

Henry, Genna

From: Henrietta Billings [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2015 14:39
To: Planning
Cc: McClue, Jonathan
Subject: Gillies House, Farjeon House, Castleden House 11-78 Dobson Close Hilgrove Estate London NW6 4RU Planning application ref 2015/4041/P

Planning application ref 2015/4041/P Gillies House, Farjeon House, Castleden House 11-78 Dobson Close, Hilgrove Estate London NW6 4RU

Dear Mr Jonathan McClue,

The above planning application has recently been brought to the attention of the Twentieth Century Society. We wish to register our objection to the proposal which includes the installation of external insulation to the above buildings on the Hilgrove Estate.

We understand that these blocks, built as part of the Hilgrove Estate, were designed in the 1950s by the architectural firm Louis de Soissons, Peacock, Hodges and Robertson. This practice is highly regarded and was responsible for several high profile buildings in England including the Headquarters of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Sussex Place, London, the Leathersellers' Company, City of London, and a housing development for the Duchy of Cornwall, Kennington. Louis de Soissons is most well-known for his designs for Welwyn Garden City and the Shredded Wheat factory.

The buildings at the Hilgrove Estate are characterised by a simple palette of materials: fine brick work laid in flemish bond, painted concrete detailing around the windows, entrance doors and balcony surrounds, and steel balustrades for the balconies. As is typical of the architectural style from this period, the facades are deliberately carefully crafted and understated. The architects used features such as recessed balconies and walkways, as well as protruding balconies and windows to articulate and add interest to the design. We consider that these architectural details contribute strongly to the coherent architectural style of this part of the estate. In our experience, architecture from this period is frequently overlooked, and we would like to take this opportunity to highlight the high quality design of these buildings.

The Twentieth Century Society is concerned that under the external cladding proposals, large areas of the existing brick work and architectural details will be concealed or obscured. We note from the planning statement submitted with the application that clear justification is lacking. P6 states: *"It is not possible to predict actual energy savings as this would require knowledge of current consumption, future resident behaviour and future variations in external factors."* It appears that the proposed benefits of the cladding have not been tested, and therefore the justification for such a radical and detrimental change to the appearance of the estate has not been made.

For the reasons outlined above we wish to object to the planning application in its current form. We urge Camden Council to explore alternative options that will help address their energy reduction targets, without sacrificing the character and architectural interest of these historic buildings.

I trust these comments are useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at this office if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

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