

STUDIO/ GANG /ARCHITECTS

Alderman Brendan Reilly
City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St. - Room 200
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Preservation and Reuse of Prentice Women's Hospital

Dear Alderman Reilly,

I am writing to you today to support the reuse and preservation of Bertrand Goldberg's historic Prentice Women's Hospital. As the pinnacle of Goldberg's hospital design work, the building stands as an example of his creative output, and has an important role as a boldly innovative example of Chicago architecture. It is an artifact of an architect who literally thought outside the boxes that dominated his era and remains an inspiration to all who view it today.

When designing Prentice, Goldberg studied nurse-patient relationships and developed an open, radial floor plan that largely influenced the evolution of hospital design. While the structure is no longer viewed as suitable for medical care, its column-free spaces have great potential for reuse and offer its owner, Northwestern University, an opportunity to create much-needed graduate student residences, offices, or research laboratories. Furthermore, rehabilitating the existing building is a more environmentally sustainable step forward and preferable to demolishing the structure and building anew.

At the moment, Goldberg's Raymond Hilliard Homes on Chicago's South Side are the only Goldberg works legally protected by a government entity. Prentice Women's Hospital should be added to this all-too-short list. This project will set a historic and environmentally significant precedent for preserving and reusing an unusual building type, and will only strengthen Chicago's reputation as a home to and incubator for world-class architecture and sustainability. It is a vibrant and unique symbol of our city that will be used and valued by future generations, and for this, it must be protected.

Thank you for taking the time to read this today. I look forward to watching this project progress in the near future.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Gang, FAIA, LEED AP
President and Founder

11.15.2010

ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE
URBAN DESIGN

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cc: Brian Goeken, Deputy Commissioner
Historic Preservation Division, City of Chicago

Rafael Leon, Chair, Commission on Chicago Landmarks

James Peters, President, Landmarks Illinois

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