

THE BREAKERS
VISITORS WELCOME CENTER
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS for HDC and the PUBLIC

I. Two Primary Opponents to PSNC Proposal:

1. **Bellevue Ochre Point Neighborhood Association (BOP):** This association lacks proper due diligence on projects which they oppose. They seldom take time to meet with their targets before getting on the other side of issues. In this case, BOP has taken shelter with a wholly wrong expert, Patricia O'Donnell, a Landscape Architect. Therefore she has inappropriate expertise to the relevant issues. In O'Donnell's *Summary of Findings*, her first point states, "*respect what you inherit,*" just how useful is that advice? Her last suggestion: "*restore The Breakers... landscape to what it was between 1893 -1899.*" Yet, she offers no comments on issues related to the PSNC's current brilliantly designed architectural solutions to practical problems and User/Visitor-needs in 2013.

2. **A League of Letter Writers to the Editor:** Marshaled by naysayers who lack full knowledge of the project and draw on the name "Vanderbilt" to attract community support. Given the design solution as proposed, and the fact that Vanderbilts sold the property, I am sure that if the owners were living, they would not object to this design.

II. My Bona Fides and ability to Opine on this Project:

A registered architect with NCARB national certification, I founded my practice in 1966, ultimately had 1,756 Architects, Landscape Architects, City Planners, Engineers and Urban Designers, with 37 offices in 7 countries. I taught graduate school as a Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at Harvard, MIT and RISD. Won Harvard's Alpha Rho Chi bronze medal upon graduation and Fulbright Scholarship. An international award-winning architect, I authored 18 books including the relevant *Recycling Cities for People* (1976). Amongst major assignments for World Bank, UN Development Program, US Government globally, I led the team for the 1975 JF Kennedy Presidential Library **Environmental Impact**

Statement (EIS).

This project requires the evaluation one would utilize for a full-fledged **EIS** and not a restorative landscape design project as Ms O'Donnell focused upon. As a neighboring museum institution, with my experience and expertise, I put the PSNC to the test in the EIS manner – and it wins.

I hope that HDC will accept this bright and shining light just as The RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission agreed this project is laudable and should progress.

I am in favor of the PSNC plans for the Visitors Center at The Breakers. The proposed scheme indicates a superbly designed structure appropriate to both PSNC and user needs. It is appropriately sited, and does not interfere in any meaningful manner with the existing historic structures or the existing landscape.

Laurence S. Cutler, AIA, Royal Institute of British Architects,

Chairman and Co-Founder,

Natl Museum of American Illustration

Vernon Court

Bellevue Avenue

Newport