

The Municipal Art Society of New York  
**MASNYC**

CHAIR

CHRISTY MACLEAR

PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH GOLDSTEIN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GABRIEL CALATRAVA

SANTIAGO CALATRAVA

LISA SMITH CASHIN

VIN CIPOLLA

ELIZABETH DILLER

MICHAEL P. DONOVAN

MARK FISCH

SUSAN K. FREEDMAN

FREDERICK ISEMAN

AMIT KHURANA

JILL LERNER

CHRISTY MACLEAR

CHRIS MCCARTIN

JOSEPH A. MCMILLAN, JR.

RICHARD OLCOTT

BARBARA KOZ PALEY

CARL L. REISNER

DAVID F. SOLOMON

KENT M. SWIG

YEOHLEE TENG

EARL D. WEINER, ESQ.

DIRECTORS EMERITI

KENT L. BARWICK

DAVID M. CHILDS

JOAN K. DAVIDSON

PHILIP K. HOWARD

JOHN E. MEROW

CHARLES A. PLATT

JANET C. ROSS

WHITNEY NORTH SEYMOUR, JR.

JERRY I. SPEYER

STEPHEN C. SWID

HELEN S. TUCKER

March 1, 2018

Hon. Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

The Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) writes to urge the reconsideration of 270 Park Avenue as an individual New York City landmark. Without urgent action to protect the former Union Carbide Building, this treasured piece of New York's Modernist history will be lost.

In chorus with our partners in preservation, MAS has been advocating for this building for years. Its importance has been underscored in every communication from our organization to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) about East Midtown since discussion of rezoning the neighborhood began in 2012.

As we wrote in our 2013 report, *A Bold Vision for the Future in East Midtown*: "Built for the Union Carbide company, 270 Park Avenue is one of the great buildings of that era. At the time of completion, the Union Carbide Building was the tallest stainless-steel-clad building in the world and Park Avenue's tallest skyscraper, as well as Manhattan's tallest building constructed since 1933."

Furthermore, the building is a shining example of the principles LPC espoused alongside MAS in our Greening NYC's Historic Buildings manual, which laid out reasonable, sensitive changes that owners of historic row houses can make to improve the energy efficiency landmark properties. The renovation of 270 Park Avenue takes those same measures writ large—an overhaul so ambitious that it turned a Mid-century skyscraper into a LEED Platinum project for the new millennium.

With respect, we find the LPC's explanation that Union Carbide is unworthy of designation because other buildings of the same era and architect have already been preserved to be insufficient. We urge you to calendar 270 Park Avenue without delay.

Yours truly,



Elizabeth Goldstein  
President