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**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD  
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

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Property Address:	<b>1145 17th Street, NW</b>	Agenda
Landmark/District:	<b>National Geographic Society</b>	<b>X</b> Consent Calendar
		<b>X</b> Concept Review
Meeting Date:	<b>October 26, 2023</b>	<b>X</b> Alteration
H.P.A. Number:	<b>23-567</b>	New Construction
		Demolition

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The National Geographic Society, with plans prepared by Hickok Cole Architects, seeks conceptual design review for construction of an entrance canopy and accessibility ramp.

**Property History and Description**

Noted modern architect Edward Durell Stone designed the Society headquarters building seeking to create a modern building that also continued the Society’s classical architectural heritage. The building’s New Formalist design – sitting on a raised plinth and organized in a classical tripartite composition -- harkens back to the monumentality of the city’s classically-inspired buildings but with a modern simplicity of form and detail.

**Proposal**

The plans call for conversion of the building to a National Geographic branded hotel. The applicants have been working with DDOT to obtain approval for a drop off/pick up layby lane and the new contemporary glass canopy, supported by a metal framework, would provide covered protection for the loading and unloading of luggage. An accessible ramp would be provided to the north of the stairs.

**Evaluation**

The canopy has been designed as a contemporary insertion to float below the second story overhang and have minimal connection with the building. Since initially submitted, its height has been lowered to provide greater visibility of the original carved lettering in the building’s fascia.

While an access ramp exists on the M Street side of the building, the applicants seek to provide more direct access at the primary entrance. The ramp has been pushed partially into the plinth of the building to reduce its prominence and projection into public space, and the handrails simplified to reduce their visual impact.

**Recommendation**

*HPO recommends that the Board approve the concept as compatible with the character of the landmark and delegate final approval to staff.*

*Staff Contact: Steve Callcott*