

**From:** [Ralph Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Mayor](#); [Murphy, Brad](#); [Richard Wagner \(Urban Design Commission\)](#); [Scanlon, Amy](#)  
**Cc:** [Madison Newspapers](#); [Eric Lawson](#); [George Austin](#)  
**Subject:** 100 Block of State Street  
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I will be out of the country, and therefore unable to attend the upcoming meetings on the subject, but would appreciate having my thoughts considered during your deliberations. Please share this with other members of your committees.

I have been a practicing architect in Madison since 1965 and am writing to express my support for the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the 100 block of State Street as proposed by the Block 100 Foundation. It is not often that an opportunity such as this is presented to a community!

Cities will, and should, evolve over time, and the interplay of carefully designed new structures amidst older buildings can provide a richer mosaic. Also, architecture is not only about buildings. In the context of an urban environment it is about the spaces which those buildings define. This is exemplified in great cities around the world, many of which I have visited, where sometimes seemingly random open spaces, come upon suddenly, increase one's enjoyment of the urban fabric and make that city unique.

Therefore, I believe that it is inappropriate to characterize the proposed removal of the Stark Building at the corner of Fairchild and Mifflin streets as a "tear in the urban fabric of our city" or "a missing tooth" as has been suggested. Rather, it is an opportunity to create a truly appropriate outdoor space; a space that acknowledges the importance of the civic buildings which help to define it.

This project, which proposes to maintain the scale and character of State Street while transforming Fairchild and Mifflin Streets, will greatly enhance the aesthetic qualities of this area. In the process it will provide a significant improvement to this portion of the "outer ring" around the Capitol Square, which desperately needs an upgrade.

Now is the time to embrace this very generous opportunity offered by the Frautschi's.

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