



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

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April 19, 2013

John Sexton, President
New York University
70 Washington Square South, rm. 12
New York, NY 10012

Re: Renovation of Brittany Hall, 55 East 10th Street

Dear President Sexton:

I write to express my extreme disappointment regarding the university's renovation of the Brittany Hall Dormitory at 55 East 10th Street, at Broadway. With the installation of large single-pane windows, the renovation is destroying the architectural integrity of this striking pre-war structure, which the university itself on its website refers to as "our beautiful and historic building."

The university is entirely unnecessarily replacing recently-installed, modern-casement windows, which maintain the architectural integrity of the building and mimic the original, multi-pane windows, with new blank, single-pane, office-building style windows, which markedly diminish the building's architectural and historic integrity.

It is puzzling why the university would do this, given that the windows being replaced had only been installed a few years ago, and already replaced the less energy-efficient, original multi-pane windows. Even if for some reason the current windows needed to be replaced, there was no need to use these totally inappropriate single-pane windows, which are completely out of place on the intricately textured and detailed façade of this building.

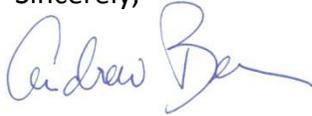
This is especially damaging to a handsome, Neo-Gothic style tower like this. Built in 1929 as an apartment hotel, the building was a striking presence directly across Broadway from the Gothic style landmarked 1846 Grace Church, and was intentionally designed to reflect the church's architecture. With the new replacement windows, the building's elegant echo of this Gothic landmark becomes a muted, blank stare.

Details like this make a tremendous difference in maintaining the character of a historic neighborhood like Greenwich Village. It is deeply disappointing that the university would not be respectful of the need to preserve the architectural

integrity of its buildings in this manner, or sensitive to the impact it would have upon its surroundings, especially at such a visually prominent location as this.

I strongly urge the university to reverse course and use architecturally appropriate windows for this building, maintaining the muntin and multi-pane pattern of the original windows.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Berman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Berman
Executive Director

cc: Councilmember Rosie Mendez
Community Board #2, Manhattan