

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

July 23, 2021

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

RE: 118 East 62nd Street – Upper East Side Historic District –*Kevin Dakan, Architect* – An Italianate style house designed by Robert Mook originally constructed in 1869-79 with a Beaux Arts style façade designed by Carrere and Hastings and reconstructed in 1919. Application is to replace the existing front house fence of 3ft 6in with a 5ft 2in fence and an additional 4in stone base fence.

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on July 21, 2021, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS the metal fence in the front of this limestone and brick Beaux Arts style façade has deteriorated;
WHEREAS the applicant has proposed a new metal fence;
WHEREAS the applicant has shown precedents of fences of varying heights on the block and about the neighborhood;
WHEREAS the existing fence has no curb and is 3'-6" high;
WHEREAS the proposed fence will have a four-inch-high bluestone curb with a 5'-2" high metal fence set into the curb for a total height of 5'-6' above the sidewalk;
WHEREAS the existing fence has decorative features integrated with the pickets such as curves, circles, and volutes;
WHEREAS the proposed fence has only vertical pickets and vertical projections;
WHEREAS the proposed fence is purposefully simple to contrast with the architectural features of the house;
WHEREAS the existing fence appears to be painted to match the limestone base of the building;
WHEREAS the proposed fence will be painted black and the applicant stated that all other metal on the house, such as the metal railings for the Juliette balconies, will be painted black;
WHEREAS the elevation drawing shows the curb continuing under the swinging gate forcing one to step over the curb into the entryway;
WHEREAS the fence has an industrial quality because of its overly simple design;
WHEREAS the height of the fence makes the entry to the house feel unwelcoming;
WHEREAS there are no details showing profiles or hierarchies of elements;

WHEREAS the proposed fence is unrelated to the ornamental metal on the house;
WHEREAS the proposed fence does not have a residential character;
WHEREAS the proposed fence is not appropriate or contextual within the historic district;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this application is disapproved as presented.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

Russell Squire
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