



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
101 West 87th Street
March 6, 2007**

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 construct rooftop and rear additions on this Modern-style apartment building designed by Judith Edelman and built in 1984-87.

We are glad to have the opportunity to testify on this significantly revised version of the application presented for public hearing in October 2006. Although we only received notice of the changes on Friday, our Committee was able to review digital images of the revised plans through our colleagues at Historic Districts Council. We would like to underscore the importance of public testimony on applications that have changed in some considerable way since they were first heard by the Commission. We appreciate the Commission's diligence in informing us of these changes, and we urge that, in future, the Commission institute procedures for alerting the public even earlier to ensure thoughtful consideration and constructive feedback.

This revised proposal appears to address many of the concerns we raised in our October 2006 testimony. Both the rooftop addition on West 87th Street and the rearyard addition are significantly scaled back. We did not take issue with the height of the rooftop addition that would be visible along Columbus Avenue.

However, we were concerned about the choice of dark-brown metal as a cladding material. This use of this material appears to be even more heavy-handed in the revised design. In particular, the dark metal, now cladding two stories at the top of the Columbus Avenue façade, creates a strong termination that is completely out of character with the original building.

In sum, while we appreciate the scaled-back elements of this new proposal, our Committee is still not enamored of the design. We also caution that it looks like on paper and what it will look like in real life are two very different things. We urge the applicant to rethink the materials and the way the new addition would interact with the Columbus Avenue façade.

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