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# RESIDENT

## PUBLICATIONS

The Week of March 14, 2000

### Lollipop Building Finally Leaving Columbus Circle

The ugliest building in Manhattan — possibly the Western hemisphere — is coming down.

Last week, the city Economic Development Corp. issued a request for proposals from developers who will tear down Huntington Hartford's Gallery of Modern Art at 2 Columbus Circle.

The building, nearly windowless except for a few foot-wide portholes along its edges, sits atop lollipop-shaped columns and until recently housed — ironically — the city Department of Cultural Affairs. Hartford's folly, designed by Lincoln Center's Edward Durrell Stone, is the last site to be sold for redevelopment on Columbus Circle by the city.

The new building at the site has to be designed to fit in with the site — no reflective glass — and will be slightly larger than the current building if it is turned into a residential tower, and nearly twice as big if it becomes a commercial space.

Inevitably, a few community groups opposed to development and a few architects have decided it has "merit" and should be preserved. Fortunately, the city Landmarks Preservation Commission did not agree. Good riddance.

— Nico Jakobson