ANN ARBOR BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: June 16, 2022

Type of Request: APPEAL

Building Board of Appeals Request **BBA22-2000** at 322 E. Liberty, Unit: 13, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104.

(Parcel Identification Number: 09-09-29-111-029)

DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION

Property Owners Name and Address:

322 E. Liberty #13, LLC 40600 Ann Arbor Road E. Ste 201 Plymouth. MI 48170

BACKGROUND

The property at 322 E. Liberty is an R-2 Occupancy Classification as described by the 2015 Michigan Building Code and as indicated on the signed sealed plans submitted with the permit application. Building Permit BLDG21-0660 was issued 4/30/2021. 322 E. liberty Unit :13 was originally issued a Certificate of Occupancy 1/26/2007 and at that time had a spiral stairway connecting the 4th and 5th floor. As part of the scope of work associated with BLDG21-0660 the spiral stairway was removed, and a new stairway constructed. The stairway geometry on the approved plan does not meet the minimum Code requirements of section 1011.5.2 of the 2015 Michigan Building Code and the permit holder was first informed of this violation during a rough building inspection performed 10/19/2021 this violation is also stated on inspection reports dated 10/25/2021, 11/16/2021, 4/5/2022, followed by a meeting via Teams 4/12/2022. The petitioner is requesting relief from the minimum requirements of section 1102.5.2 of the 2015 Michigan Building code.

Standards for Approval:

1.	The True intent of the code or the rules governing construction have been incorrectly
	interpreted.

4.2. The provisions of the code do not apply; and

2.3. An equal or better form of construction is proposed

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends this application be denied as it does not meet the standards for approval, the code has not been misinterpreted, the provisions of the code do apply and the reduction in stairway Geometry is less safe than that required by the governing code (2015 Michigan Building Code).

While the applicant states the stairway as constructed would meet the requirements of the 2015 Michigan Residential Code that code is not applicable in R-2 occupancies. The 2015 Michigan Residential Code is a standalone code that only pertains to single family houses, duplexes and townhouses and offers no provisions for R-2 structures the Introduction to the 2015 Michigan Residential Code states:

"This comprehensive, stand-alone residential code establishes minimum regulations for one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses using prescriptive provisions."

322 E. Liberty does not meet the definitions of a one- or two-family dwelling or a townhouse. The nature of this building as R-2 has increased safety concerns that are not considerations in the 2015 Michigan Residential Code which is why it is regulated by the 2015 Michigan Building Code.

Because 322 E. Liberty unit: 13 is an R-2 Occupancy the 2015 Michigan Residential Code is not applicable. This project must comply with the minimum code requirements of the 2015 Michigan Building Code, which per section 101.3 states:

101.3 Intent. The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements to provide a reasonable level of safety, public health and general welfare through structural strength, *means of egress* facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

While the plan was approved with an element that did not comply with the 2015 Michigan Building Code, there is a provision in the code for just such situations. Section 105.4 states:

105.4 Validity of permit. The issuance or granting of a *permit* shall not be construed to be a *permit* for, or an approval of, any violation of any of the provisions of this code or of any other ordinance of the jurisdiction. *Permits* presuming to give authority to violate or cancel the provisions of this code or other ordinances of the jurisdiction shall not be valid. The issuance of a *permit* based on *construction documents* and other data shall not prevent the *building official* from requiring the correction of errors in the *construction documents* and other data. The *building official* is authorized to prevent occupancy or use of a structure where in violation of this code or of any other ordinances of this jurisdiction.

Per section 1011.5.2 of the 2015 Michigan Building Code the minimum stairway rise and tread depth states stair riser height cannot exceed seven inches, and tread depth shall be eleven inches minimum exception 3 of section 1011.5.2 allows an increase in riser height and reduction in tread depth from the previously mentioned dimensions allowing for seven and three quarter maximum rise and minimum tread depth of ten inches (never is the 2015 Michigan Residential Code referenced).

1011.5.2 Riser height and tread depth. *Stair* riser heights shall be 7 inches (178 mm) maximum and 4 inches (102 mm) minimum. The riser height shall be measured

vertically between the *nosings* of adjacent treads. Rectangular tread depths shall be 11 inches (279 mm) minimum

measured horizontally between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads and at a right angle to the tread's *nosing*. *Winder* treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 11 inches (279 mm) between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads at the intersections with the walkline and a minimum tread depth of 10 inches (254 mm) within the clear width of the *stair*.

Exceptions:

- 1. *Spiral stairways* in accordance with Section 1011.10.
- 2. *Stairways* connecting stepped *aisles* to cross *aisles* or concourses shall be permitted to use the riser/tread dimension in Section 1029.13.2.
- 3. In Group R-3 occupancies; within *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; and in Group U occupancies that are accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy or accessory to individual *dwelling units* in Group R-2 occupancies; the maximum riser height shall be 73/4 inches (197 mm); the minimum tread depth shall be 10 inches (254 mm); the minimum *winder* tread depth at the walkline shall be 10 inches (254 mm); and the minimum *winder* tread depth shall be 6 inches (152 mm). A *nosing* projection not less than 3/4 inch (19.1 mm) but not more than 11/4 inches (32 mm) shall be provided on *stairways* with solid risers where the tread depth is less than 11 inches (279 mm).

The petitioner references section 410.6 of the 2015 Michigan Rehabilitation Code for existing Buildings this section does not pertain to this situation as it is not an accessibility issue, it is a general requirement. The referenced section states:

410.6 Alterations. A building, facility, or element that is altered shall comply with the applicable provisions in chapter 11 of the Michigan building code and ICC/A117.1 listed in chapter 16, unless technically infeasible. When compliance with this section is technically infeasible, then the alteration shall provide access to the maximum extent technically feasible.

The code section that does apply with reference to the 2015 Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings is section 403.1, this stairway was not existing so it does not meet the requirements of exception 1.

403.1 General. Except as provided by Section 401.2 or this section, *alterations* to any building or structure shall comply with the requirements of the *International Building Code* for new construction. *Alterations* shall be such that the *existing building* or structure is no less conforming to the provisions of the *International Building Code* than the *existing building* or structure was prior to the *alteration*.

Exceptions:

- An existing stairway shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 1011 of the *Inter*national Building Code where the existing space and construction does not allow a reduction in pitch or slope.
- Handrails otherwise required to comply with Section 1011.11 of the International Building Code shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 1014.6 of the International Building Code regarding full extension of the handrails where such extensions would be hazardous due to plan configuration.

The Residential Code is not intended to be used in commercial buildings. It is a standalone code that is not to become the standard when the requirements of the building code are not being met. Because the 2015 Michigan Building Code is a minimum standard and the code governing this project and is directly referenced by the 2015 Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings. This appeal does not meet the standards of approval. The code has not been misinterpreted, the provisions of the 2015 Michigan Building Code do apply, and the increased riser height and decreased tread depth is neither equal to, nor better than, the code requirements.

PROPOSED MOTION

APPEAL GRANTED

That in Case BBA22-2000, the appeal of the Building Official's decision that the work to be
performed at 322 E. Liberty Unit: 13 is GRANTED relief from section 1011.5.2, and the Building
Board of Appeals REVERSES the Building Official's decision for the reason(s) that [state reason in
motion]:
☐ (1) The true intent of the 2015 Michigan Building Code and section 1011.5.2 governing the renovation of 322 E. Liberty Unit:13 have been incorrectly interpreted by the Building Official;
\square (2) The provisions of 2015 Michigan Building Code section 1011.5.2 does not apply to the construction at 322 E. Liberty Unit: 13;
\square (3) The applicant has proposed an equal or better form of construction.
Otimulations of Augustiants I.
Stipulations – If Applicable:
[Chairman to check box(es) following vote]
<u>OR</u>
APPEAL DENIED
That in Case BBA22-2000 the appeal of the Building Official's decision that the work to be
performed at 322 E. Liberty Unit:13 is DENIED and the Building Board of Appeals AFFIRMS the
Building Official's decision for the reason(s) that [state reason in motion]:
☐ (1) The true intent of the 2015 Michigan Building Code and section 1011.5.2 governing the construction at 322 E. liberty Unit:13 have been correctly interpreted by the Building Official;
☐ (2) The provisions of 2015 Michigan Building Code section 1011.5.2 applies to the construction at 322 E. Liberty Unit:13;
\square (3) The applicant has not proposed an equal or better form of construction;
Stipulations – if Applicable:
[Chairman to check applicable box(es) following vote]

Yeas:	
Nays:	
Absent for this vote:	
Date	Paul Darling, Chairperson Building Board of Appeals



City of Ann Arbor PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

301 E. Huron St. | P.O. Box 8647 |
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647
p. 734.794.6263 | f. 734.994.8460 | building@a2gov.org
APPLICATION FOR BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION CODE APPEAL

Facility Information						
Facility Name		County				
Facility Street Address			City		Zip	
Permit Number						
Building Data						
New Building		Addition	Alteration		Repair 🗌	
Classification Per Building Code Building Use				No. Of Occupants		
Permit Holder						
Name (Company or Indi	vidual)		Contact Name			
Street Address		City	State		Zip	
Phone		Fax	•	Email		
Building Owner				•		
Name (Company or Individual)			Contact Name			
Street Address		City	State		Zip	
Phone		Fax	E		Email	
Summary Of Appeal		•		·		
CODE SECTION(s)			Provide copies of the following as appropriate Statement of Facts and Reasoning			
DESIRED RELIEF (State B	riefly)					
BASIS OF APPEAL (State	Briefly)			Supporting	g Material	

Applicant (all correspondence will be sent to this address)						
Name (company or individual)		ļ	Applicant Name			
Street Address	City	S	State		Zip	
Phone	Fax	•		Email		
Application Fee (applicant is res	ponsible for pay	ing fee)				
Residential \$250.00		Commercial	\$500.00			
Note: You have the right to appeal the City of Ann Arbor's Building Boards of Appeals decision to the State of Michigan. If you choose to appeal this decision, then application must be made within 10 days of the decision to the address listed below, in accordance with Section 16 of 1972 PA 230. Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Construction Codes, P.O. Box 30255, Lansing, MI 48909 517-241-9303, www.michigan.gov/bcc						
Note: Reasons for Appeal (Per MRC, Section R112.2, MBC, Section 113.2) include: 1. The true intent of the code or the rules governing construction have been incorrectly interpreted. 2. The provisions of the code do not apply. 3. An equal or better form of construction is proposed.						
Applicant Signature	_/			Date	5.5.22	

Ann Arbor Building Board of Appeals Submission for:

322 E. Liberty-Apt. #13
Existing Stair Compliance

Ann Arbor, Michigan

ARCHITECT OF RECORD:

ALCID HOME DESIGN LLC

1725 Lyric Ct. Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 602-1387 BUILDER OF RECORD:

SUPERB CUSTOM HOMES

P.O. BOX 703450 PLYMOUTH, MI. 48170 (248) 735 - 8730 DESIGNER:

patrick dyke COLLABORATIVE

2553 Meade Court, Ann Arbor, Ml. 99 Monroe NW #200, Grand Rapids, Ml.

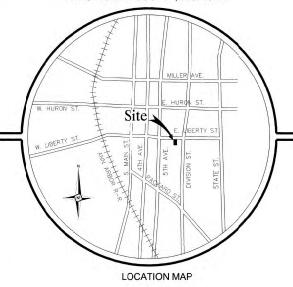
248.321.4444

Original Building Plan Submission

Records Pulled from the City of Ann Arbor

City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan FINAL SITE PLAN PACKAGE Prepared For DENALI DEVELOPMENT GROUP, L.L.C.

PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK3, RANGE 6 EAST, CITY OF ANN ARBOR, WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Project Name
METRO LOFTS
320-322 E. Liberty Street

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PROPERTY OWNER

141 Allenhurst

Suite 555 Southfield, MI 48034

Royal Oak, MI 48067

400 Galleria Officentre

248-352-8310 Phone

Royal Oak, MI 48067

248-399-0886 Phone 248-399-1435 Fax

248-352-1821 Fax

Denali Development Group, L.L.C.

PROJECT ARCHITECT

Neumann Smith & Associates

PROJECT ENGINEER
Nowak & Fraus, PLLC
1310 N. Stephenson Hwy.

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 1 IN BLOCK 3 SOUTH OF HURON STREET, RANGE 6 BAST RUNNING WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF LIBERTY STREET, 4 RODS (MEASURED AS 66.0F FEET), THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT, \$ RODS (MEASURED AS 32.37 FEET) TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT, THENCE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT, 1 RODS (MEASURED AS 32.37 FEET) TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT, THENCE EAST THENCE FOR THE ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT, 4 RODS (MEASURED AS 18.27 FEET) TO THENCE WORTH ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT, 8 RODS (MEASURED AS 12.37 FEET) TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK 3 SOUTH OF HURON STREET, RANGE 6 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE, NOW CITY OF ANN ARBOR, WASHITENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN. CONTAINING 8,744 SQUARE FEET OR 0.20 ACRES OF

ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT TO SITE PLAN

I hereby certify that this site plan has been administratively amended b Planning and Development Services, Fire Services, Systems Planning and Parks and Recreation Services on May 12, 2005, and is in complished with Chapter 57 of the Ordinance Code of the City of Ann Arbor, Medicine

Mark D. Lloyd, Mariager

OFFICIAL COPY

GENERAL IN Current Zoning:

Property Size:

ALC: UKBA

Proposed Buildin

TRO LOFTS Sefts 322

320-322 EAST LIBERTY STREET

FILE NO. 9291A13.5a

Proposed Living
Proposed Pkg. Space. 2.

Proposed Bike Pkg. Spaces: 21

Proposed Front Setback:

10 Feet

Proposed Side and Rear Setbacks: Proposed Building Height: 0 Feet 59 Feet

SHEET INDEX

SP1 Cover Sheet

SP2 Boundary/ Topographic/ Tree Survey Plan

SP3 Engineering Site Plan/ Grading/ Limits of Excavation Plan

SP4 Storm Water Management Plan/ Storm Water Details Sheet

SP5 Soil Erosion Control Plan

A1 Floor Plan: Levels B & 1

A2 Floor Plan: Levels 2 & 3

A3 Floor Plan: Levels 4 & 5

A4 Floor Plan: Roof Level & Framing Concept

A5 Cross Sections

A6 Elevations

A7 Wall Sections

3-15-05 REVISED PER CITY REVIEW





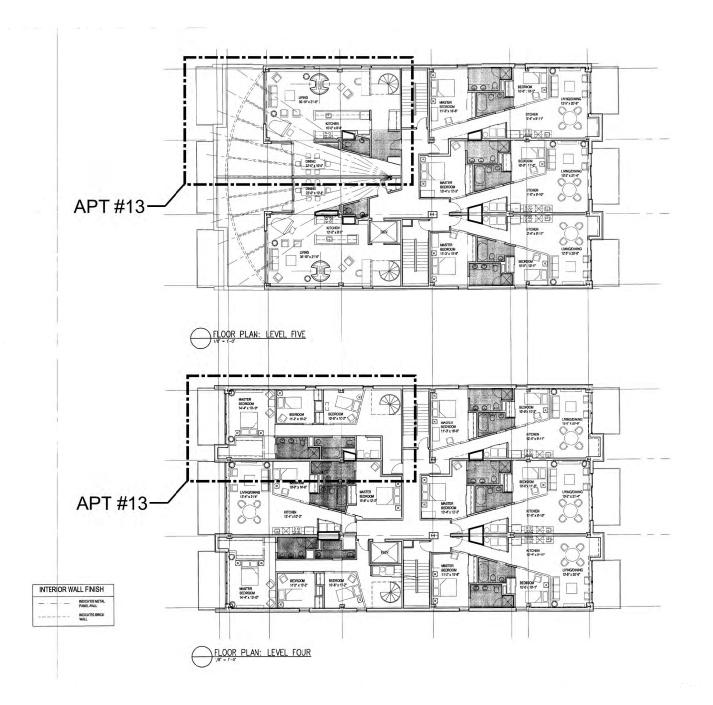
NOWAK &

FRAUS

Consulting Engineers Land Surveyors Land Planners

1310 N. Stephenson Highway Royal Oak, MI 48067-1508 Fax. (248) 399-087

N & F JOB #D'



NEUMANN SMITH & ASSOCIATES

> Architecture Planning Interior Design

400 Galleria Officentre Suite 555 Southfield, Michigan 48034

248-352-8310 Fax 248-352-1821 NS@neumannsmith.com

LOFT 322 320-322 E. Liberty St. Ann Arbor, Michigan



3-14-05 SPA revised per city comments

Date	Preliminary
10-08-04	Construction
Drawn	Record
mgd	
Checked	Do not scale
srb	Lise figured dimensions only
Approved	Copyright e 2005
Bidpak Number	_
-	
Job Number	
24093	
Title	7.0
Floor Plan	n:
Levels 4	3. 5

Apartment #13 Permit Submission Drawings

Permit Submission dated April 1st, 2021



ALL STEEL COLUMNS AND EXTERIOR INTELS SHALL BE SHOP COATED WITH RUST-INHIBITIVE PANT ON ALL SURPACES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE) UNLESS MADE OF CORROSION-RESISTANT STEEL. THE COLUMNS SHALL BE RESTRAINED AT THE BOTTOM TO PREVENT LATERAL DISPLACEMENT. STEEL COLUMNS SHALL BE OF SIZE NOTION ON DRAWING.

"GREEN BOARD" IS NOT ALLOWED AS A BACKER MATERIAL BEHIND TILED TUB AND SHOWER WALLS. ONLY CEMENT, FIBER-CEMENT, OR GLASS MAT GYPSUM BACKERS MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 702.412.ARE ALLOWED.

THE MAXMAIM LENGTH FOR A DRYER VEHT SHALL BE DETERMINED BY ONE OF THE METHODS SPECIFIED IN SECTION MISSIZE 4.1 DR MISSIZE 4.2 PHEN THE ENAUGH DUCK TO SCONGEALED WITHIN DIGHTED THE STATE OF THE STATE O

SMOOTHER EXHAUST DIDOTS EXCEEDING 35 IN LENGTH. A LABEL OR TAG IS NEQUINCLE DUC'S CONCALED ON THE STATE AND MASTICS USED TO SEAL SHEET METAL DUCTS MUST BE LISTED TO UL 181 B.

STEEL

DRYER VENTS

BACKER BEHIND TUB AND SHOWER WALLS

WALL FRAMING

DIMENSIONAL LUMBER

INTEROR:

WALL SHEATHING

EXTERIOR-BEARING AND NON-BEARING WALLS:

*8-1 1.8" PLATE HEIGHT OR LESS: 2X4 SPRUCE-PINE-FIR #2 KD OR BETTER *9-1 1.8" PLATE HEIGHT OR LESS: 2X4 SPRUCE-PINE-FIR #1 KD OR BETTER *16-1 1/8 PLATE HEIGHT OR LESS: 2X6 HEM-FIR #2 KD OR BETTER *18"-8" PLATE HEIGHT DR LESS: 2X8 DOUGLAS FIR LARCH #2 KD OR BETTER

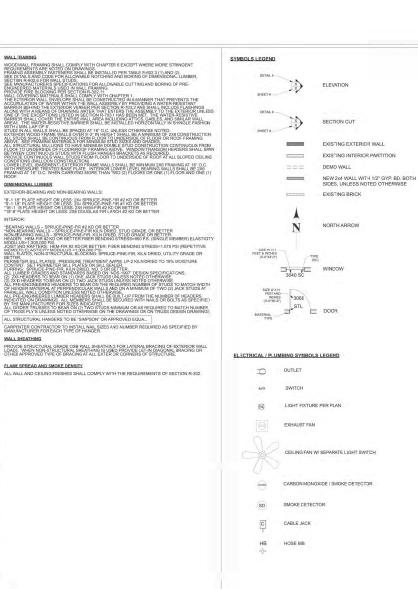
ALL STRUCTURAL HANGERS TO BE "SIMPSON" OR APPROVED EQUA ...

CARPENTER CONTRACTOR TO INSTALL NAIL SIZES AND NUMBER REQUIRED AS SPECIFIED BY MANUFACTURER FOR FACH TYPE OF HANGER.

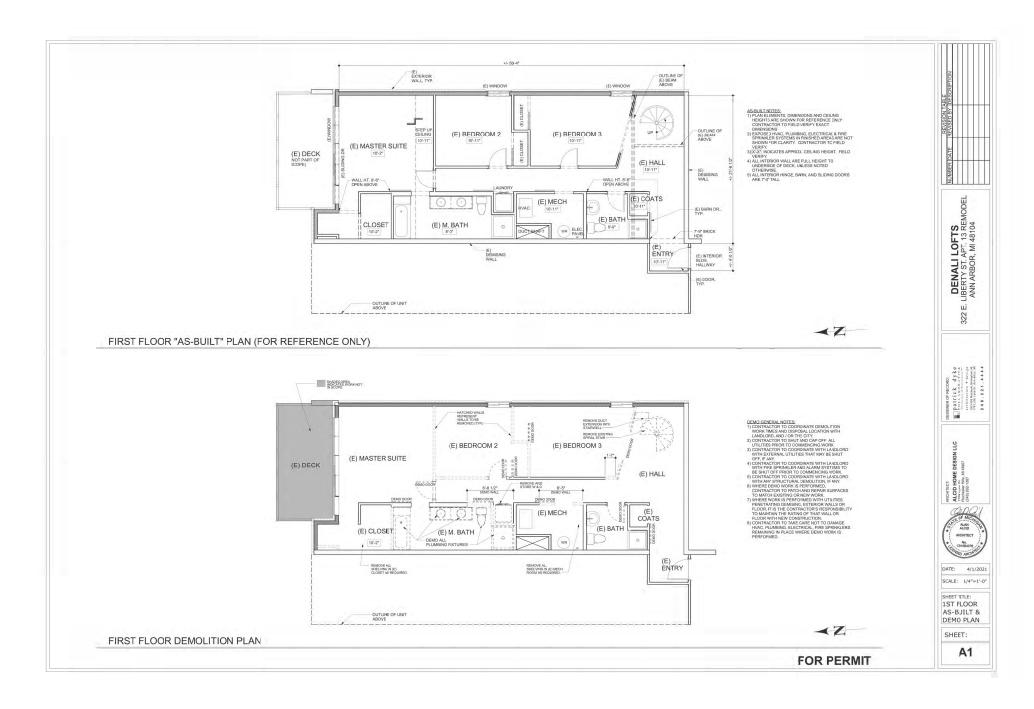
PROVIDE STRUCTURAL GRADE OSB WALL SHEATHING FOR LATERAL BRACING OF EXTERIOR WALL LOADS. WHEN NON-STRUCTURAL SHEATHING IS USED PROVIDE LET-IN DIAGONAL BRACING OR OTHER APPROVIDE TO PEO F BRACINGS AT ALL EXTERS DE CORNERS OF STRUCTURE.

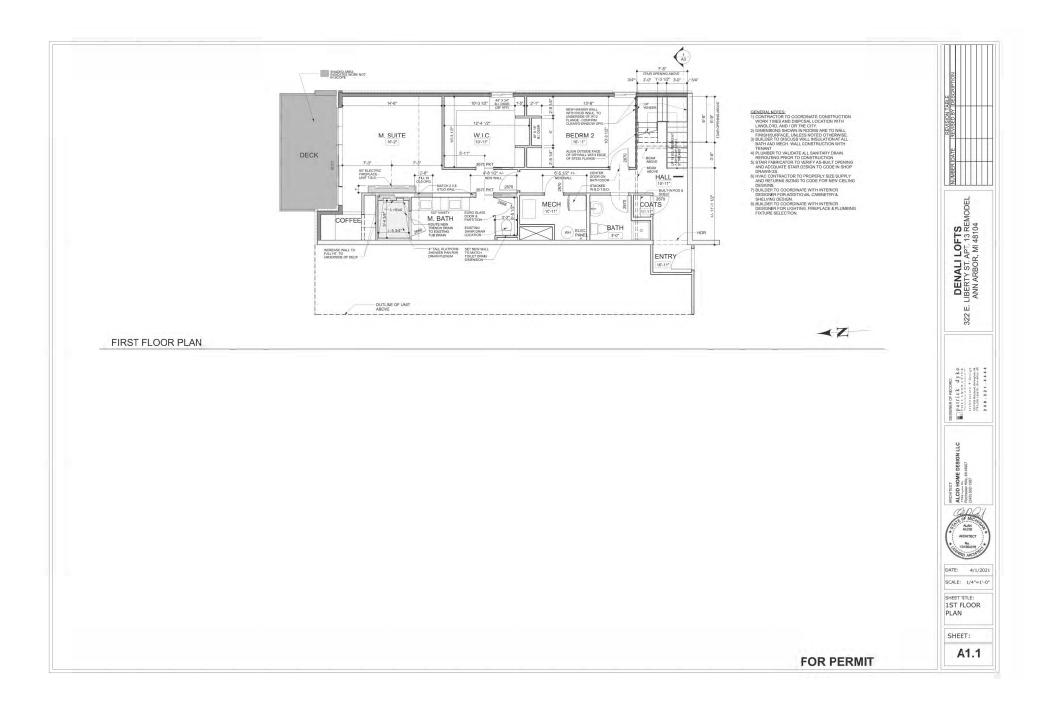
ALL WALL AND CEILING FINISHES SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION R-302.

WOODWALL FRAMING SHALL COMPLY WITH CHAPTER 6 EXCEPT WHERE MORE STRINGENT FRAMING SHALL COMPLY WITH CHAPTER 6 EXCEPT WHERE MORE STRINGENT FRAMING SHALL COMPLY SHA

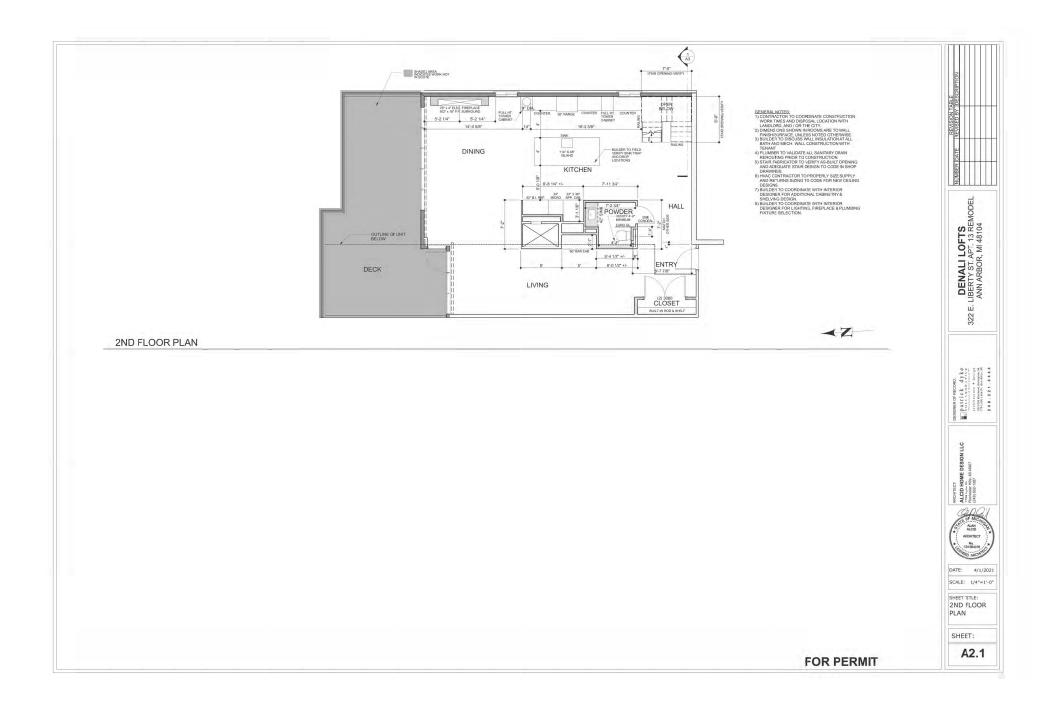


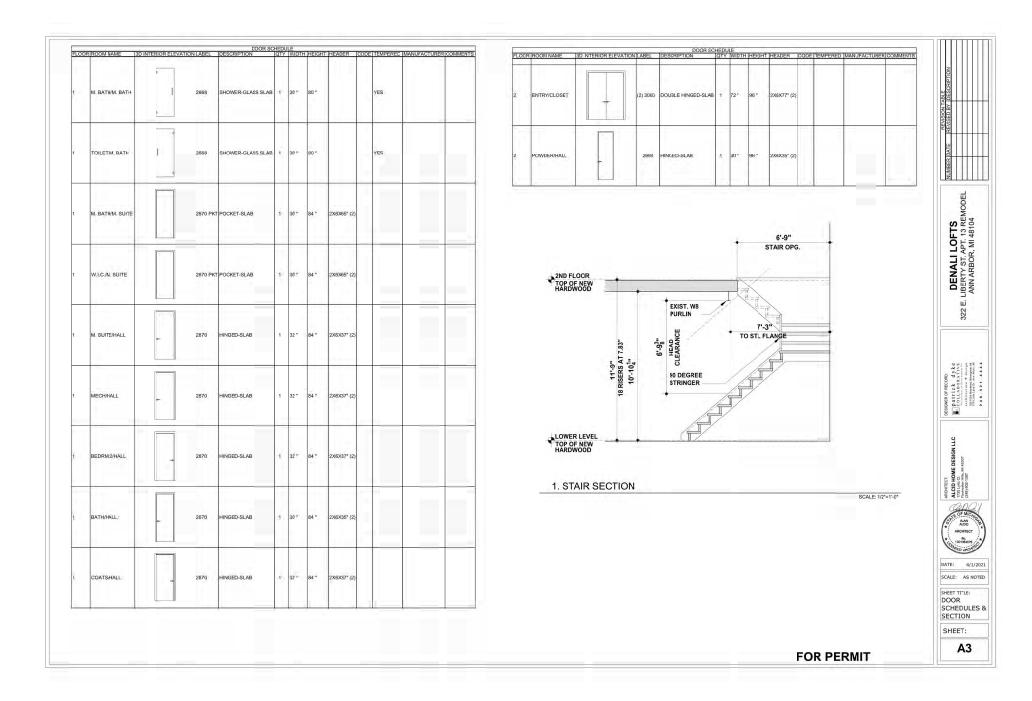




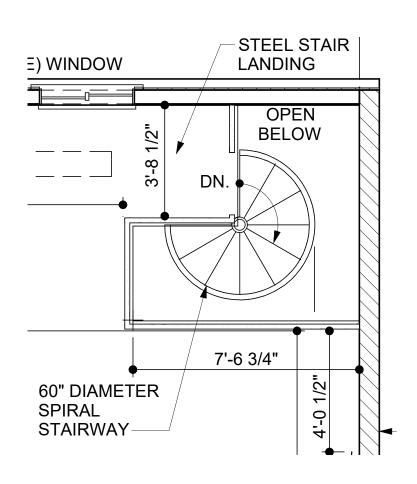


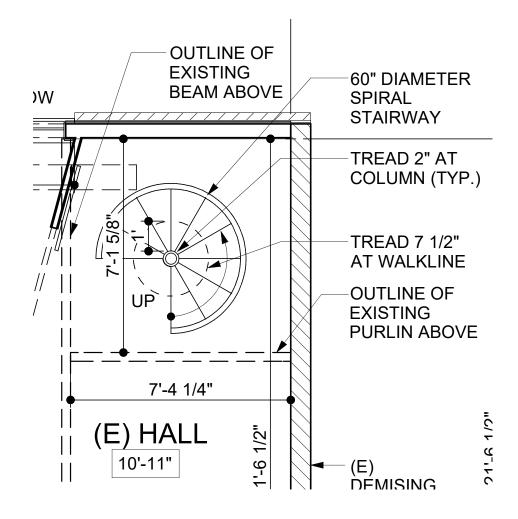






Documentation of prior Existing Stair
Photos, Measurements, and As-built 3D Model prepared by Alan Alcid



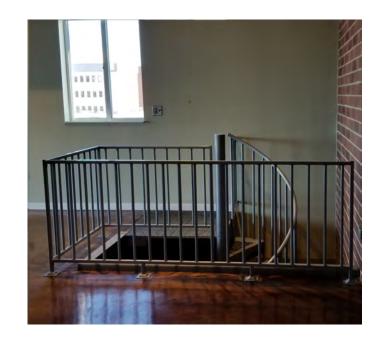


2ND FLOOR "AS-BUILT" STAIR

1/2" - 1'-0"

1ST FLOOR "AS-BUILT" STAIR

1/2" - 1'-0"



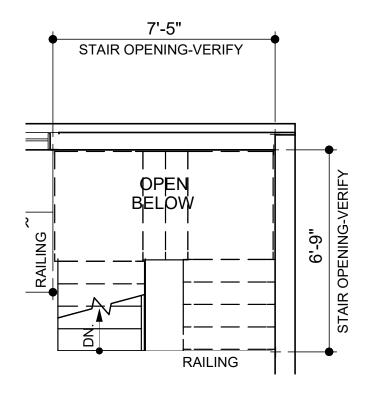
2ND FLOOR "AS-BUILT" PHOTO

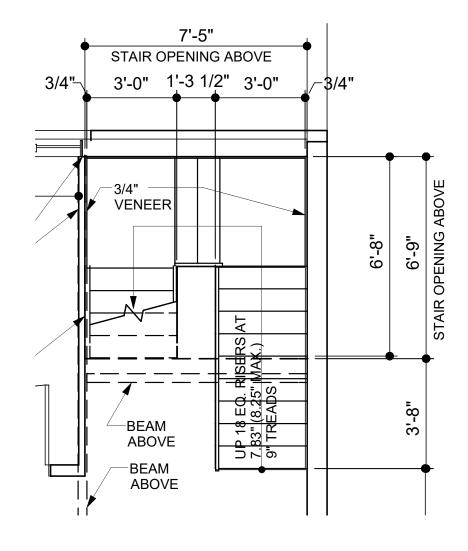


1ST FLOOR "AS-BUILT" PHOTO

April 1st, 2021 Permit Submission Stair

Design and Construction Drawings prepared by Patrick Dyke and Alan Alcid



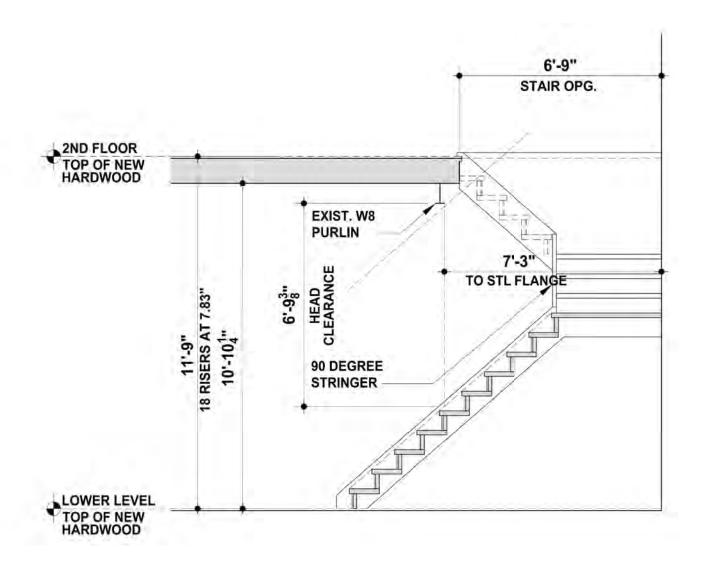


2ND FLOOR PERMIT STAIR

1/2" - 1'-0"

1ST FLOOR PERMIT STAIR

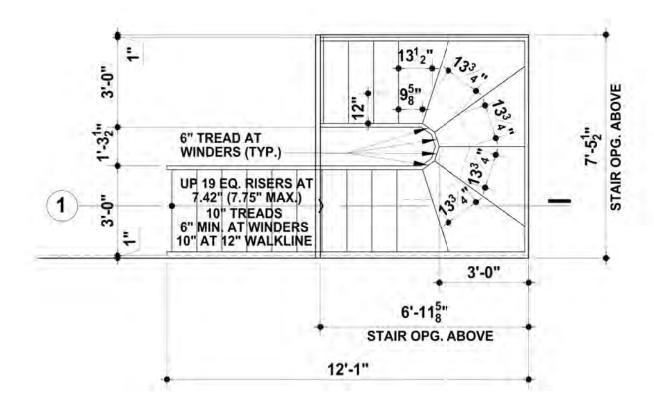
1/2" - 1'-0"



PERMIT STAIR SECTION

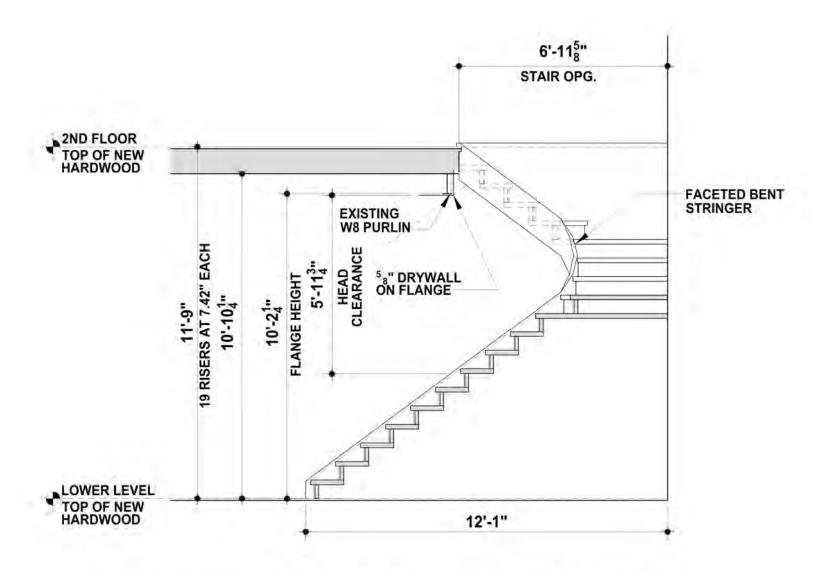
1/2" - 1'-0"

2015 MBC Code Compliant Stair
Code Compliant Stair with 5'-11 3/4" Head Clearance



1ST FLOOR 2015 MBC CODE COMPLIANT WINDER STAIR

1/2" - 1'-0"



SECTION 1 - 2015 MBC CODE COMPLIANT WINDER STAIR

1/2" - 1'-0"















SOILS & STRUCTURES

April 29, 2022

Superb Custom Homes PO Box 703450 Plymouth, MI 48170

Attention:

Mr. Richard Kligman

Regarding:

Stair Opening

322 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor

Dear Mr. Kligman:

Soils & Structures, Inc. was asked to review the proposed stairs located at the above-mentioned address.

The proposed stairs are to replace an existing spiral stair case using the existing opening in the floor. The floor consists of 8" precast concrete plank with 2" of composite topping. The precast plank is supported by a steel beam on the West side of the opening and that steel beam is supported by another steel beam on the North side of the opening. Both steel beams extend to the edge of the existing opening. The East side of the opening is the exterior wall of the building and the South side is a demising wall with another residence.

It is not recommended to enlarge the existing opening. The opening cannot be enlarged to the North, East or South. To enlarge the opening to the West the steel beam will need to be relocated, which means the beams support in the demising wall will need to be relocated. The 4000 pounds of loading will have to be supported down to the foundation, three floors below.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office. We are pleased to have been of service to you.

Sincerely, Soils & Structures, Inc.

Jason B. Bissonette P.E, S.E. Ann Arbor Office Manager

Can B Brisonette

JBB/jb

At the onset of this project, the owner was concerned about the safety factor of using the prior "As-built" Spiral Stair on a daily basis. He was concerned about the overall diameter and the extremely shallow treads, and the subsequent risk for slipping that it created for him and his guests. The diameter was VERY narrow (60" total with only 24 /12" from the inside of the pole) and only 2" tread depth at the inward support column.

There were challenges to modifying the stair opening because of the structure, the existing opening size and shape, the structural steel locations, and the fact the original approved stair (only dating back to 2004) didn't meet any code language that we are aware of at that time.

A Winder stair was the most condensed version of the stairway that could satisfy the 2015 MBC; however, the opening is too small to achieve the code compliant head clearance (See Page 18 of the drawing package). The only way to design it to comply would be to increase the opening size.

Given the fact that the existing opening was created with Precast Concrete Plank bearing on a steel frame (see the attached Structural Engineers Assessment), the unit was 4 stories above grade, the modifications would require heavy equipment in conjunction with access to other resident's units and the common spaces (which was not permissible); it was determined that it was not a "feasible" option to rebuild the stair to 2015 MBC Compliance.

After conversation with the city regarding the above concerns with the stair, we submitted a stair design that we thought would qualify the under Article 410.6 (Alterations to Elements) of the 2015 MRCEB (Michigan Rehab Code for Existing Buildings) as an attempt to improve upon certain "infeasible elements" of the design that we might be challenged by in their existing condition. The Rehab Code was also listed as an applicable code on the Permit Submission, so it made sense.

Our focus on Section 410.6 Alterations was as follows:

A building, facility, or element that is altered shall comply with the applicable provisions in chapter 11 of the Michigan building code and ICC/A117.1 listed in chapter 16, unless technically infeasible. When compliance with this section is technically infeasible, then the alteration shall provide access to the maximum extent technically feasible.

Exceptions:

- 1) The altered element or space is not required to be on an accessible route, unless required by section 410.7 of the code.
- 2) Accessible means of egress required by the chapter 10 of the Michigan building code are not required to be provided in existing buildings and facilities.

Given the additional facts below, we felt it was feasible to have the stair submitted with the Permit Set qualify as an "exception" to the 2015 MBC Coe compliance under Article 410.6 of the 2015 MRCEB.

- 1.) Apartment #13 will be used as a Single-Family Residence and is privately owned.
- 2.) Each floor of the 2-story unit has an Egress Door to a fire Rated Corridor and Egress Stairs.
- 3.) Each floor of the 2-story unit has a complete Fire Suppression System.
- 4.) The internal stair is not used as a "Means of Egress".

The stair that was designed, submitted, and approved for Permit was the most efficient stairway shape possible for that opening without winders or a spiral configuration (owner requested). The riser and run for

qualified under the 2015 Michigan Residential Code (the risers are within ~1/16" +/- of 2015 MBC compliance) and given it would be owned and operated as a single-family residence, it made sense.

Upon payment for, and receipt of, the approved building permit, we removed the pre-existing spiral stair system so that we could saw cut the spancrete to the edge of the flanking structural steel (in order to accommodate the approved stair design). We were subsequently advised that once these stairs were removed, we were unable to reinstall the same non-conforming stairs system. The current stair system is a clear improvement on the health, safety, and welfare over the pre-existing spiral stair; and conforms in any and all residential living applications.

The owner felt, that if the stair drawn for Permit Submission were to be rejected by the city at the time of Plan Review, he would keep the existing Spiral Stair ("As-built") intact and renovate it within the full compliance potential of the City of Ann Arbor.

For all these reasons above, we hope you will understand the logic and unfolding of the design development, and the sequence of events that lead to the construction of the stair. We ask that, considering all of the information above, you approve the stair as it has been built to date.



Review Report

322 E. Liberty St. (Unit 13) – Stairs Ann Arbor, MI

This review is conducted based upon a cited inspection report for noncompliance in the construction of a staircase within a dwelling unit at the above reference location. This review is limited in scope to the issues concerning the replacement of the spiral staircase.

Building Notes:

R-2 Occupancy, Multi-family dwelling. (see 4/25/22 Notes/Dempsey) 4th and 5th floor renovation Unit 13

Permit Information page indicates the project is:

Subtype: Comm Add/Alt.

This suggest this is an alteration of a commercial building. Not sure what is defined as a commercial building.

Short Description: Interior remodel – kitchen, bathroom, staircase

Status: Issued

Inspection Report

10/25/2021 Inspection Report, cites the Michigan Building Code and references Section 1011.5.2 for riser height and tread depth.

"Stairway is going to be redesigned by DP to meet minimum code requirements 1011.5.2 Riser height and tread depth" (Inspector Worthington James)

In an email dated April 25, 2022, Building Official Glen Dempsey notes "the rise and run of the code requirements for an R-2, multi-family building (2015 MBC) weren't realized in the code review and the permit was issued on 4/30/21."

He further states, "During the construction and in the rough inspections on 10/19/21, 10/25/21 and 11/26/21 it was identified that the staircase did not meet the code requirements . . ."

Construction Information

The construction documents show a replacement stair configuration for the existing spiral stairs. This details for the stair configuration include a riser of 7.83" (8.25" MAX) and 9" Tread.

Information provided by the owner indicated the existing spiral stairway posed a safety concern as the stairway's . . . "overall diameter and the extremely shallow treads and the subsequent risk for slipping that it created for him and his guest. The diameter was VERY narrow (60" total with only 24 ½" from the inside of the pole and only 2" tread depth at the inward support column."

Code Requirements

Section 1011.5.2 Exception 3 of the Michigan Building Code states:

"In Group R-3 occupancies; within dwelling units in Group R-2 occupancies; and in Group U occupancies that are accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy or accessory to individual dwelling units in Group R-2 occupancies; the maximum riser height shall be 7 3/4 inches (197 mm); the minimum tread depth shall be 10 inches (254 mm); the minimum winder tread depth at the walkline shall be 10 inches (254 mm); and the minimum winder tread depth shall be 6 inches (152 mm). A nosing projection not less than 3/4 inch (19.1 mm) but not more than 11/4 inches (32 mm) shall be provided on stairways with solid risers where the tread depth is less than 11 inches (279 mm)." [emphasis mine]

Exception 4 discusses replacement stair referring to the Existing Buildings Code (Michigan Rehabilitation Code)

"See Section 403.1 of the International Existing Building Code for the replacement of existing stairways."

Section 403.1 provides:

"Except as provided by Section 401.2 or this section, alterations to any building or structure shall comply with the requirements of the International Building Code for new construction. Alterations shall be such that the existing building or structure is no less conforming to the provisions of the International Building Code than the existing building or structure was prior to the alteration.

Exceptions:

An existing stairway shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 1011 of the International Building Code where the existing space and construction does not allow a reduction in pitch or slope.

Handrails otherwise required to comply with Section 1011.11 of the International Building Code) shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 1014.6 of the International Building Code regarding full extension of the handrails where such extensions would be hazardous due to plan configuration." [emphasis mine]

Replacing the spiral staircase with the stair configuration constructed to replace the spiral staircase may qualify under this exemption.

While the stair configuration does not meet the requirements of the Michigan Building Code for a R-2 occupancy, the replacement staircase may meet the intent of the code as it would "no less conforming to the provisions of the International Building Code than the existing building or structure was prior to the alteration."

Using the Michigan Residential Code, Section R311.7.5 provides:

"R311.7.5 Stair Treads and Risers

Stair treads and risers shall meet the requirements of this section. For the purposes of this section, dimensions and dimensioned surfaces shall be exclusive of carpets, rugs or runners.

R311.7.5.1 Riser Height

The maximum riser height shall be 8 1/4 inches (210 mm). The riser shall be measured vertically between leading edges of the adjacent treads. The greatest riser height within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm).

R311.7.5.2 Tread Depth

The minimum tread depth shall be 9 inches (229 mm). The tread depth shall be measured horizontally between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads and at a right angle to the tread's leading edge. The greatest tread depth within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm). Winder treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 10 inches (254 mm) measured as above at a point 12 inches (305 mm) from the side where the treads are narrower. Winder treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 6 inches (152 mm) at any point. Within any flight of stairs, the greatest winder tread depth at the 12-inch (305 mm) walk line shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm)."

Structural Analysis

A structural analysis conducted by Jason B. Bissonette, PE SE, Soils and Structures Inc. dated April 29, 2022 outlines the issues concerning enlarging the opening to accommodate a larger stair configuration. The analysis cites the difficulties increasing the floor opening to accommodate the rise and run of a stair configuration meeting the requirements of Section 1011.5.2.

The report concludes, "it is not recommended to enlarge the existing opening. The opening cannot be enlarged to the North, East, or South. To enlarge the opening to the West the steel beam would need to be relocated, which means the beams supports in the demising wall will need to be relocate. The 4000 pounds of loading will have to be supported down to the foundation, three floors below."

Conclusion

The stairway in question is internal to the dwelling unit and each floor of unit is served by an exit door leading to a corridor which provides access to an enclosed stairwell meeting the code. This would facilitate evacuation in an emergency.

The structural analysis indicates a conclusive case where structural modification would present considerable impediments and result in significant alterations in lower levels of the structure.

In comparison:

- A spiral stair shall have a 7 1/2 inch (191 mm) minimum clear tread depth at a point 12 inches (305 mm) from the narrow edge. The risers shall be sufficient to provide a headroom of 78 inches (1981 mm) minimum, but riser height shall not be more than 9 1/2 inches. The minimum width is at and below the handrail shall be 26 inches
- The reconfigured stair provides a tread depth of 9 inches for the full width of the stair and a riser height of 7.33 inches. The minimum width of the reconstruction stair is 36 inches

	Tread	Riser	Width
Spiral	7 ½" at 12" from narrow edge	9 1/2	26"
Reconfigured Stair	9"	7.83"	36"

It is reasonable to conclude, the replacement stair configuration improves the condition over the existing circular stairway and offers a greater level of safety for the occupants than the existing spiral staircase and would qualify under the provisions of 1011.5.2

Amended 050422



Henry L. Green

The National Institute of Building Sciences appointed Henry L. Green as President and CEO in August 2008, retiring after over 10 years' service in 2019. Prior to this appointment Henry served as Executive Director of the Bureau of Construction Codes in the Michigan Department of Labor for more than 19 years.

Henry was a founding member of the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors completing a term as President in 2006. He served as a member of the National Institute of Building Sciences Board of Directors for 8 years, completing a term as Chairman in 2003. Henry was a member of the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA) Board of Directors for ten years, holding the position of President in 1997.

In 2005, Henry was recognized by the United States House of Representatives for his work as "...a tireless advocate for building safety and enforcement of codes."

The Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFFA) named Henry "Man of the Year" for his contributions to life safety as Chairman of the BOCA Ad Hoc Committee for Fire Protection. AFFA acknowledged, "...under his fine leadership, the committee developed numerous code changes to the BOCA National Building and Fire Prevention Codes ... and significantly improved life safety in both new and existing construction."

Henry received the "Distinguished Service to Government" award from the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan and was awarded the Walker S. Lee Award in recognition of outstanding service to BOCA International.

Henry was named an Honorary Architect by the American Institute of Architects in 2008 for his role as "... as a skillful consensus builder in the building codes and standards arena as a perpetual advocate for bringing architects into leadership roles."

In 2010, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors presented Henry with the "Building Safety Community Partnership Award in recognition of his exemplary contributions to the advancement of building safety in Fairfax County.

In 2010, Henry was also was honored by the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition with the Leadership Towards High-Performance Award in recognition for his personal and organizational leadership toward widespread realization of high-performance buildings.

Henry received the ICC Bobby J. Fowler Award in October 2013, which is presented to an

individual whose contributions to the building safety industry advance the Code Council's goals to achieve a safer built environment.

American Society of Civil Engineers awarded Henry the ILC Member Appreciation Award in 2018 for dedicated and continuous support of the ASCE Industry Leaders Council.

In 2019, BOMA International awarded Henry with the Distinguished Service Award for his insight, support and guidance elevating BOMA International building code advocacy efforts for the improvement of the existing building stock and overall built environment through his efforts managing issues that affect the commercial real estate industry.

Prior to Retirement, Henry was awarded the National Institute of Building Sciences Mortimer M. Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication and service to the building industry and the Institute.

In 2020, Henry served as the lead author and chief content editor for the 5th Edition of *Building Department Administration*, published by the International Code Council.

Henry served on the ASCE Blue Ribbon Panel in 2021 for the development of the Objective Resilience Manuals, A series of Reports presenting facts and conclusions for Engineering practices used to achieve resilience in the built environment.

Henry is a published author, and has been a keynote speaker at numerous meetings and conventions. He has led a number of panel discussions of distinguished leaders in the building industry. His work has included numerous presentations before the United States Congress, in committee meetings and briefings.

In 2019, Henry started HLGreenllc as a consultant to the building industry.

