

Dear Mayor Gold,

regarding the Beacon Transit Oriented Development

The MTA and the City of Beacon have a great opportunity to bring something unique and inspiring to our waterfront. As a point of arrival the TOD will be the first impression many visitors will have of our city. Yet, it is imperative that this first impression creates instant curiosity, desire and awe.

We suggest the TOD adopt an ultra-modern and contemporary appearance (like the Bard college concert hall) that way that area can be the connecting link between the DIA, the waterfront and Main Street which will ultimately result in increased business on Main Street.

Beacon, having DIA and Storm King Art Center close by, is already the central location for contemporary art in the Hudson Valley. Since this strong contemporary art movement already exists it would only make sense to latch on to these powerful attractions by creating an ultra modern architectural structure that will strengthen Beacon's contemporary image and propel us even more into the national and international spotlight.

We also encourage such architecture to spill over onto Main Street. That will connect the dots and attract people to our city while inspiring and stimulating our citizens.

Combining Beacon's existing industrial, residential and brick buildings with architectural elements - such as transparent facades, flowing movements and green standards - will elevate Beacon to a 'one-of-a-kind' in the Hudson Valley. Beacon has the chance to stand out as a contemporary art as well as an architectural destination.

Stewart airport has also turned out to be another asset that puts us on the map! Creating an inviting TOD zone will increase the flow of business people and tourists that might otherwise just use Beacon's train station as a transit point without giving Beacon and its attractions a second thought.

Our suggestions are:

- We urge the MTA and the City council to open a competition to all architects to create a contemporary design for the TOD.
- We understand that the Block version that was suggested on Aug 3rd was only an example, however, it was yet another uninspiring design. We urge the MTA to create an exciting structure and not conform to mediocrity.
- Furthermore, we should contemplate encouraging all new structures in the city to be of a contemporary design thus creating an ultra-modern look for Beacon.

We hope for the TOD and the city of Beacon to be stunning rather than mediocre. We want people's reactions to be 'Wow, I want to visit that city'.

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regards,

Janine Lambers and Mark Hurley

We include internet links of contemporary / ultra modern design along with the architect's details.

<http://www.herzogdemeuron-film.com/en/trailer/> by architects Herzog & de Meuron

<http://images.google.com/images?hl=en&q=ghery&um=1&ie=U...> by architect Frank Gehry