

November 30, 2025

Dear Members of the Historic Preservation Board,

I support the designation of the Eaton Residential College at 1211 Dickinson Drive in Coral Gables as a historic landmark in order to preserve this significant local example of architecture influenced by the Bauhaus. As an adjunct faculty member at the University of Miami for many years, I am familiar with the Eaton Residential College building. It has not been significantly altered over time and is a prime example of modernist architecture, beautiful in its simplicity and function. Preserving it is in the interest not only of the University of Miami but also of the City of Coral Gables and the community at large.

To familiarize you with my background and experience, I am a retired architect with long-standing professional connections to the Bauhaus tradition and its successors in postwar Europe. After the Bauhaus was closed under the Nazis in 1933, many of its teachers and students emigrated to the United States, where they helped establish institutions such as Black Mountain College in NC and the New Bauhaus (later the Institute of Design) in Chicago. In 1953, the Ulm School of Design (Hochschule für Gestaltung—HfG Ulm), led by Max Bill, rekindled the legacy in Germany. Horst Rittel was Professor of Design Methodology there from 1958–1963 and subsequently Professor of the Science of Design at UC Berkeley from 1963–1990 and from 1973–1990 also at the University of Stuttgart, Germany, where I completed my PhD under his supervision in 1979. Later, I taught at the University of Karlsruhe under Professor Fritz Haller, a Swiss architect, who was previously visiting professor at the Building Research Institute at USC under Konrad Wachsmann. Wachsmann was another prominent modernist architect of the Bauhaus era collaborating with Walter Gropius. Professor Haller is well known not only for his modernist architecture but also for his functional modular furniture system (USM) that continues to be distributed worldwide. I continued my career as a Professor of Architecture at the University of Kassel, whose faculty and art school (Kunsthochschule Kassel—KhK) remain deeply rooted in the Bauhaus interdisciplinary tradition. Kassel is also home to the international art exhibition *Documenta*.

Sincerely,

Mihaly Lenart