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January 8, 2018

Mr. Arthur Sturbaum, President
Paul Muller, Executive Director
Cincinnati Preservation Association
430 Reading Road, Suite 300
Cincinnati OH 45202

Dear Messrs. Sturbaum and Muller:

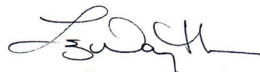
I am writing to you on behalf of Docomomo US to urge you and the board to take immediate action to save the Terrace Plaza Hotel, a nationally significant landmark of Modernism. The owner is poised to accept an offer from a buyer, which completely disregards its National Register status and would savagely strip its innovative stack-bond brick exterior—only the second use of stack bond in the U.S.

As the nation's advocates of significant Modern architecture and design, Docomomo US is extremely concerned about the Terrace Plaza Hotel and this development.

The Terrace Plaza, as you know, was the first International-style hotel built in the United States; and the first commission of Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM) to be widely published and propelled the firm into the national spotlight. It was a pivotal project for SOM because it used an interdisciplinary design team, many of which who went on to their own remarkable careers. Most notably, its chief designer, Natalie de Blois, was a rare pioneering woman architect and member of a team of other designers who conceived of every detail of the building—interiors, furniture, textiles, uniforms, tableware, graphics—and even ashtrays.

Docomomo recently recognized the Cincinnati Preservation Association for your role in the restoration of the Rauh House. Please exhaust every effort to ensure that this even greater monument to Modernism, the Terrace Plaza, undergoes a historic rehabilitation rather than a devastating degradation of its exterior. This is not the time to hold back; the loss of this building would be a national tragedy and a shame for Cincinnati.

Sincerely,



Liz Waytkus
Executive Director

cc: Dick Duval, Margo Warminski