

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

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October 20, 2022

Honorable Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Center Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

RE: 22 East 81st Street (Metropolitan Museum Historic District) - *Drew Lang* - A brownstone constructed in 1883-84 by Thom & Wilson. Application is for facade renovation, window replacement, and adding a 3rd window at the 1st and 2nd floors.

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on October 19, 2022, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 37 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS 22 East 81st Street is a brownstone designed by Thom & Wilson and constructed in 1883-1884;

WHEREAS 22 East 81st Street was originally a brownstone townhouse but now presents as a modernist design;

WHEREAS the applicant, as part of an overall renovation, proposes to introduce a more traditional look, including the addition of a cornice and string courses at the first and second floors and below the cornice;

WHEREAS as part of the renovation, the applicant proposes to change the cladding on the house to limestone, revert to 3:windows at the 2nd floor where there are now two, and to install two new wood and glass doors at the ground level with a window in between;

WHEREAS all the proposed new windows at the front elevation would be single-pane black-painted wood windows with limestone window surrounds;

WHEREAS the proposed new doors at the 1st floor (ground level) would also have limestone surrounds;

WHEREAS the original windows when the house presented as a brownstone were double-hung;

WHEREAS the applicant's proposal for the front elevation presents as timid and bland with a false uniformity and an austerity and lack of texture that is out of context within the historic district;

WHEREAS the applicant's proposal makes no reference to the original historic Brownstone;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 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 Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Mark Levine, 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 Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District