



Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation

232 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003

(212) 475-9585
fax: (212) 475-9582
www.gvshp.org

Executive Director
Andrew Berman

President of the Board
Arthur Levin

Vice President
Justine Leguizamo

Vice President
Trevor Stewart

Secretary / Treasurer
Allan G. Sperling

Trustees
Mary Ann Arisman
Tom Birchard
Richard Blodgett
Kyung Choi Bordes
Tom Cooper
Elizabeth Ely
Cassie Glover
David Hottenroth
Anita Isola
Leslie Mason
Ruth McCoy
Andrew S. Paul
Robert Rogers
Katherine Schoonover
Marilyn Sobel
Judith Stonehill
Naomi Usher
Linda Yowell
F. Anthony Zunino III

Advisors
Kent Barwick
Joan K. Davidson
Christopher Forbes
Margaret Halsey Gardiner
Elizabeth Gilmore
Carol Greitzer
Tony Hiss
Martin Hutner
James Stewart Polshek
Martica Sawin Fitch
Anne-Marie Sumner
Calvin Trillin
Jean-Claude van Itallie
George Vellonakis
Vicki Weiner
Anthony C. Wood

February 13, 2017

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

Re: Revised design for 11-19 Jane Street, Manhattan

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

The Preservation Committee of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has reviewed the revised proposed design for 11-19 Jane Street. We feel strongly that the revised design does not rise to the level of “appropriate” for the Greenwich Village Historic District, and should not be approved as is.

Unfortunately, the changes made to the design do not address some of the fundamental problems with this proposed design. The design continues to appear repetitive, bland, and dull, and still very much resembles the look of a chain motel. Our committee was especially concerned with the blandness of the ground floor. Even looking towards other designs by the same architect, we thought that wood surrounds for the windows and doors and greenery at the ground floor would improve the warmth and texture of the design.

While the small decrease in the height of the penthouse is a step in the right direction, we continue to feel that a smaller overall scale for the building would be more appropriate, again looking towards the four-story neighbors of the building.

The proposed changes really tinker with the edges of the design rather than rethinking some of its basic problems. We urge you to ask the applicant to reconsider the design, as was done after the July public meeting, rather than simply adjust a few details, in order to make it an appropriate addition to this street and to the Greenwich Village Historic District.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director