

# 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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

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