

Russell Squire
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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

March 18, 2021

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: 201 East 65th Street (Individual Landmark) – *Adam Kushner, Architect* - A modern style mixed-use building designed by Mayer & Whittlesey and Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill and constructed in 1947-1951. Application is for installation of an exterior awning.

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on March 17, 2021, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS 201 East 65th Street is an international style building constructed in 1951;
WHEREAS there is an original stair leading to a lower level;
WHEREAS the space on the lower level is occupied by medical offices;
WHEREAS the stair was originally designed as a stair open to the sky;
WHEREAS the stair is currently open to the sky;
WHEREAS the applicant seeks to cover the stair with a canopy to provide protection from the weather;
WHEREAS the color of the canopy material and the color of the aluminum supports is bright blue;
WHEREAS the canopy has an L shape in that the entrance portion of the canopy extends over the sidewalk and the stair portion of the canopy is parallel to the sidewalk;
WHEREAS the stair portion of the canopy follows the slope of the stair;
WHEREAS the building is set in a garden behind stone walls;
WHEREAS the color of the building is muted in that the major material is an off-white brick;
WHEREAS the shape of the canopy is awkward and ungainly;
WHEREAS the canopy visually blocks the view across the low stone wall and garden to the building;
WHEREAS the blue color is in such sharp contrast to the muted colors of the building and the walls that the canopy has a jarring appearance;
WHEREAS some of the signage appears to be an advertisement and not just an announcement of medical offices;
WHEREAS the canopy is an intrusion on the quiet presence of the building in the garden;

WHEREAS the proposed canopy is not in character with the minimalist architecture of the building and the site;

WHEREAS the canopy is not contextual with the modernist aesthetic of the building and grounds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this application is **DISAPPROVED** as presented.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

David Helpern and Jane Parshall

David Helpern and Jane Parshall
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District