Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair

The NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor

New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Carroll,

I urge the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to act quickly to protect and landmark the irreplaceable Art Deco lobby of the McGraw-Hill Building. Art Deco enthusiasts around the world are distressed to learn that one of the world’s most vivid and important examples of the Art Deco/Streamline Moderne Style is under threat of destruction.

When the LPC Landmarked the building's façade in 1979, a design feature noted in the designation report is the alternating blue-green steel bands separated by silver and gold colored metal tubes that adorn the ground floor façade. 

Similarly, the 1989 nomination of the building to the National Register of Historic Places describes the building’s most notable feature as “the polychromatic streamlined ground floor on West 42nd Street.” This distinctive ornamentation, that epitomizes Art Deco style, curves into the main entrance of the building and is seamlessly carried into the vestibule and lobby, where the alternating bands are complemented by enameled steel panels of vivid emerald green. The lobby is so clearly a continuation of the building’s Art Deco façade that if the LPC and the National Register of Historic Places deem the exterior worthy of Landmark designation, the distinctive period lobby must also carry the same level of importance.

The destruction of this one-of-a-kind Art Deco lobby would essentially erase one of the world’s only remaining artifacts of this significant moment in design history.

We entreat the LPC to keep this important building as visually stirring as originally intended by granting the full protections of the New York City Landmarks Law to the McGraw-Hill Building’s Lobby––the world’s irreplaceable, astonishingly polychromatic, Emerald City extravaganza.

Thank you very much for your timely action.

Sincerely,