



August 29, 2012

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
Mayor of Chicago
121 North LaSalle Street, Room 507
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mayor Emanuel,

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently completed a landmark recommendation report documenting the significance of architect Bertrand Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital. The report confirms what we already believed: that the historic Prentice exceeds the criteria for Chicago landmark designation, that it is truly singular in construction and layout, and that it changed the course of modern hospital design.

As members of the architecture community, we believe Goldberg's Prentice should be given a permanent place in Chicago's cityscape. A building this significant – this unique in the world – should be preserved and reused.

Prentice was a culminating work for Bertrand Goldberg, who most famously designed Chicago's Marina City. Over his 60-year career, Goldberg designed eight major hospitals around the country; Prentice is the only one located in his hometown. His ideas for improving hospital design helped redefine patient- and family-centered care. Prentice's cloverleaf tower exemplifies the belief that patients should be grouped in communities around a nursing center, creating "quiet villages" that improve proximity and sightlines between nurses and patients, welcome fathers into birthing rooms, and place mothers closer to their babies in the nursery.

Prentice also propelled advances in the fields of architecture and engineering that are still recognized today. Its cantilevered concrete shell broke with precedent and remains unique in the world. The result created column-free floors that today allow great flexibility for reuse options. Upon completion in 1975, critics and engineers worldwide celebrated Prentice as a breakthrough in structural engineering.

The legacy of Bertrand Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital is unmistakable. It stands as a testament to the Chicago-led architectural innovation that sets this city apart. Chicago's global reputation as a nurturer of bold and innovative architecture will wither if the city cannot preserve its most important achievements.

Reuse options abound. We urge you, the Commission on Landmarks, and the City Council to grant this building landmark designation and preserve Chicago's historic architectural legacy.

Sincerely,

Tadao Ando
Pritzker Prize 1995
Osaka, Japan

Joe Antunovich, AIA
Chicago, Illinois

Gustavo F. Aroz
President, International Council of Monuments and Sites
(ICOMOS)
Washington, District of Columbia



William Baker, PE, SE

Chicago, Illinois

Carol R. Bentel, FAIA

Chair, National AIA Committee on Design 2008
Locust Valley, New York

David Brininstool, AIA

Chicago, Illinois

Denise Scott Brown, RIBA, Int. FRIBA

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sheridan Burke

President, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th
Century Heritage (ISC20C)
Sydney, Australia

Jean Carroon, FAIA

Chair, National AIA Historic Resources Committee 2012
Boston, Massachusetts

Louise Cox, HFAIA

President, Union of International Architects (UIA) 2008-2011
Sydney, Australia

Dan Coffey, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Dirk Denison, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Walter Eckenhoff, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

John Eifler, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Philip Enquist, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Doug Farr, AIA

Chicago, Illinois

David N. Fixler, FAIA

President, DOCOMOMO_US/New England
Boston, Massachusetts

Jeanne Gang, FAIA

MacArthur Fellow 2011
Chicago, Illinois

Frank Gehry, FAIA

AIA Gold Medal 1999; Pritzker Prize 1989
Los Angeles, California

Geoff Goldberg, AIA

Chicago, Illinois

Phil Hamp, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Donald J. Hackl, FAIA

Chancellor of the AIA College of Fellows 2009
Chicago, Illinois

Gunny Harboe, FAIA

Vice President, ICOMOS ISC20C; Board Member
DOCOMOMO_US
Chicago, Illinois

Jack Hartray, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Jacques Herzog, HFAIA

Pritzker Prize 2001
Basel, Switzerland

Jörg Haspel

Vice President, ICOMOS Germany
Berlin, Germany

Malcolm Holzman, FAIA

New York, New York

Eugene C. Hopkins, FAIA

AIA President 2004
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bjarke Ingels

AIA Institute Honor Award 2012
Copenhagen, Denmark

Marlene Imirzian, AIA

Chair, National AIA Committee on Design 2013
Phoenix, Arizona



Thomas Jacobs, AIA

American Institute of Architects' Young Architects Award 2012
Chicago, IL

Richard Keating, FAIA

Los Angeles, California

Thomas Kerwin, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Stephen J. Kelley, AIA, SE, FAPT, FUSICOMOS

President, ICOMOS ISCARSAH
Chicago, Illinois

Jackie Koo, AIA

Chicago, Illinois

Leonard Koroski, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Ronald Krueck, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Judith Kirshner

Dean, College of Architecture and the Arts, UIC

Brian Lee, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Dirk Lohan, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Brad Lynch

Chicago, Illinois

John Macsai, FAIA

Chicago, IL

Jeffrey McCarthy, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

George Miller, FAIA

National AIA President 2010
New York, New York

Robert L. Meckfessel, FAIA

Board Member, DOCOMOMO_US
Dallas, Texas

Mike Mense, FAIA

Chair, National AIA Committee on Design 2012
Anchorage, Alaska

Michael Mills, FAIA

Past Chair, National AIA Historic Resources Committee
Princeton, New Jersey

Pierre de Meuron, HFAIA

Pritzker Prize 2001
Basel, Switzerland

Joost Moolhuijzen

Paris, France

Kyle Normandin

Secretary General, ICOMOS ISC20C
Los Angeles, California

Renzo Piano, HFAIA

Pritzker Prize 1998
Genoa, Italy

Louis R. Pounders, FAIA

Chair, National AIA Committee on Design 2009
Memphis, Tennessee

Theodore Prudon, FAIA

President, DOCOMOMO_US
New York, New York

Jack Pyburn, FAIA

Past Chair, National AIA Historic Resources Committee
Atlanta, Georgia

Donna Robertson, FAIA

Professor and John and Jeanne Rowe Chair, Illinois Institute of
Technology
Chicago, Illinois

Kevin Roche, FAIA

Pritzker Prize 1982
Hamden, Connecticut

John Ronan, AIA

Chicago, Illinois

John I. Schlossman, FAIA

Chicago, IL



Peter Schlossman, AIA

Chicago, IL

Ken Schroeder, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Mark Sexton, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Bob Somol, Ph.D., J.D.

Director, University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Architecture
Chicago, Illinois

Eduardo Souto de Moura, HFAIA

Pritzker Prize 2011
Porto, Portugal

Tristan d'Estrée Sterk, AIA, SBA Netherlands

AIA Chicago Dubin Family Young Architect of the Year 2011
Chicago, Illinois

Billie Tsien, AIA

New York, New York

Richard Tomlinson II, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Joe Valerio, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Robert Venturi, FAIA Emeritus, Int. FRIBA

Pritzker Prize 1991
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

John Vinci, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Charles Waldheim

Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture, Graduate
School of Design, Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dan Wheeler, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Sarah Whiting, Ph.D., Associate AIA

Dean of College of Architecture, Rice University
Houston, Texas

Tod Williams, FAIA

New York, New York

Ross Wimer, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Antony Wood

Studio Associate Professor, Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, Illinois

David Woodhouse, FAIA

Chicago, Illinois

Kulapat Yantrasast

Silpathorn Award 2009
New York, New York

Siegfried Zhiqiang Wu, Ph.D.

Vice President, Tongji University; Chief Planner, World
Expo 2010
Shanghai, China

Andrew Zago

Faculty, Southern California Institute of Architecture
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Anke Zalivako

Research Fellow - 20th Century Heritage, Technical University
of Berlin
Berlin, Germany



CC:

Commissioner Andrew Mooney, Dept. of Housing and Economic Development
Alderman Brendan Reilly (42nd Ward)
Commissioner Rafael Leon, Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Commissioner John Baird, Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Commissioner Anita Blanchard, Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Commissioner James Houlihan, Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Commissioner Tony Hu, Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Commissioner Christopher Reed, Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Commissioner Mary Ann Smith, Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Commissioner Ernest Wong, Commission on Chicago Landmarks