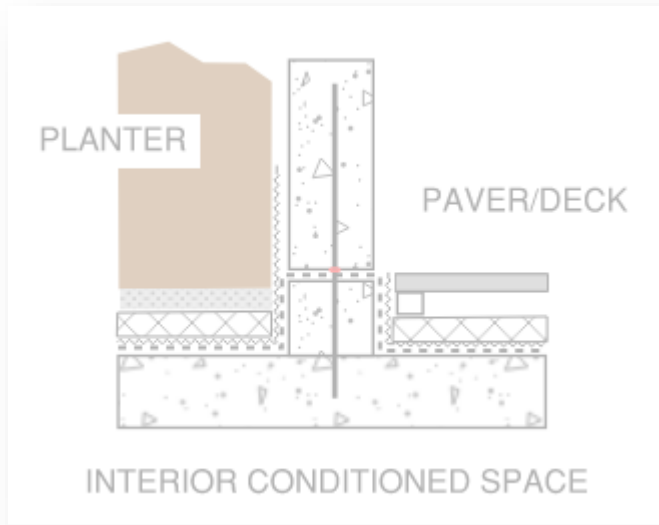


Detailing
Drainage
Non-continuous
insulation
Risks
Cost
Sequencing



This is hard to repair / renew without wrapping the wall in liquid membrane or flashing = cost, maintenance.
Demolition is common for renewal. Waste. Costs. Noise.

Sustainable design for new construction – planter walls



Consider this instead

Continuous drainage
Continuous insulation
No detailing

Note: the wall design needs more detail.
This illustrates design intent only.

Sustainable design for new construction – planter options



Try to run the membrane continuous on the deck

Wind loads, seismic
Weight (workability/labour)

Sustainable design for new construction – planter options

- Reduce concrete – planter walls
- Planter construction – favour modular block or landscape tie walls or planter boxes over cast in place concrete walls
 - Membrane continuous on deck – less membrane material
 - Far less detailing – less labour, lower risk of deficiencies/leaks
 - Look for blocks made from recycled materials
 - Much simpler membrane renewal; potential reuse of blocks?
- Consolidate planter areas – less and larger vs more and smaller
- Keep planters away from parapets, don't create a climb hazard that requires more materials – railings, higher walls
- Avoid isolated planter roof areas outboard of main, accessible roof areas. Otherwise, design a means of safe access for maintenance and renewal of these areas.
- Detailing base of wall for future renewal

Sustainable design for new construction



In closing...

- Due diligence to assess issues & understand existing conditions
- Appropriate design to address issues and meet client needs
- **Stay in your lane – stick to your area of expertise**
- Assist clients in engaging others
- Design intent is clear & complete for budget, permit & tender
- Reduce embodied carbon
- Reduce construction waste
- Coordinate
- Communicate, communicate, communicate



Questions?

Heather Reid
hreid@pci-group.com