BZA Case #17322

The West End Guide

An Independent Monthly

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EDITORIALS

Recycling a Local Eyesore

As we report on Page 1, the Luzon project at 2501 Pennsylvania Avenue has been approved by the District's Historic Preservation Review Board. Hooray!

This important site, now occupied by the wreck of an ugly, mustard-colored building hung with fire escapes, has been vacant for more than ten years and has been an eyesore on the District's most important street for many years before that. Long before it was vacated in 1991, the Luzon had become a derelict building, with a liquor store in its tacky storefront that attracted vagrants with pints of liquor and cheap wine.

But as the photograph on Page 10 shows, the Luzon was once a handsome building that dominated the skyline in the West End.

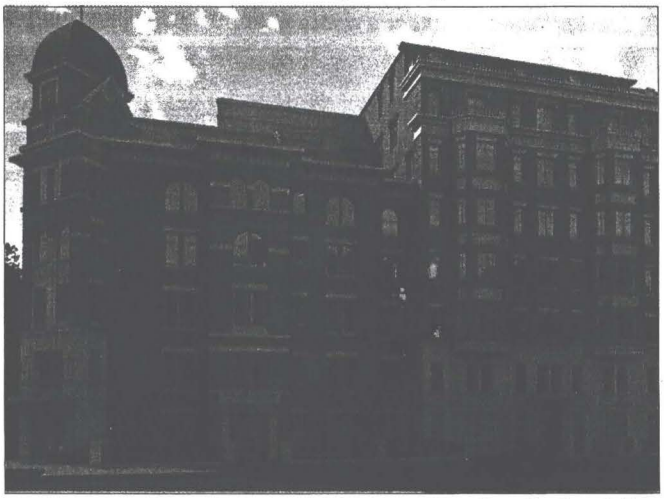
Only the shell of the historic 1896 Luzon will remain, but its façade will be restored, and its proud tower—which has been missing longer than any of us can remember—will be rebuilt as close as possible to the original.

We applaud Intrepid Realty for its plan to turn the Luzon site into high-end condominiums that will once again bring tax-paying residents to the corner of 25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

And we applaud Brennan Beer Gorman Architects and the HPRB for thrashing out an attractive design that showcases the historic Luzon rather than overpowering or obscuring it.

Pretty drawings are not the same as completed buildings, of course, and much still needs to be done to make the Luzon project a reality.

So far, however, the project is on an excellent track, and we look forward to its completion.



Brennan Beer Gorman Architects

Drawing of Luzon's 25th Street side with new construction at right.

At Your Service

We chose the name of the *Guide* carefully when we started this publication 30 months ago. (Gosh, have we really done 30 issues?)

On Page 11 we begin a new feature called "At Your Service" which will guide our readers to the best places in the neighborhood to get things done. We're looking at this challenge somewhat in the way that a good hotel concierge does. We want to report on the best providers of personal service in every field.

This month, it is shoe repair, and we're confident that we won't be steering our readers wrong in directing them to Corrective Shoe Repair.

Good help has always been hard to find, but as large corporations, chains and franchises continue to push craftsmen and small business out of the valuable commercial real estate in our area, it has become even more difficult to find people and places where service and craftsmanship shines.

We hope our readers will participate in recommending the stores, shops, and individuals in the area who do things right, all the time. Let us hear from you.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
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