



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
91 Central Park West
March 21, 2017**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The Certificate of Appropriateness Committee wishes to comment on the application to alter the windows at 91 Central Park West, a neo-Renaissance style apartment building designed by Schwartz & Gross and built in 1928-29, which is part of the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee can understand an applicant's interest in maximizing their Central Park views but the reality is that these stylized, very-specific original windows were a known presence at time of acquisition, and are undeniably defining features of these most ornate levels of this landmark.

Any purchaser of such a home would perform due-diligence and realize that this glass is original. If one were to cut down detail and window types with each change of shares, buildings throughout the district would be stripped-naked. Is the lowest common denominator that our neo-Renaissance style landmarks become pared-down to modern-style via reduction?

In a closed system, the second law is a universal trend toward entropy. *If allowed.*

There is also the potential that the next occupant could be just like the ones who coexisted with these windows for the past 89 years and loved them—or perhaps, not want the apartment because the original glass had been lost. We would be poor stewards to condone that type of action.

LW! Feels the detailing represented in converting the tower window to a door is appropriate in function and scale but it's crazy-quilt glazing patchwork misrepresents the original intent of these leaded vignettes and would be better as an in-kind expansion of the existing moiré pattern.

Thank you for your time.