



The Stained Glass Museum

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Re: Ref Application 2013/6268/P, 252 Finchley Road.

I am writing to express my objections to the above planning application to demolish the three-flats building next to St Andrew's United Reform Church in Froggnal Lane, London, and replace it with a five-storey block of 14 flats with an underground car park. My main concerns revolve around the effect of such a proposal on the stained glass windows in the church designed and made by one of the most significant British stained glass artists of the early twentieth-century, Douglas Strachan (1875-1950).

The first concern I have is the effects of the proposed building of five-storey block of 14 flats adjacent to the church on the amount of natural light able to enter the two stained glass windows in the north transept (dated 1922). Stained glass is a fundamentally architectural art form which relies on transmitted light to be seen. Light is crucial to viewing and appreciating the medium. Stained glass designers are fully aware of the effect of lighting on their windows, considering its location within a building and in relation to the north light, and selecting coloured glass of an appropriate depth and tone.

I believe these proposed building plans will mean that the Strachan memorial windows will receive less light, and this would certainly affect the illumination of the windows, and by consequence their artistic appreciation. Strachan was a Scottish artist of much note and these windows are of national significance. They commemorate the Great War, depicting the themes of 'Sacrifice' and 'Faith' and were commissioned by local. They are the only

surviving example of Strachan's stained glass designs in London and their subject matter has much poignancy and historical interest, both locally and nationally.

Furthermore, during excavation and construction there will likely be a ground movement which will cause vibrations, and potentially subsidence which pose a serious threat to the structural integrity of the stained glass windows in the church.

I believe that there are other groups who have registered their concern for these windows and objections to the proposed plans, and I hope that you are able to reject the current plans on this basis.

Yours sincerely



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Curator

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