

May 24, 2011

Alderman Brendan Reilly
42nd Ward
325 W. Huron
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Alderman Reilly:

AIA Chicago applauds your ongoing commitment to the 42nd Ward and the City of Chicago. Your accomplishments as Alderman of this important Ward are numerous and appreciated by all. As representatives of Chicago's professional architecture community, AIA Chicago hopes that in keeping with your respect for Chicago's architectural heritage you will support the preservation of a significant work of architecture, **Prentice Hospital**.

Architect Bertrand Goldberg, FAIA, is one of the most important 20th century figures in Chicago's community of national and international architectural leaders. In his design for Prentice, advanced in its architectural design and structural engineering, Goldberg pioneered the innovative use of a shell and cantilevered structure, executed gracefully in smooth, curving concrete. The building is an absolute stunner – at once surprising and engaging, it perfectly illustrates why Chicago is considered a leader in architectural innovation around the world.

AIA Chicago further believes that preserving the Prentice Hospital building demonstrates environmental responsibility. Preservation of this building will prevent tens of thousands of tons of construction debris from reaching landfills. It has been said that the greenest building is the one already built. Participation in the growing movement to conserve rather than replace will help demonstrate that Northwestern University is an environmental leader.

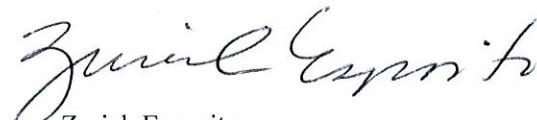
Despite Chicago's international reputation as a city of world-class architecture, our city also has an established history of losing unique buildings of historic and cultural significance. Our reputation as a community that fosters and respects the development of architectural and cultural landmarks that bring us recognition and distinguish our city from other American cities is threatened whenever buildings as important as Prentice Hospital are demolished.

On behalf of the three thousand architecture and design professionals represented by AIA Chicago, we urge you to encourage Northwestern University to consider options other than demolition for Prentice. AIA Chicago welcomes you to call on us to discuss this matter or supply any further information related to these sentiments. We are truly grateful for the work you've done for our city and hope we can be a resource to you.

Sincerely,



Fred Brandstrader, AIA
President



Zurich Esposito
Executive Vice President

Cc: Mayor Rahm Emanuel
Brian Hopkins, SOAR
Bonnie Humphrey, Northwestern
University

