

NEWS OTTAWA & REGION

New Iraqi embassy gets first approval from City of Ottawa

BY JON WILLING, OTTAWA SUN



An artist's conception of the new Iraqi Embassy to be built in downtown Ottawa. (Submitted image)

Iraq has received one of two city approvals it needs to raze its embassy at 215 McLeod St. and build a new one.

The planning committee Tuesday signed off on the redevelopment plan and is sending its recommendation to council, which must sign off on the demolition in a heritage conservation district.

In this case, it's the Centretown heritage conservation district.

The current two-storey, gated building across from the Museum of Nature was constructed in 1957. The new embassy is proposed to be a four-storey, "irregularly shaped" glassy building designed like an ancient temple.

About 33 staff work at the embassy.

"The building has strong cultural references to the Republic of Iraq but these references are made in a subtle way that allows the building to remain sympathetic to the character of Centretown," city planners write in a report.

Planners also like that the fence will be removed and formal entrance will be built off McLeod St.

Council will consider the committee's recommendation Wednesday.

jon.willing@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @JonathanWilling Sun Media is a member of

