

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 16, 2020

To: Richard Belliveau, President Heritage Ottawa

Re: Proposed Addition to Ottawa's Chateau Laurier Hotel

I am pleased to commend Heritage Ottawa for its leadership role in negotiating a radically improved design for the proposed addition to Ottawa's Chateau Laurier Hotel.

This commendation acknowledges the formal legal settlement made public on August 13, 2020 between Heritage Ottawa and Larco Investments Ltd. the hotel owner, to adopt a revised design for the addition known as "Version 6".

The former design, approved by Ottawa City Council was flagrantly incompatible with the cultural heritage values of the Chateau Laurier - an iconic heritage landmark overlooking the Rideau Canal UNESCO World Heritage Site, Parliament Hill and Majors Hill Park.

The revised design with its asymmetrical massing, Indiana limestone cladding and copper stepped back penthouses demonstrates a respectable compatibility with the original building's distinct early 20th century Château-style railway hotel architecture.

The revised design, in my opinion, does honourably meet the test of architectural compatibility advocated in our nationally adopted heritage conservation manifesto: "Standards and Guidelines for Historic Places in Canada."

In leading the campaign to defeat the former design, Heritage Ottawa was morally, actively and financially supported by a broad coalition of heritage experts, national organizations and ordinary Canadians dedicated to the protection of our National Historic Sites and the admirable character of our national capital.

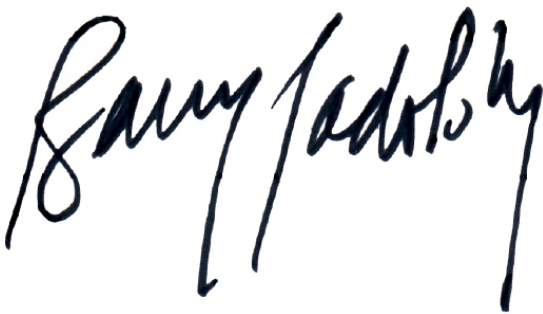
Future historians of the “Siege of the Chateau Laurier” (2016-2020) will attest that the campaign to replace the approved design with a markedly improved design was a remarkable achievement.

It shall be remembered that the settlement was reached through the efforts of civil society groups with little or no cooperation from the City of Ottawa, the National Capital Commission and Parks Canada - the authorities statutorily responsible for protecting our national heritage.

The story of this achievement should be widely circulated to encourage Canadians to take an active role in improving our communities.

“The health of a democratic society may be measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens” - Alexis de Tocqueville .

Warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry Padolsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Barry Padolsky B. Arch., M. Sc. (Urban Design), OAA, FRAIC, CAHP, RCA

*Founder and President of Barry Padolsky Associates Inc Architects 1969-2020
and current Member of the City of Ottawa Built Heritage Sub-committee*