

## **Bowling Over Grand Central**

The interior of Grand Central Terminal used to be—along with the interior of Pennsylvania Station—one of the architectural monuments of New York. Both interiors have been reduced to tawdriness, one by commercial displays and the other by an attempted “modernization”; but at least the basic beauty of their lines remains. The great concourse of Grand Central is still essentially a magnificent structure, and the adjoining waiting room a hall of noble proportions.

A proposal made last summer to hang three tiers of bowling alleys from the ceiling of the waiting room, reducing its height from about sixty feet to fifteen, would completely destroy its character and represent one more step in the disastrous erosion of architectural values that is reducing the heart of this city to a shambles of mediocrity. Fortunately, zoning laws protect the Grand Central area from bowling alleys, and therefore a variance had to be sought. A public hearing is to be held by the Board of Standards and Appeals today. Further desecration of Grand Central Terminal should be resisted on grounds of principle; and we trust that the board will refuse to grant the requested exception.