



AIA New York Chapter
The Founding Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Chair Robert Tierney
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

June 17, 2008

Dear Chair Tierney,

On behalf of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and its over 4,400 architect and public members, we would like to express strong support for this proposed addition to 980 Madison Avenue by Norman Foster and Partners.

The addition, while clearly visible, is an appropriate addition to an existing building in this historic district. The district's distinctly residential character is enhanced by the additional floors to this unique and striking building by maintaining a strong streetwall characteristic of Madison Avenue. The design is both thoughtful and contextual. The architects have considered the proportions of the original building, and these form the basis for the scale of the modern addition. The renovation of the original building will restore the simplicity of the original façade, reestablishing the simple, spare proportions of the fenestration as originally intended by the building's architect. The addition is proposed as an appropriate modern complement to the brick upper levels that make up many of the elegant residential buildings in the neighborhood.

The building is also forward-looking in its commitment to sustainable design, as it will include a green roof and innovative cladding on the outside of the building for shade and cooling.

We urge you to grant a certificate of appropriateness to this worthy project.

Sincerely,

James McCullar
President

Fredric Bell
Executive Director