



Glass Houses Praised

The design for a two-story, glass-enclosed penthouse addition atop one of the city's most distinguished cast-iron landmarks was lauded by the Landmarks Preservation Commission at a public hearing last month. The unusual addition, if set farther back and made less visible from the street, will win approval, Landmarks chair Jennifer Raab told the architect, Joseph Lombardi.

Developers Leslie Himmel and Steve Meringoff need the commission's go-ahead before proceeding with residential conversion plans for the building, an 1882 designated landmark at 361 Broadway.

Several commissioners expressed concern over what people would see through the walls of the four penthouse apartments.

"Living in a glass box is not the greatest thing," said Commissioner Vicki Match.

But the commissioners agreed that the design was a good solution to a difficult problem.

"You can make an addition to a landmark building but the challenge is great," said Commissioner Jan Pokorny. "I think this architect has risen to the occasion. It's a very fine piece of work."