

"Boathouse wouldn't provide ambience"

In the Current's Jan. 26th editorial, "On the Potomac", you made reference to the proposed GU boathouse providing "an ambience like the storied architecture along Philadelphia's Schuylkill River". Ambience is the last word that comes to my mind when I try to picture the enormous boathouse that is proposed for that very small piece of land. Ambience is exactly what we would have had if the design had conformed to the 1987 Master Plan for the Georgetown Waterfront, and the wishes of the head of the C&O Canal Park. The Master Plan called for the boathouse zone to extend not more than 1000' upstream from Key Bridge, but the proposed site for GU's boathouse goes 250' beyond that expressed limit. On the site plan accompanying the Master Plan, a boathouse on that most upstream site of the boathouse zone was shown with a buildable footprint of 4,000 sq. ft., not the 20,000 sq. ft. footprint in GU's design. Finally, in April of 1996, the Superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historic Park issued a directive that no boathouse on that site should be built any higher than the adjacent Washington Canoe Club boathouse (a 100 year old structure that is on the National Historic Registry), but the proposed GU boathouse is nearly double that height. We're all for ambience on the Potomac; we're 100% opposed to Mc-Mansions on the river.

Ernie Brooks
Chairman, Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail