



Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation

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January 13, 2017

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

Re: 11-19 Jane Street, Manhattan

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

We have reviewed the revised plans for 11-19 Jane Street. While the applicant has revised the design by slightly reducing the height and incorporating a more appropriate brick material, the design still remains far from "appropriate" for the site, the block, or the Greenwich Village Historic District

The site is in the middle of a classic Greenwich Village sidestreet, and any new design here deserves a level of thoughtfulness and sensitivity that is not seen in the revised proposal. And while the prior design looked like a corporate office block, the revised design looks like a corporate chain hotel, which is just as inappropriate at this location.

The aluminum horizontal slider windows, which become the most prominent feature of the new design, are wholly inappropriate for this site. The ground floor with its brusque, un-neighborly entrance is certainly out of context in this neighborhood. The toothy metal fencing on the first and second floors is also an alien and unwelcome presence, and the new cornice looks clumsy and flimsy.

Overall, the new design comes across as banal, ungainly, repetitive, and uninspired. Further, the building remains too large; its four story neighbors should serve as a model for a new development here.

If this design is approved as is it will detract starkly from the street and the historic district. The Greenwich Village Historic District deserves better. We know this architect can, and must, do better.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director