



July 25, 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,

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, Nevada

David Brininstool, AIA
Chicago, Illinois

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

Dirk Denison, 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

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

Marlene Imirzian, AIA
Chair, National AIA Committee on Design 2013
Phoenix, Arizona

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

Brian Lee, FAIA
Chicago, Illinois



Dirk Lohan, FAIA
Chicago, Illinois

Brad Lynch
Chicago, Illinois

Jeffrey McCarthy, FAIA
Chicago, Illinois

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

Kyle Normandin
Secretary General, ICOMOS ISC20C
Los Angeles, California

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

John Ronan, AIA
Chicago, Illinois

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

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

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