



17 September 2019

Committee of Adjustment,
101 Centrepoin Drive, 4th Floor
Ottawa, ON, K2G 5K7

Attention: Ms. Warn Brenning
Secretary-Treasurer

Re: Château Laurier, 1 Rideau Street

Dear Ms. Brenning,

I herewith present my objections to the projected addition by Larco Investments Ltd. to the Chateau Laurier Hotel.

Urbanistically, physically and symbolically the projected addition would destroy major elements of our national identity. The addition, in the form of along bar structure relentlessly covers the north face of the Chateau.

- **In doing so it changes the very form of the Chateau Laurier from a structure with an open court to one that is a closed courtyard:**
The Chateau comprises a 1912 core, and at right angles to it on each side, two 1928 wings stretch northwards, open to Major's Hill Park and Parliament Hill. The projected addition takes the form of a bar across the open end of the "U", connecting the 1928 wings, **creating an enclosed courtyard**, thus taking the form of the capital letter "D"
- **The projected 7 story bar creates a barrier that obstructs the view and therefore the very fine relationship of the picturesque historic Chateau from Parliament Hill.** The intrusion of the mass also demolishes the significant relationship between the neo-Gothic architecture of the Parliament buildings and of the Chateau-style hotel, which, when begun in 1912, established a distinct Canadian 'national' style.

Additions to historic buildings may well be of contrasting architectural language, but they cannot act as masks allowing only obstructed views of the original. Such additions must also be sympathetic in height, articulation, proportions, and

refinement. The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada adopted by city of Ottawa in 2008 states:

*Conserve the heritage value and character-defining elements when creating any new additions to an historic place or any related new construction.
Make the new work physically and visually compatible with, subordinate to and distinguishable from the historic place.*

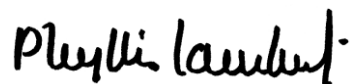
The City of Ottawa has committed to respect the ICOMOS Venice Heritage Charter Article 13 which states that:

Additions cannot be allowed except in so far as they do not detract from the interesting parts of the building, its traditional setting, the balance of its composition and its relation with its surroundings.

The application to build does not comply with existing legislation to which the City of Ottawa has subscribed. I therefore ask the Committee of Adjustment, to dismiss the application.

In closing I wish to note that among examples of additions to earlier masonry buildings, I note the beautiful glass enclosure of the Centre CDP Capital Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec, by Daoust Lestage, which connects late 19th century masonry buildings, creates a number of great public spaces, and has generated good new commercial construction at the edge of Old Montreal. I also note the modern masonry addition of the Canadian Centre for Architecture/ le Centre Canadien d'Architecture, by Peter Rose and its public gardens, to the historically classified Shaughnessy House, for which I was consulting architect and client.

Respectfully,



Phyllis Lambert, CC, GOQ, CAL, LLD, FRAIC
Founding Director Emeritus
Canadian Centre for Architecture