

Five Points South Corner

Renderings Courtesy of Cohen Carnaggio Reynolds



A bird's-eye perspective shows the 5,700-square-foot structure wrapped with arcades fronting 20th Street and Highland Avenue. New sidewalks extend to the building fronts. A trellis and landscape edge (left) extend a pedestrian envelope past the side/rear parking.



Arcades with floating canopies will create a strong presence for the modest building at a key corner. Cohen Carnaggio Reynolds specified more substantial materials: charcoal and white brick.



Outdoor seating protected by the covered arcades will help animate the street.

By Philip Morris



The design review process that covers numerous urban districts in the City of Birmingham has helped transform a suburban-style restaurant at a prominent Five Points South corner into an urban fast-food model (now under construction).

After a controversial proposal for a drive-through window was dropped, architects Cohen Carnaggio Reynolds of Birmingham worked with Chick-fil-A to turn a former Ruby Tuesday restaurant into a little piece of urbanity. Retaining the slab and steel frame, the architects introduced arcades that firm the street frontage and upgraded materials to charcoal and white brick.

"The previous building had a suburban-style strip of lawn around it," says Michael Hallisey of Cohen Carnaggio Reynolds. "We have extended sidewalks to the building frontage and introduced urban elements like seating and bicycle racks. The exterior will have an urban bay rhythm found nearby." Parking will remain to the side and rear, but a trellis over the sidewalk and landscaping along the edge will create pedestrian scale along the 20th Street frontage. A driveway that had interrupted the sidewalk has been eliminated with an existing alley now providing access to parking.