



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
The Belnord Apartments-201-225 West 86th Street, aka 200-248 West 87th Street,
540-558 Amsterdam Avenue, 2360-2376 Broadway
February 21, 2016**

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 West 70th Street Areaway, and install a barrier-free access lift, signage and lighting on this individual landmark, Italian Renaissance-style apartment building designed by Hiss and Weekes and built in 1908-1909.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee is comprised of many lawyers, architects, designers and committed neighbors who volunteer their time to review each and every Upper West Side application out of love for the built environment and genuine concern for our evolving community. And as full disclosure: one of those members is also a member of the Landmark West! Board (who happens to be the applicant for this item).

The Belnord, among the original 1966 individual designations, is one of the quintessential UWS landmarks by legal definition and in spirit. A full city block, the Belnord Apartments' magnificent Italian-Renaissance clad interior court taunts the curiosity of passers-by. Among the interior curiosities, beyond the garden, are four angled canopy entrances and a more central canopy entrance marking key points of entry. The introduction of two single-door amenity entries onto the courtyard seems plausible and while their pairing is comfortable, our Committee questions the need for additional canopies. While of the right vocabulary, these additions not only steal prominence from the primary entries, but potentially impeded access- a reality at odds with the accessibility goals of other portions of this C of A. The Committee feels that the needed access can be met more completely without the additional fussiness of secondary canopies.

Our Committee believes that this is an applicant who understands understatement. Correcting a former entry goiter and pairing down a guard's booth to a sophisticated unit are exercises in succinct prose. We are in favor of both with the assurance that the guard booth does not impair the surface of the landmark.

Thank you for your time.