

AIA New York Chapter

The Founding Chapter of
The American Institute of Architects



May 24, 2005

Hon. Robert B. Tierney, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

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Dear Chair Tierney:

On behalf of the AIA New York Chapter and its 4,000 architect and public members in New York City, we would like to register our support for the proposed new building and restoration of 39 – 41 West 23rd Street.

The project, as proposed, is harmonious with its context and adds to the special sense of place of the Ladies Mile Historic District. Composed primarily of mercantile buildings, this district has become a prime residential neighborhood through the conversion of many existing structures. To construct a new residential building in its midst is a challenge, which the proposed design meets in many ways. We also consider the three-dimensional quality of the new building to be compatible with others within the district, such as the Flatiron Building.

The scale of the new tower is well within the size and height of other buildings within the district and in the immediate area. This neighborhood is notable for larger scale structures at block-ends and mid-block locations, particularly on wide, major east-west streets such as 23rd Street. Materials proposed are appropriate to the district and the adjacent streetscape. Lastly, the entry design is harmonious and provides a welcome pedestrian-scale element.

Further design attention could be given to the transition between the base and tower of the new building, as well as the restoration of the adjacent existing landmark.

Yours truly,

Susan Chin, FAIA
President

Fredric Bell, FAIA
Executive Director

536 LaGuardia Place
New York, NY 10012
212.638.0023
212.696.5022 fax
e-mail: info@aiany.org
web site: www.aiany.org