

# Raumfabrik

architecture + interiors

2530 Tenth St. #7  
Berkeley, ca 94710  
(510) 225-4075  
www.raumfabrik.us

## **Design intent letter** **388 Stowell Ave., Sunnyvale CA 94085**

### **Architectural style - current and proposed**

The current architectural style of the neighborhood might be considered 'ranch' style circa mid-1950's, and is generally single level. 388 Stowell Ave., differs in that the roof pitch and attic volume is greater than what is typical in the neighborhood, allowing for additional living area on the second floor. This was achieved through a second story remodel in 1997 (199223225), which significantly modified the shape of the existing roof form and exterior materials.

Our intent is to tie disparate aspects of the various previous remodels together through use of vernacular material and simple shapes. Materials such as stucco and wood, both common throughout the neighborhood, will be used, replacing existing vinyl siding. A shed dormer is proposed to replace two gable dormers to increase the second floor living space without significantly adding to the bulk of the structure. The new shed dormer also simplifies the exterior visual balance of the facade.

The goal with this remodel is to combine a functional floor plan with an attractive, well-balanced exterior envelope that will fit and enhance the aesthetic quality of the neighborhood as a whole.

### **Architectural style of the neighborhood and its changing aesthetic**

Existing materiality of the homes in the neighborhood is as follows:

Roof: Asphalt shingles (varying colors), with membrane or metal roof on homes built more recently (2000 or newer)

Siding: Painted lap-siding or stucco, with some metal and horizontal wood siding on homes built more recently (2000 or newer)

Windows and doors: Articulated (multi-pane), double-hung, and sliding, and generally constructed of vinyl with some metal windows on homes built more recently (2000 or newer)

The predominant style of the neighborhood is 1950's era single-level ranch homes, many of which have been modified with second-story additions. Newer construction, including 375 and 395 Stowell Ave. , and 106 Chestnut Ave, are 70's-90's Spanish style

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two-story homes, not conforming to the ranch style geometry or aesthetic (see attached precedents). Construction completed more recently (2000 and later) tends to be more of a modern contemporary style, with shed roofs, clean lines, and simple, modern aesthetics (see 359 Stowell Ave., and 399 N Murphy Ave., as modern precedents). This change in size, height, and aesthetic seems to mark a trend away from the single-story gabled style of the 1950's ranch home, toward larger and taller homes with greater style and material variations (Spanish to modern).

## **Precedents supporting the style of the proposed addition (see images attachments)**

Shape and aesthetic:

- 359 Stowell - new construction - modern style with smooth texture finish stucco, unarticulated metal windows and garage door, modern glass and horizontal-slatted wood siding. Shed roof forms.
- 399 N Murphy Ave. - new construction - modern style with metal windows shed roof forms. Significant change in both volume and height and a large overall increase of area in comparison to the previous existing structure.
- 382 Stowell Ave. - renovation - similar in floor plan and shape to 388 Stowell., - modern style and material update - smooth texture finish stucco, unarticulated metal clad trimless windows and metal garage door, horizontal natural wood siding on the front facade.
- 334 N Bayview Ave - new construction (?) - modern style with two shed roofs facing each other and a tall entry element, stucco siding

Height and volume:

375 Stowell Ave - Two-story gabled roof - larger volume and greater height  
395 Stowell Ave - Two-story, Spanish style - larger volume and greater height  
106 Chestnut Ave - Ranch with two-story addition above garage, and stucco siding (across the street from property) - larger volume and greater height

The nature of the buildings at this end of Stowell avenue change significantly from those south of the property on Stowell Ave. Several of the taller, more newly constructed buildings are immediately adjacent to 388 Stowell Ave., such as those listed in the height category above. These vary greatly from the original single-story 1950's ranch aesthetic.

## **Summary Statement**

In summary, we feel that the proposed design will be a welcomed improvement to the existing home and comfortably fit within the fabric of the neighborhood. The owners, Julian and Margarita Chocholak, who bought the house from Julian's brother, have been living at 388 Stowell for several years with their young daughter. In preparation for this remodel they have reached out to their immediate neighbors, whose letters of support are attached. Assuming the proposed project is approved by Planning, this will be their long term family home.

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## Image attachments:

- **359 Stowell Ave.** - new construction - modern style with smooth texture finish stucco, unarticulated metal windows and garage door, modern glass and horizontal-slatted wood siding. Shed roof forms.



- **399 N Murphy Ave.** - New construction - modern style with metal windows shed roof forms. Significant change in both volume and height and a large overall increase of area in comparison to the previous existing structure.



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**382 Stowell Ave.** - renovation - similar in floor plan and shape to 388 Stowell - modern style and material update - smooth texture finish stucco, unarticulated metal clad trimless windows and metal garage door, horizontal natural wood siding on the front facade.



**375 Stowell Ave** - Two-story gabled roof - larger volume and greater height





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- **395 Stowell Ave** - Two-story, Spanish style - larger volume and greater height



- **106 Chestnut Ave** - Ranch with two-story addition above garage, and stucco siding (across the street from property) - larger volume and greater height



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- **334 Bayview Ave-** Single story house with tall front entry element and two shed roof dormers (similar in shape to our proposed dormer) in opposing directions.



## Adjacency map:

