

Remarks on Receiving the Landmark Lion Award
Historic Districts Council
New York, New York
Robert A.M. Stern

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Robert A.M. Stern Architects

Thank you, Barry [Bergdoll], for your generous and characteristically erudite introduction.

I am proud and humbled to be a Landmark Lion. I thank Simeon Bankoff and the staff of the Historic Districts Council for their important work, and thank my former Columbia student Leo Blackman for his leadership. With particular pleasure, I doff my cap to Françoise Bollack, for many wonderful years my colleague at Columbia, who talked me into believing that I am worthy of this high honor.

To be a Landmark Lion is something special. So is this dinner in this landmark room. So is the Historic Districts Council, which occupies a crucial role on New York's preservation scene, where too much is about individual buildings and too little about places. The Historic Districts Council opens our eyes to the great neighborhoods and to the buildings they comprise, buildings Françoise Bollack long ago beautifully named, with Tom Killian, everyday landmarks. Our city's tapestry of neighborhoods, especially those outside Manhattan, is an underappreciated glory. They would be much less without the Council's great work in helping those who live in historic districts to cope with the bureaucracy and financial conditions that go with the glory.

For their great good work I salute the Historic Districts Council and try your patience with one final thought. Preservation and development are not at odds. A flourishing city need not tear down to build anew. There is plenty of opportunity to develop New York's future without erasing the record of what went before. In fact, to keep New York alive, preservation and development must go hand in hand.

Good night, and thank you all.

— Robert A.M. Stern