

FARRELLS

18 November 2015

Letter of Objection

With Regards to:

Camden 2015/5617/P

St. Martins House

(65-75 Monmouth Street London WC2H 9DG)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing with great concern in relation to the changes that have been proposed to what is now known as St. Martins House (65-75 Monmouth Street London WC2H 9DG), a building completed in the 1980s as part of my office's work on the Comyn Ching Triangle in Covent Garden.

I am vehemently against these proposed changes. I believe they will undermine a key part of a very finely crafted urban project, whose three corners, each with their own character, are crucial to the manner in which this benchmark exemplar of sensitive regeneration incorporates the new with the old, and addresses the surrounding urban fabric in a novel but contextual fashion.

The corner building which the proposals affect is a highly articulated, contextually sensitive, but creative composition which takes references from both the design of the other two corners and the courtyard at the centre of the block. This corner building is quite enigmatic, relying on detail for its effect in a more prominent location than the other corners, and so more visible, with a key urban presence at the meeting point of Shelton and Monmouth Streets.

There is a strong theme in the Comyn Ching Court, continued in this corner, picking up the Georgian scale and expressing this knowingly in the elevation proportions of base, middle and top, along with subtle highlights between projecting and recessed elements. The removal of the triangular motif that runs up the front of the building, which provides it with an unusually dynamic push-and-pull, in-and-out geometry that speaks rather powerfully to the junction of Shelton and Monmouth, would effectively drain it of much of its effect. To replace this with a run of the mill, uniform flat window and balcony is not acceptable.

I strongly recommend that this insensitive proposal be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Terry Farrell CBE

