



December 20, 2022

Mary O'Neil, AICP  
Principal Planner for Development Review  
City of Burlington  
149 Church Street  
Burlington, VT 05401

RE: Preservation of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Burlington, Vermont

Dear Ms. O'Neil,

The prominence of religious architecture elevates how communities around the world are identified and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is representative of how to successfully create an inspirational experience that is a centerpiece within our built environment. There is great care taken by professionals at all levels in the design and execution of this building and landscape, with its significance including and extending beyond the religious experience. The success of the design evokes inclusivity, marking a meaningful transition from outside to inside while accentuating awe through scale, light, detail, and materiality.

The legacy of this building and its landscape extends beyond its conception: we should not, and we cannot erase the impact of this landmark from our community. We have the Catholic Church to thank for its historical significance as they sought a new language for this building and landscape by commissioning premier designers Edward Larrabee Barnes and Dan Kiley to honor the legacy of the past while forward thinking to the future. Their vision was extraordinary, inspirational, and evocative, signifying their commitment to elevating their services and responsibilities to institution, the environment, and the community.

As stewards, Architects, Landscape Architects, Planners, and Builders, we are responsible for creating and maintaining the time, space, and existence of our history through the evolution of our built environment. When prominent architecture and landscape sustains, the fabric of our communities will continue to grow and become more identifiable and unique. Successful projects such as the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception must endure for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Mac", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian J. Mac, FAIA  
Principal Architect  
Birdseye

With support from: Andrew Chardain, AIA; Mike Casey, AIA; Peter Abiles, AIA, Jeff Kamuda, AIA;  
Tyler Whalen, Assoc. AIA; Brennen Donnelly, Assoc. AIA; Will Lones, Assoc. AIA