

November 28, 2023

The Honorable Sarah Carroll, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Re: Motion to Calendar: Barkin, Levin & Company Office Pavilion - 12-12 33rd Avenue

Dear Chair Carroll:

DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State is a local chapter of an international organization working in over 70 countries around the world. Our mission is to increase public awareness and appreciation of Modern architecture, landscapes and urban design; to identify and document local examples; and to advocate for the protection of those determined most significant. Since 1996, the chapter has been advancing this mission in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

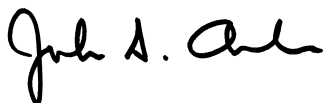
I am testifying today in support of the designation of the Barkin, Levin & Company Office Pavilion as an Individual Landmark. This building is among the Modern sites our chapter has previously identified and presented to the LPC as worthy of protection. We urge the LPC to designate this as well as other significant Modern examples throughout the five boroughs.

The Barkin, Levin & Company Office was designed by Ulrich Franzen, a prominent and prolific modernist with a number of significant commissions in the New York City area. This includes the first new building approved for a historic district, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society Dormitory in Brooklyn Heights (1969).

For the Barkin Levin project, Franzen used an umbrella roofing structure consisting of a steel column with three hinged arches allowing for maximum openness but also a deep cantilever. Upon completion, the building was published in Architectural Record (February 1959), was recognized with a Bronze Plaque for Industrial projects in the Queens Chamber of Commerce Building Awards (1958), and was photographed by famed architectural photographer Ezra Stoller.

Despite some minor alterations, the building retains its key features and deserves status and protection as a New York City Landmark.

Sincerely,



John S. Arbuckle
President
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