



May 22, 2011

Ald. Brendan Reilly

42nd Ward Office
325 West Huron Street, Suite 150
Chicago, IL 60654

Re: Former Prentice Women's Hospital Landmark Designation

Dear Alderman Reilly:

Chicago has many iconic buildings, but none of them are as instantly recognizable as those designed by Bertrand Goldberg (1913-1997). Unfortunately, one of his most significant Chicago structures - the former Prentice Women's Hospital - has yet to be afforded landmark protection status, resulting in a very uncertain fate for a building that is famous to architects around the world.

Recently, we were shocked to find out that Northwestern University plans to demolish the former Prentice Women's Hospital in the near future. As you may know, we are the authors of the critically acclaimed book *Marina City: Bertrand Goldberg's Urban Vision* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010), featured in numerous reviews, public lectures and a PBS interview for *Newshour*. Through our work we make a case for Chicago Architecture as a global model of innovation in design, construction, and finance, as well as social and environmental responsibility. We sincerely believe that without the Prentice Women's Hospital – a building in which many Chicagoans can proudly say they were born – Chicago architectural landscape will suffer an irreplaceable loss that will diminish its stature as the premier city for architecture on the North American continent.

The international stature of the former Prentice Women's Hospital is unquestionable. As such, the building merits designation as an official Chicago landmark and should be protected under all relevant regulations outlined by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. As architects, teachers and scholars, we urge you to move forward swiftly with the recommendation that Bertrand Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital be given consideration as a protected landmark, which will ensure its continued existence for the generations of Chicagoans and tourists from around the world. This will not only be a major step in the historic preservation of Chicago's finest buildings, but also a leap forward in the promotion of sustainable adaptive reuse as a form of urban growth. Creative adaptive reuse can result in great savings of energy, space and money, but perhaps most importantly, in the preservation of a unique cultural treasure that served and continues to serve as a model of architectural innovation worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Igor Marjanovic".

Igor Marjanovic

Associate Professor of Architecture, Washington University in St Louis, marjanovic@wustl.edu

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Katerina Ruedi Ray".

Katerina Ruedi Ray, PhD

Professor and Director, Bowling Green State University School of Art, krray@bgsu.edu

Cc: James E. Peters, President, Lisa DiChiera, Director of Advocacy, Landmarks Illinois, Chicago
Brian Goeken, Deputy Commissioner, Historic Preservation, City of Chicago
Rafael Leon, Chair, Commission on Chicago Landmarks