



**West End Preservation Society Statement before the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding Certificates Of Appropriateness for Borough of Manhattan: 15-3383- Block 1244, lot 46– Calhoun School: 433 West End Avenue-Riverside-West End Historic District Extension I
Application is to alter the base of the building**

March 4, 2014

Good Morning Chair Tierney, Commissioners and Staff,

My name is Josette Amato and I am speaking on behalf of the West End Preservation Society.

The Calhoun School belongs to the handful of later developments on West End Avenue. It has stood in striking contrast to its surroundings from the moment it debuted in the 1970's. A bold statement was made by Costas Machlouzarides in his original building: a modernist floating cube of concrete, travertine marble and oversized curved bronze tinted windows.

Many didn't appreciate what it had to say, but love it or hate it, it is without doubt one of the most unusual buildings on West End.

The proposed changes to the base do alter the original design concept. However, this is not the original building. That damage was done in 2004, pre-designation, with a four story addition to the roof. This ultimately diminished if not destroyed its visual impact. The larger building doesn't really hover over its concrete columns anymore but merely overhangs, disconnected to its original intention.

The proposed alterations are compatible with the existing building. We will be sorry to lose the outdoor space on the block but understand the school's need to make use of every available square foot.

We do not believe these changes will make the building any less compatible with the streetscape and hope that the choice in materials can create the illusion of the original design.

We do not welcome the construction or de-construction. But if this change is vital to the sake of the students, based on the reasons mentioned, we will not object to this proposal.

Thank you.