

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT. ■ WISCONSIN

May 7, 2012

Randy Bruce
Knothe & Bruce Architects
7601 University Avenue, Suite 201
Madison, WI 53562

Dear Mr. Bruce:

Frank Lloyd Wright@Wisconsin is a state wide organization dedicated to the preservation of Wright's legacy in his native state. We have over 250 members and reach many more through our website www.wrightinwisconsin.org and our Facebook page. Our board members come from various locations around the state, including Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, Two Rivers, and Spring Green.

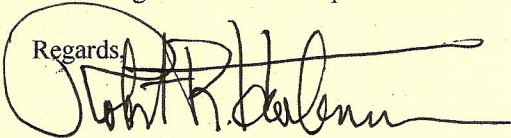
I am writing this letter because one of our board members, Jason Tish, Executive Director of the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, has brought your current proposal for the redevelopment of parcels along Webster Street to our attention. We wish to express our concern about this project.

There are more than 40 extant Wright buildings in Wisconsin and Wright's Robert Lamp house, in Madison, is one of those treasures. I first experienced the Lamp house over forty years ago when I was a resident of Madison. I recall getting my first glimpses of the house by looking through the narrow passageways between the period houses on Webster Street. As I entered the mid-block lot which held the Lamp house I felt I had entered a secret garden—aka Wright's Lamp house.

I retraced those steps, taken years ago, on a recent trip to Madison and found the experience somewhat different. Five and seven-story structures on Butler Street have partially enclosed and overshadow the Lamp house. Jason has told me that the current proposal under consideration for Webster Street is also to be a five-story structure.

It would be unfair to criticize a plan that I have not seen. But, the context surrounding the Lamp house is so important to all of us who champion Wright's legacy, that we ask all of those who are involved in the decision-making process, regarding the Webster Street parcels, to consider an option that has minimum impact on the Lamp house site. We urge you to consider rehabilitating the existing two-story residences on Webster Street, which would retain the residential character of the neighborhood and respect the context of the Lamp house.

Regards,



Robert R. Hartmann, President

cc: Amy Scanlon
Jason Tish
Bill Fruhling
Ledell Zellers
Sherri Shokler

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