

JAN HIRD POKORNY · ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS

306 East 51st Street · New York, New York 10022 212 759-6462

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Mr. Gene Norman, Chairman
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
20 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Norman,

It is undoubtedly symptomatic that I have the occasion to write you so soon again, in connection with yet another tower being proposed for Central Park West.

A massive pyramidal edifice is to be placed squarely on top of the confident, self-contained neo-classical, low rise New York Historical Society - - a significant, designated City landmark.

There is no need to discuss the merits and shortcomings of Hardy, Holzman and Pfeifer's competent design of this proposed structure. What is primarily and philosophically in question here is whether the Commission should approve any construction on top of a City landmark, changing it thereby completely, altering its impact and the relation to its surroundings.

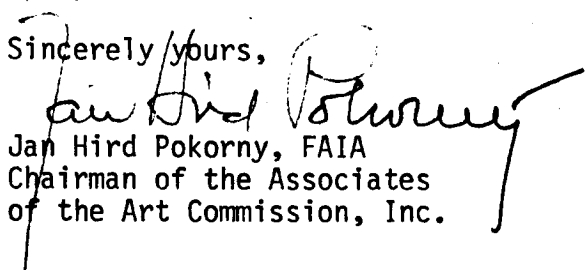
In this instance, the existing Historical Society building would be relegated to a secondary role, merely a base supporting the visually and symbolically dominating commercial mass.

Who would remember that this burden carrying pediment was once considered a significant landmark and a public building, worthy of permanent and dignified preservation?

Furthermore, wouldn't approval in this instance reopen the Grand Central tower case for reconsideration? And wouldn't it set a precedent for the entire Central Park West district and elsewhere?

I hope that the Commission will disapprove the Historical Society tower proposal.

Sincerely yours,


Jan Hird Pokorny, FAIA
Chairman of the Associates
of the Art Commission, Inc.

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