

# Planning Commission Staff Report

Date:

May 11, 2011

Case No.:

5.0666 PDD 231 - AMND

Application Type:

Final Planned Development Amendment

Location:

1000 North Gene Autry Trail - Planning Areas A & B

Applicant:

Alta Verde Escena LLC

Zone:

PDD 231

General Plan:

L-6 - Low Density Residential

APNs:

677-270-006, 013 & 033

From:

Craig A. Ewing, AICP, Director of Planning Services

Project Planner:

Edward O Robertson, Principal Planner

# **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The application is a request by Alta Verde Escena, LLC, for the approval of an amendment to a previously approved Final Planned Development District plans for PDD 231. The amendment is proposing twelve (12) new single-family homes consisting of four different product types in Planning Areas 9A and 9B. The subject site is located along the southeast corner of Vista Chino and Gene Autry Trail within the Escena Development. This amendment involves only two Planning Areas of the residential component of the approximately 373-acre site development.

Section 94.03.00(G) allows the Planning Commission to modify Final Development Plans of Planned Developments. The Commission may approve minor architectural or site changes that do not affect the intent of the PD. In this case, staff believes that the intent of the Planned Development was to establish a mix single-family residential units and adequate open space within the subdivision with variations to architectural designs and to certain development standards.

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Planning Commission approve the proposed amendment to the Final Development Plans of Planned Development District 231, Case No. 5.0666, subject to all other Conditions of Approval.

### **PRIOR ACTIONS**

The Palm Springs Classic, a mixed-use resort project was originally approved by the City in 1994. In June of 2003, a revised project was approved (Case 5.0666, PD-231) adding approximately 90.7 acres for current and future golfing activities within the Whitewater River Wash.

On July 16, 2003, the City Council adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project, and approved Case No. 5.066-B, Planned Development District 231, and TTM 32233

On March 6, 2006, the Architectural Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed final development plans for Planning Areas 9A & 9B, and found the plans to be in substantial conformance with all applicable development standards of the preliminary Planned Development.

On April 6, 2006, the Planning Commission approved the Final Development Plans for Planning Areas 9A and 9B as recommended by the AAC.

On April 11, 2011, the AAC reviewed the architectural designs for the proposed amendment and by a vote of 7-0 recommended approval to the Planning Commission with the following comments:

- Review landscape plant selection; make sure they are sustainable plants
- Consider wood sidings species that are durable in the desert; Cedar or the Redwood
- Side yard fences to be consistent with previously approved block wall fencing
- Applicant to address potential sun problems on the side elevations
- Consider the wood options; explore other materials in place of the wood

## **BACKGROUND AND SETTING**

The Palm Springs Classic, a Mixed-use resort project consisting of 450-room hotel, 1,450 residential units and an 18-hole golf course was originally approved by the City in 1994. In June of 2003, a revised project was approved (Case No. 5.0666-PD 231) adding approximately 90.7 acres for current and future golfing activities within the Whitewater River Wash. Currently, the development has different owners for different Planning Areas in the subdivision and is now known as Escena. As of today, the golf course, the Club House, circulation system and approximately 64 single-family units have been constructed at the development site.

Table 1 Development Standards:

Development	Approved Standards PD-231	Final Development Plan
<u>Standards</u>	t p	
Lot area	Minimum 2,500 SF	6,000 SF and over
Minimum Width	No Minimum	65 feet
Minimum Depth	No Minimum	110 feet
Front Yard	15" from any front property line	15 feet to 17 feet
Side Yard	5 feet minimum for each side	Average of 8 feet on each side
Side Abutting Street	5 feet	5 feet
Rear Yard	15 feet	15 feet
Bldg. Height	32 feet maximum	12.6 feet
Lot Coverage	45%	38%

## **ANALYSIS**

Amendment to the Planned Development District:

The applicant, Alta Verde Escena, LLC, has just acquired two planning areas within the residential portion of the Escena subdivision and is seeking approval for an amendment to a previously approved Final Planned Development District plans for PDD 231 in Planning Areas 9A and 9B. The amendment is proposing twelve (12) new single-family homes consisting of four product types. The previously approved design and development standards contained in PDD 231 will remain in effect; the proposed amendment is not seeking any new deviations from the development standards. According to the applicant, the new designs will provide "sustainable living, open floor plans, and sleek interiors at affordable price points." The four new product types will include two and three bedroom homes and a three-bedroom with a detached guest house and options for swimming pools. The homes will range from approximately 2,500 to 3,200 square feet in size.

The overall architecture will be similar to that which was originally approved and no substantial changes to the landscaping are proposed as part of this amendment. The new product types will feature changes to the heights, footprints and elevations; the color schemes will be compatible with the approved ones in the design guidelines for the project. All proposed single-family residences feature two parking spaces in an attached garage and additional parking spaces in front of the garage, in accordance with established parking standards. The Architectural style designated in the Design Guidelines approved by the Planning Commission on July 13, 2006 for planning areas 9A and 9B is the Modern Series. The Modern series consist of the Modernistic, the Mid-Century Contemporary and the International styles.

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#### **REQUIRED FINDINGS**

Pursuant to Section 94.03.00(G) of the Zoning Code, the final development plan may be modified by submitting a request for such modification according to the same procedure as is required in the initial review and approval process, including public hearing by the Planning Commission and City Council in accordance with Section 94.02.00. However, minor architectural or site changes not affecting the intent of the PD may be approved by the Planning Commission. No council action is necessary for minor changes except appealed decisions. In order for the project to be approved by the Planning Commission, the following finding must be made in support of the minor change (MC 1):

1. The minor architectural or site changes do not affect the intent of the PD.

The use and density of the subject property remains the same and are not affected by the proposed changes. The architecture will be similar to that which was originally approved (Modern Series) and no changes to the landscaping are proposed as part of this amendment. Therefore, the minor architectural and site changes do not affect the intent of the PD.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

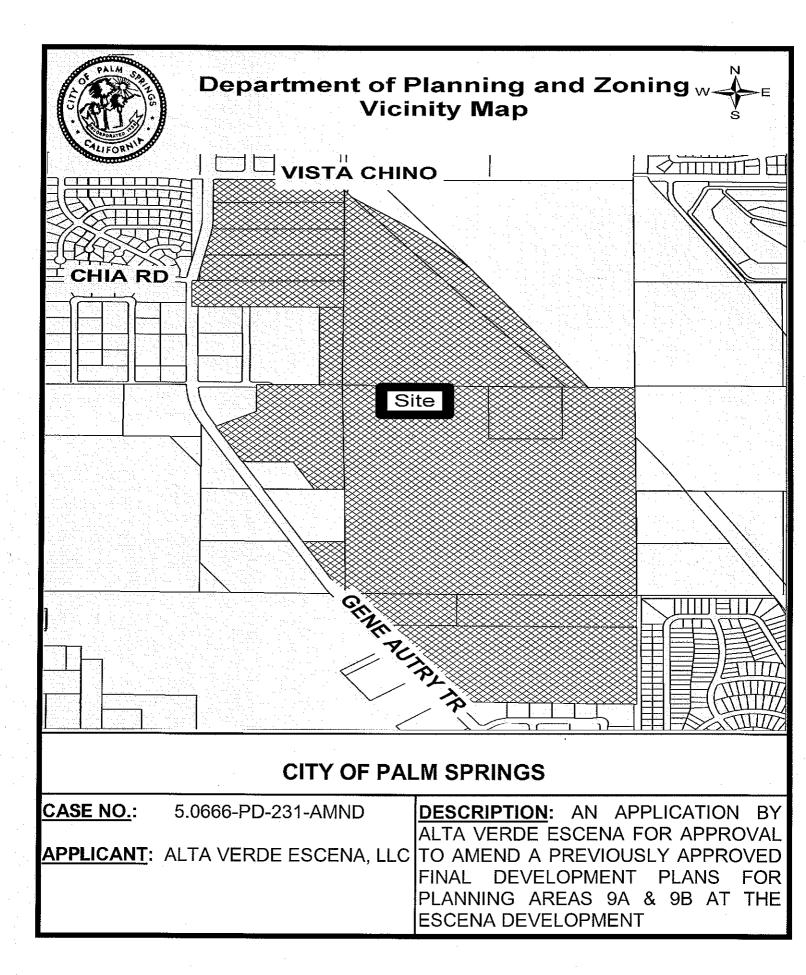
A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was previously adopted by the City Council on June 16, 2003 for the Escena Development. Pursuant to Section 15162 of the California Environmental Act (CEQA), the preparation of additional environmental documentation is not necessary because the proposed amendment will not change the circumstances related to the project. Furthermore, the amendment will not result in any new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Therefore, the proposed amendment could not result in any new environmental impacts beyond those already assessed in the previously adopted mitigated negative declaration.

Edward O Robertson Principal Planner

Craig A. Ewing, AIOP
Director of Planning Services

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Vicinity Map
- 2. Draft Resolution
- 3. Reduced copy of proposed site, elevations & landscape plans



#### RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING CASE NO. 5.0666-PDD 231-AMND, AN AMENDMENT TO A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FINAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR PLANNING AREAS 9A AND 9B WITHIN THE ESCENA DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF GENE AUTRY TRAIL AND VISTA CHINO DRIVE.

WHEREAS, In June, 2003, the Planning Commission approved Case No. 5.0666-Planned Development District 231 and recommended approval of the PDD and Tentative Tract Map 32233 to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2003, the City Council adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), and approved Planned Development District 231 and Tentative Tract Map 32233, for the Escena Development; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2006, the Planning Commission approved the Final Development Plans for Planning Areas 9A and 9B within the Escena Development; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 94.03.00(G) of the Zoning Code, the Planning Commission may approve minor architectural or site changes that do not affect the intent of the PD; and

WHEREAS, Alta Verde Escena, LLC, ("Applicant") has filed an application to amend the Final Development Plans of PD 231, Case No. 5.0666, involving modifications to the designs and architecture of twelve single-family residences located within Planning Areas 9A and 9B; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2011, a public meeting on Case No. 5.0666 PDD 231-AMND was held by the Planning Commission in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the proposed amendment has been determined to be a project subject to environmental analysis under CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has carefully reviewed and considered all of the evidence presented in connection with the hearing on the project, including, but not limited to, the staff report, and all written and oral testimony presented.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEREBY FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines,

a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was previously adopted by the City Council on June 16, 2003 for the Escena Development. Pursuant to Section 15162 of the California Environmental Act (CEQA), the preparation of additional environmental documentation is not necessary because the proposed amendment will not change the circumstances related to the project. Furthermore, the amendment will not result in any new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Therefore, the proposed amendment could not result in any new environmental impacts beyond those already assessed in the previously adopted mitigated negative declaration.

#### Section 2:

The use and density of the subject property remains the same and are not affected by the proposed changes. The architecture will be similar to that which was originally approved and no changes to the landscaping are proposed as part of this amendment. Therefore, the minor architectural and site changes will not affect the intent of the PD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, based upon the foregoing, the Planning Commission hereby approves Case No. 5.1024 PDD 306 – AMND, subject to all Conditions set forth in Exhibit A of City Council Resolution 21278.

ADOPTED this 11th day of May 2011.

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services

OVERALL SITE PLAN

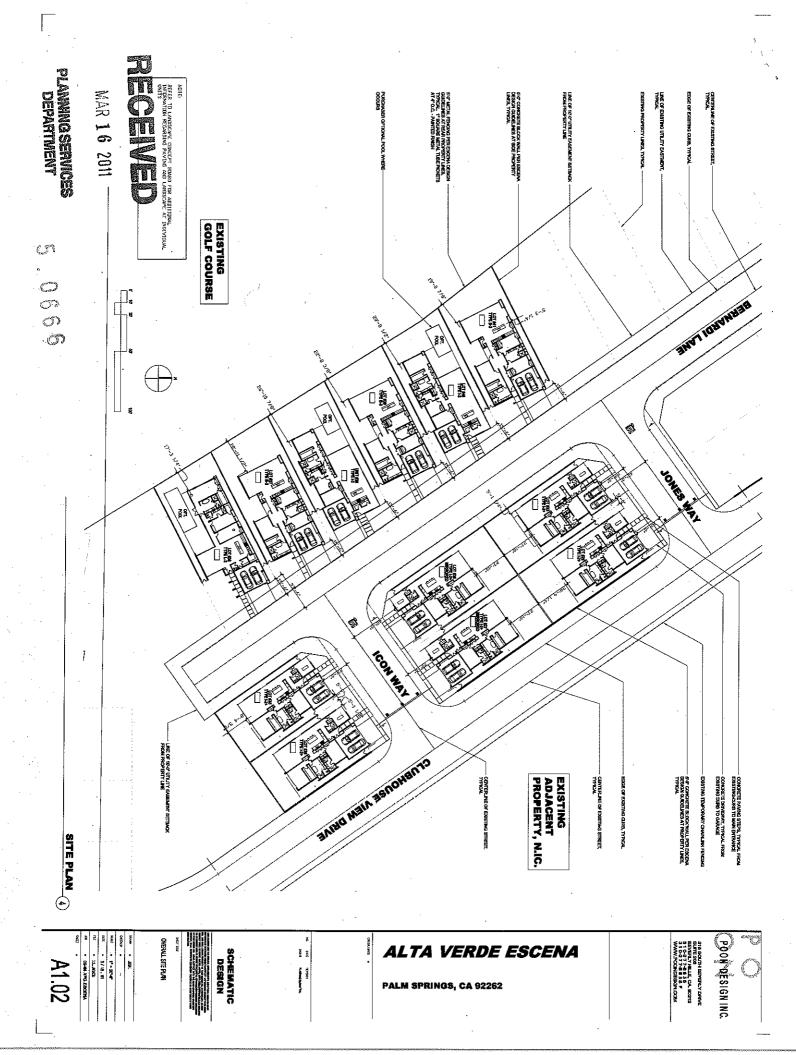
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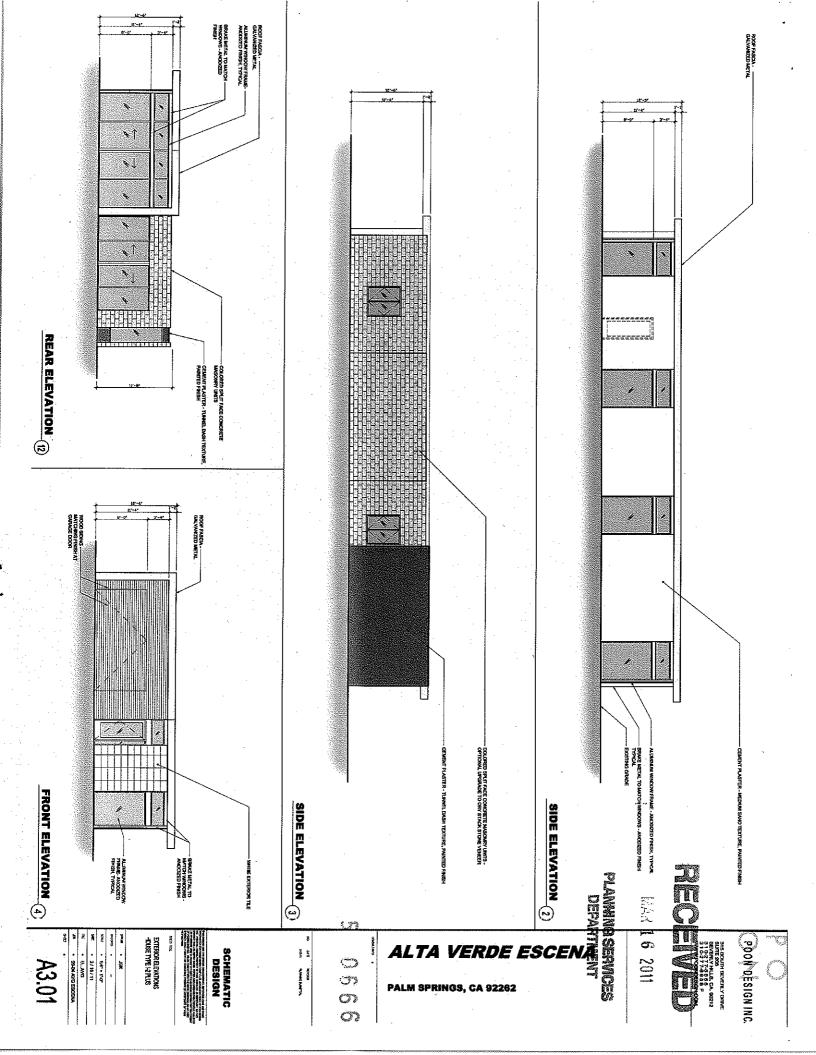
OVERALL SITE PLAN

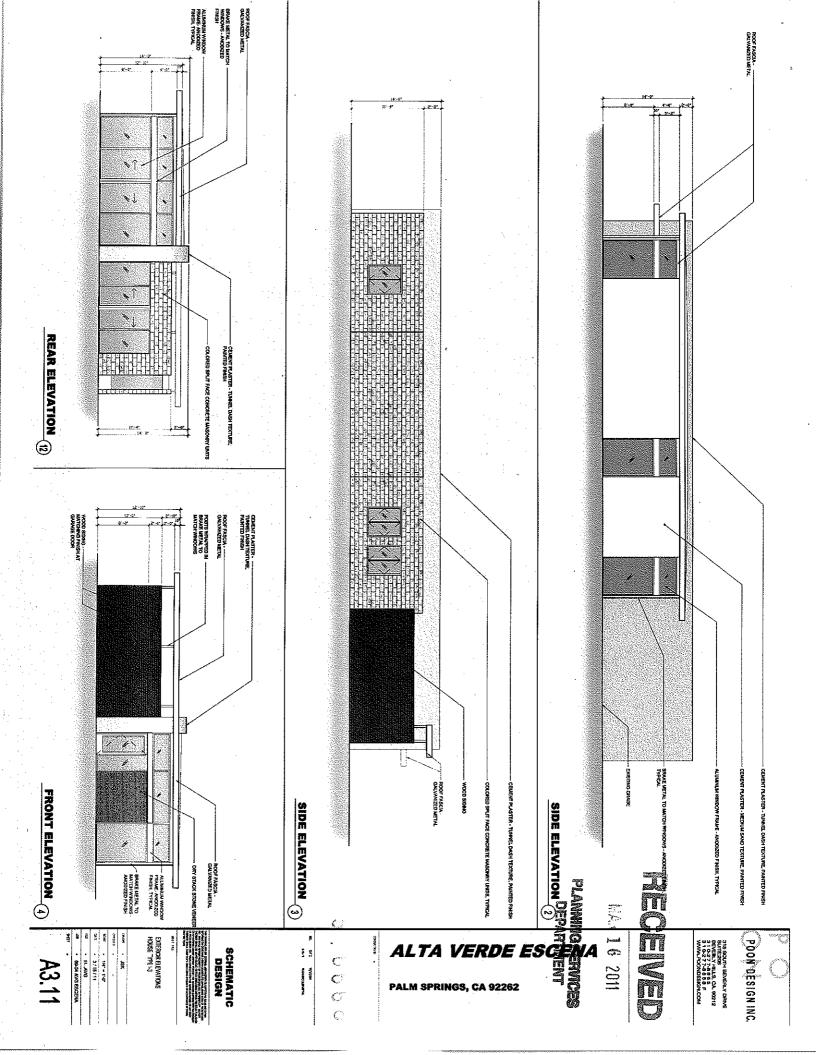
ALTA VERDE ESCENA

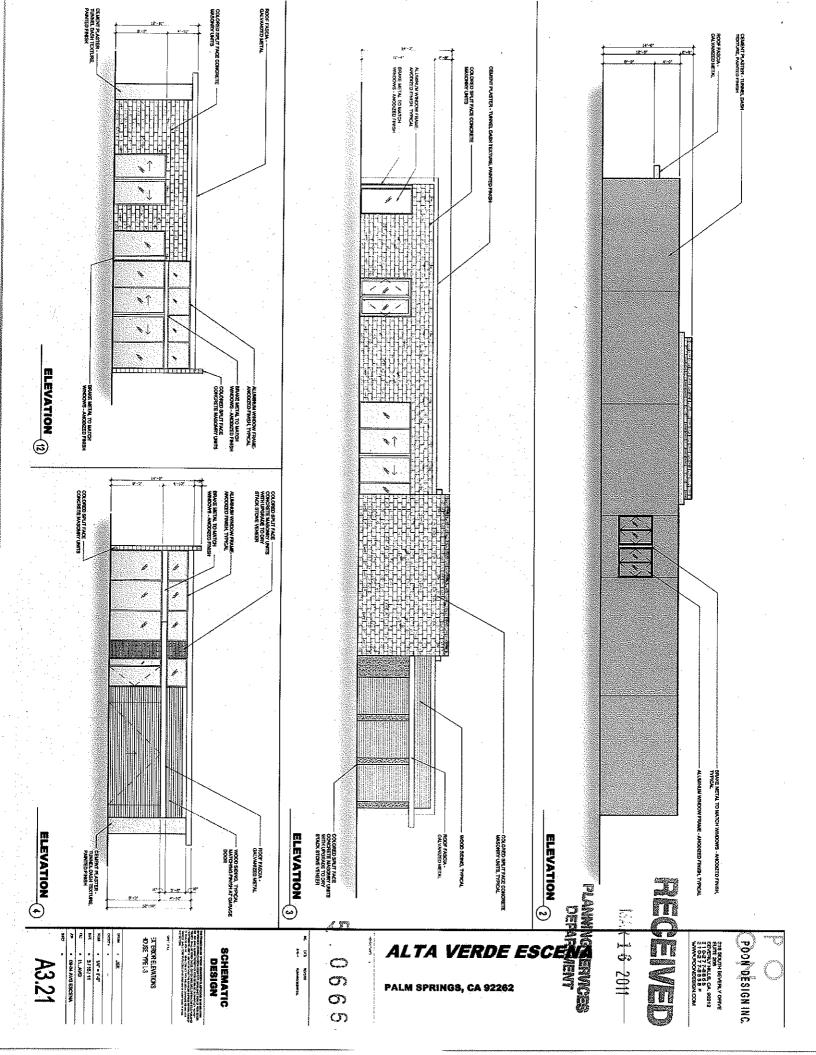
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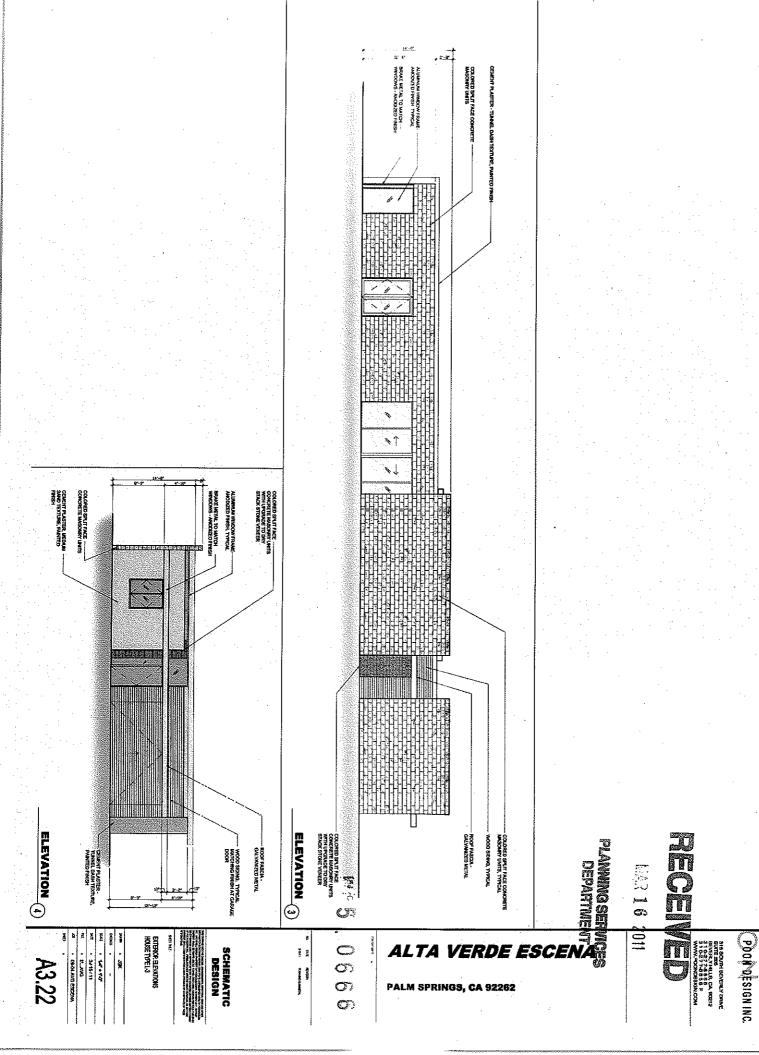
Poon DESIGNING

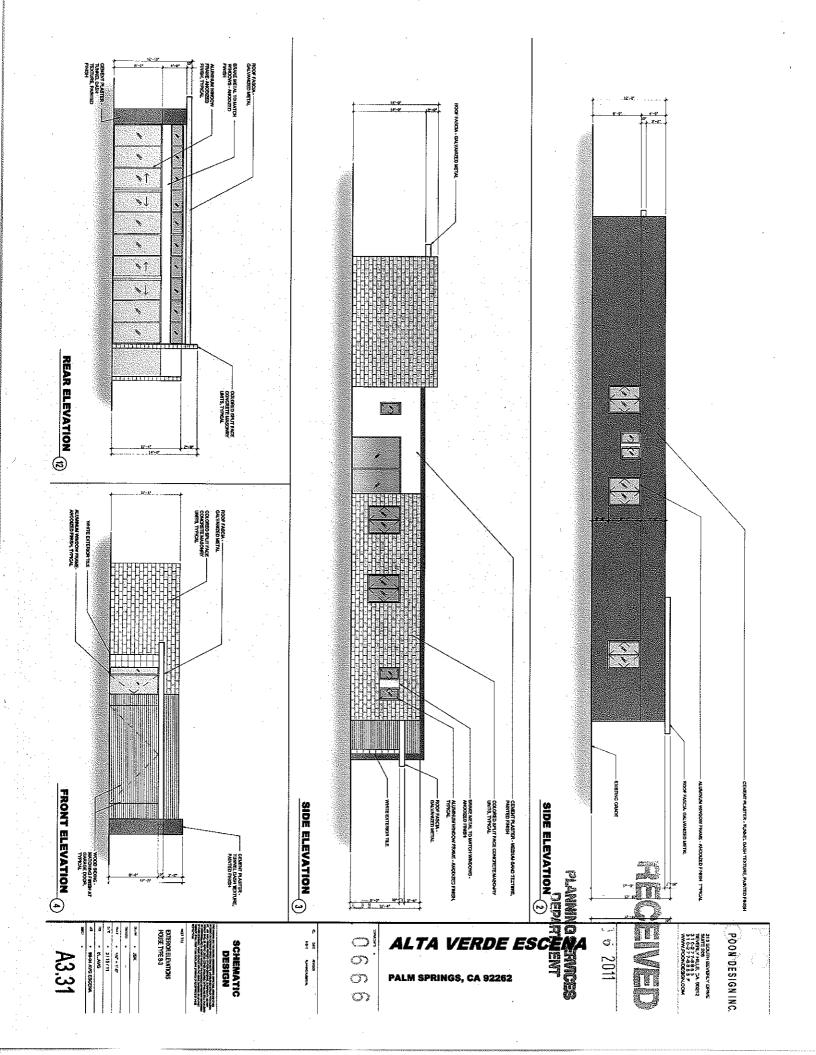


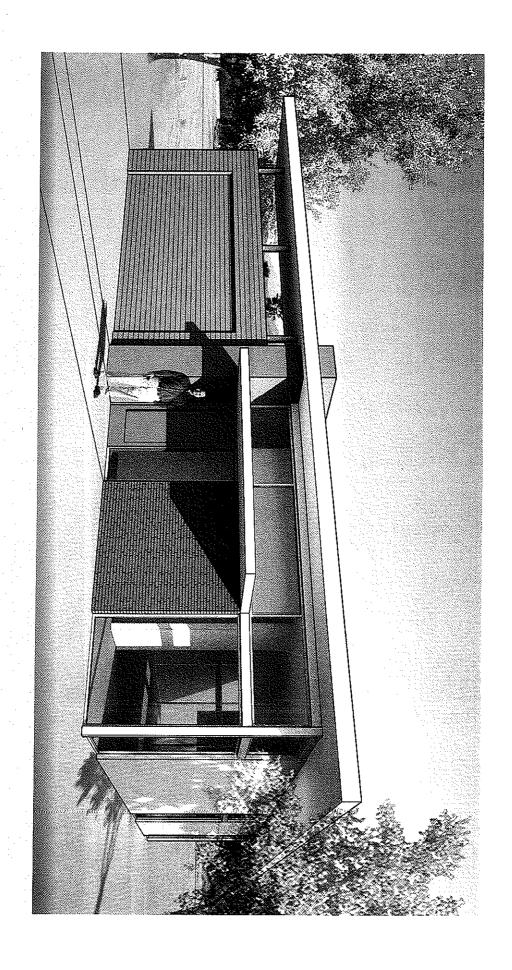












REAR VIEW: PROTOTYPE L-3
March 2011

STREET VIEW: PROTOTYPE L-3
March 2011

Bufficks or Blue Bye Grass

Swimming Peol, Optional

Colored Gravel

Scored Colored Concrete Stats

Native Sait

Colored Gravel

Colored Gravel

Colored Gravel

Colored Concrete Stats

Scored Colored Concrete Stats

Colored Concrete Stats

Colored Concrete Stats

Scored Colored Concrete Stats

Colored Concrete Stats

Landscake Package Option A

Package Package Option A

Notice Supplies The Package Option A

Package Package Package Option A

Package Package Package Option A

Package Packag

Prototypical Landscape Plan
1/8" = 1'-0"

ALTA

ARCHITECTURAL HOMES - PALM SPRINGS

Landsaape Concepts

Dry Stack Stone Veneer

Exterior Package Option B: "DESERT HOUSE"

Exterior Package Option A: "@

Exterior Package Option C: "R.M. HOUSE"

ALTA ESCENA

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Prototype L-3

Shiplap Wood Siding