

ROBYN ROTH-MOISE

340 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10075

October 9, 2014

Vikki Barbero
Chair
Community Board Five
450 Seventh Avenue
Suite 2109
New York, NY 10123

Re: Park Lane Hotel Landmark Designation

Dear Ms. Barbero:

I grew up as a child of New York City, and was lucky enough to see my family history around me. It was made up of brick, glass, limestone and other architectural materials that go into a building. I loved walking around New York City and saying to my kids, “Look at that building, it was designed by your great-grandfather,” or “This one by your great-great-grandfather,” or “This one by your grandfather,” or “I worked on this building when I worked at Emery Roth & Sons.”

I grew up to hear and read critics of architecture bash some of these buildings, to only turn around a decade or two later and say that there was merit and style to that same building. What is considered ugly or inconsequential in this decade takes on another view and form later on.

The Park Lane Hotel may not be everyone’s cup of tea, but it represents a period and style of architecture from the late 60’s in New York City. It is part of the New York City skyline, which is about to be ruined by an 80-story building that the average New Yorker has no hope of ever living in. These massive towers do not belong in midtown. The quality of life in and around the park is being destroyed. The shadows these buildings will cast will be horrific to the landscape of the park. One does not need more housing for billionaires.

The Drake Hotel, designed by Emery Roth, has already been destroyed and replaced by a tower that has no architectural value other than it is the second tallest building in New York City. It is a monster of ugliness that can be seen from almost any place in the city. The Drake Hotel was a building that should have been saved. The Mayflower Hotel was a building that should have been saved, but was destroyed when it was deflowered. Penn Station should have been saved. Opinions change and regrets happen too late to change the past. Let’s change the future by protecting what we do have.

To think that the Park Lane Hotel will be destroyed so Macklow can build another monster of a building is horrifying. The Park Lane Hotel, as well as the entire circumference of Central Park, including Central Park South, should be landmarked to protect what we have.

The Park Lane Hotel represents a unique time period, the interiors were done by the very famous and talented husband and wife team of Tom and Sara Lee. The hotel is unique in that it has a passage from 59th to 58th street, as well as a circular driveway so cars do not block traffic on the street. While one can say there are buildings that better represent that time period, where are they? The World Trade Center has physically been destroyed. The Huntington Museum has been destroyed by having a complete makeover, or make-under. When are developers going to learn that just because you can build something, it doesn't mean you have to build it.

My dad and I have both said that we would lie down in front of the bulldozer to protect the Park Lane Hotel from being destroyed.

I am sorry that both of us were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robyn Roth-Moise

Robyn Roth-Moise