

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
2689-2693 Broadway/230 West 103rd Street, the Hotel Marseilles
TBD**

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 replace windows at this apartment building, designed by Harry Allen Jacobs and built in 1902-05.

A poorly researched proposal for modification can be a death sentence for a landmarked building. Bottom lines—in terms of budget or in terms of deadlines—should never be driving an application. If more time is needed, take it. That is our advice for this applicant.

At our June 9th meeting with the applicant, we found the proposal to be under-researched. The color currently proposed for the new window finish is black, which is inappropriate for this building. Flashes of black paint may be visible on the bricks, but no one can say for certain that is not as a result of paint re-application anytime in the 100+ years since the building was constructed.

This application lacks a clear sense of direction. In instances such as this, the applicant must be a detective, probing into the history of:

- **The building:** Remove the panning and conduct color testing on the historic brickmolds.
- **The architect:** What other apartment hotels were designed by Harry Allen Jacobs? How do they relate stylistically to the Hotel Marseilles? Can they enhance our understanding of the Hotel Marseilles?
- **The larger design trend during which the Hotel Marseilles was realized:** Review other large-scale apartment hotels from the turn on the century. What were popular window colors?

If after this deep level of research is conducted, no headway can be made as to the original color of windows, only then should an educated and informed assessment be made. Even this most final of options would not, however, lead the applicant to select the color black.