

**From:** william hart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 4:49 PM  
**To:** Bill Robeson <[brobeson@arroyogrande.org](mailto:brobeson@arroyogrande.org)>  
**Subject:** 211 East Branch Street, City of Arroyo Grande

January 31,2022

To: Architectural Review Committee  
City of Arroyo Grande

Re: 211 East Branch Street  
Arroyo Grande, California

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Bill Hart am I am one of the persons who appealed this project to the Arroyo Grande City Council. I would like to add comment to the discussion on this project.

I would like to thank the applicants for revising their project and not destroying a very large portion of this historically qualified property. I am also pleased that the applicants are very interested in bringing creative art into the village.

That being said, I am very concerned that the new brick and steel modern structure being proposed does not meet in practice or spirit the Arroyo Grande Village Historic Design Overlay District guidelines.

I view the new structure as being not compatible with the adjoining front historical building in that the new modern design is not found in the village core or that the use of the metal building materials is also not found commonly in the neighborhood.

The architectural style for the overlay district is from the years 1870 to 1940 per design guidelines. I don't believe this new structure fits into this period.

On page 30 of the design guidelines, there are several places that indicates that this project does not meet Village standards. "New construction should include elements.....common to the district". Also, "By using similar materials or replicating these materials.... The existing (village) character will be reinforced..".

So the point here is that the new building does not fit into the character of the Village that we have been enjoying. This building is going to be here for a long time after we are all gone so this is the right time to correct the direction of design.

If the City is not vigilant about protecting and promoting the Village character then perhaps there no need for a design district at all.

Sincerely,

Bill Hart  
Arroyo Grande, Ca

Former Historic Resource Committee Chairman

Dear Members of the City Council and ARC,

I am a homeowner in the Village of Arroyo Grande. I have lived and worked in the Village for 33 years. What I love and appreciate most about the Village is the preservation of Arroyo Grande history and culture, both functionally and aesthetically.

I am writing to express my hope that the project at 211 E. Branch Street will be redesigned to meet the guidelines and standards for the historical downtown Arroyo Grande Village area. I am thrilled that the blue house will be preserved and excited for the concept of an art gallery and wine tasting, both of which fit perfectly with the culture and character of the Village.

However, I request that the proposed addition to be constructed behind the blue house be reimagined in such a way as to keep with the character of not only the blue house, but the Village as a whole. Most all buildings (including my home) in the Village were constructed in the late 1800's and early 1900's. An ultra-modern black metal building with an exterior staircase is not in any way compatible with the era or design of the blue house nor the Village in general.

I humbly request that you uphold the guidelines and standards of the Village as they are written. This new project does not fit and, in my opinion, will be an eyesore that we, as a community, will come to regret. Thank you for your consideration.

Health & happiness,

Ellen Gaver

[REDACTED] (cell/text)

Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

**From:** Karen Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 2:05 AM  
**To:** Bill Robeson <[brobeson@arroyogrande.org](mailto:brobeson@arroyogrande.org)>  
**Subject:** Keep Charming Village of Arroyo Grande!

To the Architectural Review Committee,

Let's keep our Village of Arroyo Grande as historic as possible to preserve its charm and uniqueness. It is what draws people to Arroyo Grande to visit resulting in increased revenue for the city and to live and raise their family here.

It is exciting to see new businesses desire to open in our village which the owners of 211 East Branch are doing. It is wonderful they want to preserve the 1904 home there but let's have them conform to our Victorian look in their new building design to maintain our village's charm with the Swinging Bridge, Brisco's old stone store, and the old Methodist Church.

Let's not make the same mistake we did a few years back allowing modern buildings at the entrance to our village to block our charming old Methodist Church destroying our entrance to our beloved village.

Your vote to keep our Arroyo Grande Village still charming by controlling new buildings that conforms to the old town look which is the desire of so many of our town people will be most appreciated. That is what drew me to Arroyo Grande to live over 50 years ago and why I am still residing here after raising my family.

Blessings,

Karen Talley Miller

From: Grant Talley [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 4:13 PM  
To: Bill Robeson <[brobeson@arroyogrande.org](mailto:brobeson@arroyogrande.org)>  
Subject: 211 Branch Street

Hi!

I'm just reaching out because I was made aware of the design of the addition for this property. It doesn't seem to go with the total flow of the village. I think the addition needs to go with the rest of the house (look similar). Rather than the brick and metal look.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this!

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

To the Architectural Resources Committee,

I am in favor of having an art gallery in old Arroyo, it will be a new type of business that everyone will appreciate. However, I question the type of building that will house the art gallery.

Please preserve the historic quality of old Arroyo. The new building should fit in with the other buildings on Branch Street. An ultra-modern building should be built somewhere else. And building a black building in the heart of Branch Street is just wrong.

Please consider that the uniqueness that draws people in, they walk around and shop. The hodge podge of the vintage buildings is charming, adding a dark modern building to that mix, would ruin that feeling. And may set a precedence for buildings of that style, to be built in old Arroyo. The modern look would dilute the visual streetscape of Arroyo Grande and contribute to the loss of the historic district.

I hope changes are made to the exterior of building. The black metal, weird windows and especially the stairs.

Thanks for listening, Kirk Lindamood