



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
375 Riverside Drive  
January 12, 2021**

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 375 Riverside Drive, within the Morningside Heights Historic District. This landmark is a Renaissance Revival style apartment building designed by Gaetan Ajello and built in 1921-22. The Application is to establish a Master Plan governing the future installation of windows.

The Landmark West Certificate of Appropriateness Committee reviewed this proposal carefully, and we thank the owners for their foresight in preparing for the future of the building they steward.

375 Riverside Drive came later in Gaetan's Ajello's architectural career. Completed in 1922, it featured many of his hallmarks of 'good urban living' that he commonly employed at the time—elevators not visible upon first entry, lighter colored brick, and multi-lite over one windows. Within four years, he would abruptly cease his career in architecture, return to his native Italy and spend his day as an inventor. His inventiveness even lead him to reinvent himself once more as a painter upon his 1930 return to New York; but among his many creations in his century-long life, was never the reinvention of his windows.

This landmark holds physical evidence of the profiles of the original multilite windows, and photographs fill in the rest. The proposal before you does not match appearance, material nor form. If the future of this landmark is to be aluminum windows, panning technology allows for matching profiles with no obstruction of view.

The Landmark West Certificate of Appropriateness Committee recommends modifications of this application to consider the original multi-lite model, but at the very least the ogee trim which will partly return the façade without disrupting the view. There is no need to permanently codify a full reinvention of these windows for the worse.

Thank You.