

## The Barry Building: *Expert Opinions*

“The Barry Building is an important historical-cultural monument. It’s a prime example of mid-century modernist architecture. As an architect, coming from a lineage of architects, and a resident of Los Angeles County, I ask you to help save this important part of our cultural & architectural history.”

**Eric Lloyd Wright**, *Architect and grandson of Frank Lloyd Wright*,  
*April 2012 (www.elwright.net/ericlloydwright.html)*

“I am appalled at the prospect of the demolition of the Barry Building – an important structure with historic value and well-suited to its site – and strongly urge the City Council to prevent its demolition. The central courtyard, lush landscaping, and open-air circulation are typical of California buildings of this era, and the Barry Building is an important surviving example, worthy of preservation.”

**Bobbye Tigerman**, *Ass’t Curator of Decorative Arts, LACMA*  
*Co-Curator of LACMA’s California Design, 1930-1965: “Living in a Modern Way,” March 2012*

“I am writing to register my dismay, in the strongest possible terms, that the demolition of the Barry Building (Historic-Cultural Monument #887) could even be contemplated.”

“There is a hugely important tangible heritage and it is quickly and quietly slipping away from your grasp. The Barry Building can simply not be one of those casualties to convenience.” “Save the Barry Building. Reuse the Barry Building. Be glad in 10 years from now that short-termism was defeated and level heads prevailed to **preserve** what you already have.”

**Sharon Cather**, *Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London*  
*VP of the International Institute for Conservation, March 2011*

“I think this is a jewel of a building, which was designed by a thoughtful, acclaimed, young architect. And it has contributed over the last 50 years to the liveliness of the Community. These qualities are extremely rare along San Vicente.” “I would hope that this building would be restored to its original splendor so that future generations can really enjoy it and use it as a study.”

**Mary-Klaus Martin**, *Chair of the Cultural Heritage Commission*  
*City of Los Angeles, July 2007*

“There aren’t many good buildings in our society which can offer to a community the values that this building does offer, especially its central court; it’s a centerpiece.”

**Julius Shulman**, *famed Architectural Photographer, July 2007*

“This building is austere. When you first see it, the details are rewarding and ultimately magnificent. It’s a beautiful example of mid-century architecture.”

**Jay Platt**, *Los Angeles Conservancy, July 2007*

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“I believe that you must preserve over the ages examples of really good architecture that the next generations will come to visit and appreciate. And we need to keep that thread. And the Barry Building is one of the buildings that exemplifies that thread.”

**Marvin Rand**, *famed Architectural Photographer, July 2007*

“This building is a prototype of an astounding example of the modern style which is increasingly hard to find.”

**Taylor Loudon**, *renowned Preservationist Architect, July 2007*

“I would like to add my unconditional support for designating the Barry Building as a Historic Monument... Landmarks let people share a sense of place, identity and cohesiveness, both literally and figuratively. Without them, we are alone, with them, we are a community.”

**Mahasti Afshar**, *former Group Director, Heritage Recognition  
Getty Conservation Institute, August 2007*

"I am writing to urge the City of Los Angeles to preserve the Barry Building. As a historian, I recognize the value this building brings to its neighborhood and the city. As an architect, I am concerned that the issues of good urban planning -- the life blood of a healthy city -- are being ignored. I have written eighteen books, including many on the architectural history of Los Angeles in the mid-twentieth century, when this building was built. The architectural history of this important era is threatened when a designated cultural landmark such as this is demolished. It must not be heedlessly erased, lest we suffer from self-inflicted amnesia. For the economic, urban, and historic viability of the city, the Barry Building should be preserved."

**Alan Hess**, *prominent Architect, Architectural Critic and Historian, May 2012*

“Allowing the demolition of a designated HCM [Historic- Cultural Monument] is exceedingly rare and sets a bad precedent. Out of more than 1,000 HCMs in Los Angeles, only around half a dozen have been demolished purely for new development” – and no designated commercial structure has been demolished in Los Angeles since 1985: “The 1985 demolition of the Philharmonic Auditorium Building (HCM #61) remains an ever-present reminder that our city’s landmarks can be vulnerable. Despite receiving HCM designation in 1969 for its rich cultural heritage and architectural significance, this prominent landmark opposite Pershing Square was demolished for a mixed-use development project that never materialized. *Twenty-seven years after its demolition, the site remains a parking lot.*” “If the Barry Building were demolished, its loss would call into question the City’s ability to protect our cultural heritage when clear adaptive reuse options exist.”

**Los Angeles Conservancy**, *Website, Advocacy Issues  
[www.laconservancy.org/issues/issues\\_barry.php#about](http://www.laconservancy.org/issues/issues_barry.php#about), 2012*