



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
59 West 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
October 6, 2009**

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 enlarge a rooftop penthouse at 59 West 71<sup>st</sup> Street, designed by George F. Pelham and built in 1924.

**----- NOTES -----**

For rooftop additions, our committee advocates that materials and finishes keep within what we consider to be a rooftop vernacular. That is to say, rather than attempt an addition that tries to extend a cornice line, or look like a little cottage atop an apartment building with wood siding, use materials that clearly delineate the fact that the new addition is just that: something new and apart from the existing building. On that front, we appreciated the track this applicant is on.

Given the highly visible nature of the proposed addition from Columbus b/w 70<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Streets, the dark corrugated metal currently proposed could read as being quite bulky. As the Committee was discussing the possible recommendation of a lighter material, a few of our members recalled reading recently about the link between rooftop paint colors and environmental issues. Being that preservation is inherently green (the maintenance and reuse of our existing architectural resources) we thought that taking some cues from these articles (links on C of A webpage) could address both our thoughts on choice of finish for architectural appropriateness, as well as larger concerns regarding the environment. I hope you'll take a look.