



P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3Y3, (604) 254-9411

URGENT

Concert Properties
1190 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC

March 21, 2005

Attn: Project Manager

Re: Former VGH Nurses Residence ('Tapestry' Development)

As you are probably aware, the Nurses Residence – designed by architects Townley and Matheson – was evaluated in the 'B' category in the Recent Landmarks Inventory (1990). The 1949 central block was the first phase completed and was clearly intended as a showcase. It's richly appointed public and semi public interiors are among the most fully realized and best preserved early modern interiors in the city. Concern for the fate of these spaces put the Nurses Residence on Heritage Vancouver's Top Ten Endangered list in 2004.

This postwar treasure reads like an advertisement for 1950s design – from the signature wood doors with applied geometric forms in high relief, to the indirect lighting throughout. In fact, we are surprised that modernism is not a featured theme in Concert's marketing concept for this project. The interior finishes could be retained and would add market value as character elements in the current development.

The following is an incomplete list of resources based on prior observation:

Interior spaces:

- Entrance foyer, main lobby /concourse area
- Main pavilion lounge/ballroom (apparently slated for demolition)
- Lounge /social rooms; Penthouse
- Meeting rooms
- Administrative spaces

Interior design and finishes:

- Wood paneling (esp. lobby)
- Indirect lighting design
- Period light fixtures
- Elevators
- Ribbon fascia
- Crafted doors (entry to lounges and meeting rooms)
- Ripple glass
- Gold leaf (entrance foyer)

We continue to be very concerned about the fate of these interior features. In January, one of our Directors tried unsuccessfully to contact the architect to discuss the above, and his voice message was not returned. We wish to meet as soon as possible with representatives of your development team, and we suggest a joint tour of the building in the near future.

A copy of our letter to the City of Vancouver dated September 1 2004, is attached for reference. We await your early response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "don luxton", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Donald Luxton, President

Cc.
Nigel Baldwin, Nigel Baldwin Architects
Richard Keate, Chair, Vancouver Heritage Commission