



DoCoMoMo-UK, 70 Cowcross St. London EC1M 6EL

This letter is addressed to all concerned with the future of Maison du Peuple, Clichy

I write as International Secretary on behalf of DoCoMoMo-UK, the British chapter of the international organization formally constituted at The Eindhoven Conference in The Netherlands in 1990 to protect and preserve significant buildings and sites of the Modern Movement, and now represented in over seventy countries worldwide.

It has come to our attention that the future of Maison du Peuple, Clichy may be jeopardized by immediately adjacent development and that this highly significant architectural work of the architects Jean Prouve, Eugene Beaudouin and Marcel Lods could be grossly disfigured.

We wish to register our opposition to any such proposals in the strongest possible terms, and to call on those intent on such redevelopment, or responsible for granting its consent, to pause, re-consider and formulate alternative strategies to ensure that this beacon of progressive architectural thought is not compromised by unsuitable urban intervention.

The exceptional cultural importance of Maison du Peuple has been recognised in registering its status as a historic monument in 1983 and this in itself should oblige all those engaged with future work or development of the building and its environs to proceed with the utmost caution and consideration in order to avoid detriment to the building or its setting. The proposed juxtaposition of a 96 metre high tower cannot but cause irretrievable harm to the monument's significance and urban *mise en scene*.

Unfortunately the vastly ambitious programme of *Inventons la Metropole* is here being exploited as pretext for a grossly excessive form of development carrying all the familiar cliches of architectural self-justification – “bold intervention, visionary concept, transformational gesture”, etc, etc – which prove to be so much vacuous hyperbole when the tawdry reality is eventually revealed. One need only look at what has been perpetrated on the City of London skyline over the last 10 – 15 years to see the consequences of this rapacious style of urban planning. Enough is surely now known in this regard to show that while tall buildings may have their place in certain locations, they do not make good neighbours in historically sensitive settings such as this. The Maison du Peuple and the community of Clichy deserve better.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Allan', written over a horizontal line.

John Allan MA (Edin), BA Hons, MA, Hon Litt D (Sheff), AABC, ARB, Architect
International Secretary, DoCoMoMo-UK, 6th March 2018

Professeur Richard Klein
Président
Docomomo France
1 Place du Trocadéro
et du 11 Novembre
75016 Paris
France

Lausanne, le 23 avril 2018

Monsieur,

Nous vous adressons ce courrier au sujet de la Maison du Peuple et marché couvert de Clichy (1935-39), œuvre majeure des architectes Marcel Lods et Eugène Beaudouin, avec l'ingénieur Vladimir Bodiatsky et le constructeur Jean Prouvé, dont la valeur architecturale et technique sont amplement partagées, et ce bien au-delà des frontières françaises.

C'est avec surprise que nous avons pris connaissance du projet tant radical qu'incompréhensible de « surélévation » par une tour de 96 mètres de haut qui intéresse cet objet emblématique et nous permettons d'exprimer notre vive inquiétude quant à son issue.

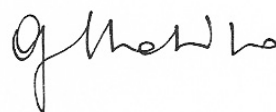
La Maison du Peuple de Clichy est en effet un témoignage irremplaçable du patrimoine moderne à l'échelle planétaire. Nous attirons votre attention sur l'opportunité d'apporter ces transformations importantes et irréversibles, qui compromettent l'intégrité matérielle de l'œuvre et en perturbent fortement la lecture architecturale.

La Maison du Peuple est un monument historique et mérite d'être valorisée comme tel. C'est donc avec conviction que nous apportons notre soutien à la mobilisation internationale en faveur de sa sauvegarde.

En vous remerciant, Monsieur, pour l'attention que vous porterez à ces quelques lignes, nous vous adressons nos salutations distinguées,



Prof. Arch. Franz Graf
Président de Docomomo Switzerland



Dr. Arch. Giulia Marino
Vice-présidente de Docomomo Switzerland