

**MIAMI DESIGN PRESERVATION LEAGUE**

POST OFFICE BOX 190180, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33119-0180  
(305) 672-2014 FAX (305) 672-4319 WWW.MDPL.ORG

March 28, 2005

Hon. Robert Tierney  
Chair, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Tierney:

I was saddened to read in today's New York Times that the Tunnel Garage at Broome and Thompson Streets is slated for demolition and will be replaced by an eight-story apartment building. To trade a 1922 garage paradigm with its brickwork, terra cotta and ornamentation still mostly in place for an apartment building certainly does not seem to an outsider like a smart planning and preservation decision. Furthermore, we have been informed by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation that the Tunnel Garage has been determined eligible for listing on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

For your information a 1914 historic hotel in South Beach was recently restored into one of the finest restaurants in all of Miami Beach. It was initially looked upon as a candidate for demolition to be replaced by condominium units—a familiar tale is it not?

What a travesty to destroy this building. Having seen several buildings demolished for the sake of immediate and very marketable new construction, I can only tell you what you already know. Once it is destroyed, it can never be replaced or its loss explained to our children.

I would hope the Commission takes a second look at its decision.

Sincerely,

Bill Farkas  
Executive Director

MIAMI DESIGN PRESERVATION LEAGUE (MDPL) is a non-profit organization devoted to preserving, protecting and promoting the cultural, social, economic and environmental integrity of the Miami Beach Art Deco District and throughout South Florida. MDPL was organized in 1976 and is the oldest Art Deco society in the world.