



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Planning and Community Development



Robert S. MacKenzie, AICP
Director

Planning
Community Improvement Program
Growth Management

Staff to:
Planning Board
Heritage Commission
Millyard Design Review Committee

September 11, 2006

Anish Kumar, AICP, AIA
Hillier Architecture
One South Penn Square
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Anish,

In 2004 the City of Manchester, New Hampshire undertook a national search to find the firm that would design the development and growth of downtown over the next ten years. After interviewing numerous firms, we selected Hillier wholeheartedly because Hillier's approach successfully integrated economics, transportation, design, quality of life, and public / private interests.

Following the initial success of our 1993 plan, community expectations were very high for a new blueprint that would guide the growth of downtown for the next decade. What we got was a visionary and ambitious plan for public and private investments that would grow downtown into more than four times its size. Hillier's plan is visionary but very practical, and that is its beauty. It breaks down the downtown development into a series of doable projects, so that we can incrementally realize the vision, moving steadily forward.

We were particularly impressed with your wealth of knowledge of communities who have addressed challenges similar to those we face in Manchester. We are grateful that you were able to explain the importance of the residential component in revitalizing our urban area, and we look forward to the day when Manchester can be described as a "live – work – play" downtown. Your tactful and practical ability to communicate your recommendations to disparate stakeholders is extraordinary; you made each one of the participants feel that he had won.

I would heartily recommend Hillier for urban planning, transportation, and downtown development projects.

Sincerely,

Robert S. MacKenzie, AICP
Director of Planning & Community Development

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