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**To:** [Scanlon, Amy](#)  
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**Subject:** Hearing on development of 3414 Monroe St.  
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Ms. Scanlon,

I'm writing with some final thoughts on the proposed development of 3414 Monroe St. I hope you will consider them and ultimately reject the current proposal for this site.

I've lived in the Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood for 14 years. Each year as I stroll down its streets, especially the historic Monroe Street, I find it looking more and more like Anywhere, USA. But this isn't anywhere, it's Madison -- a city full of creative, thoughtful, discerning, socially and environmentally conscious human beings. Why, I wonder, is this not reflected in the development of one of its most beautiful and historic neighborhoods?

When I look at the several large developments that have gone up over the past few years, what I see is bland architecture that in no way strives to join the ranks of those who are redefining what urban infill looks like. (No living roofs. No green walls. No truly innovative organic design. No rainwater recycling.) I also see developers that reluctantly submit to the barest of environmentally safe building standards with no attempt to create structures that are truly sustainable in the long term.

I see wasted opportunity and utter complacency.

Why are we letting this happen in Madison when we have such a deep well of creative and caring stakeholders so willing to participate in creating a sustainable future for our city? Why are we not setting an example for small urban neighborhoods everywhere?

No person with even the most basic sense of aesthetics could look at the current plans for 3414 Monroe Street and think that this is an appropriate structure to build next to the beautiful Arbor House Inn. And no person with the slightest concern for the long-term well-being of our fragile watershed would turn the site over to a developer who has no stake in the health of our local environment.

We can do so much better. If we care at all, we must do better.

Best,  
Sheryl Lilke  
Sprague St.