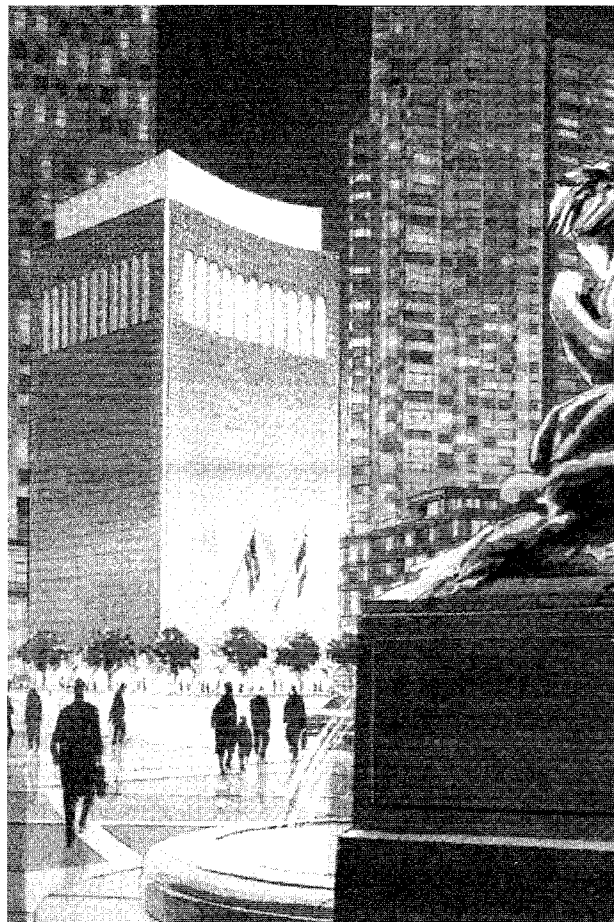


Dahesh Muse

Two Columbus Circle, restored and illuminated at night by the Dahesh Museum, will be the crown jewel of a great urban space.



AS THE *MUSE* GOES to deadline, we are renewing our efforts to secure a permanent home for the Dahesh Museum—and to create an important new civic facility for New York—by acquiring 2 Columbus Circle.

Designed by Edward Durell Stone, architect of The Museum of Modern Art and Radio City Music Hall, 2 Columbus Circle was built to house the Gallery of Modern Art, an institution founded by Huntington Hartford. Unfortunately, that museum was short-lived and, although its building is located on one of the most splendid and well-populated sites in Manhattan, the property has long since fallen into disuse. As readers of the *Muse* know, it is our hope to safeguard this remarkable building from the wrecker's ball, restore and refurbish it and return it to its

original use. We believe it will make an ideal facility for the Dahesh Museum.

We also believe that the Dahesh Museum at 2 Columbus Circle is the element needed to complete the cultural corridor that runs from Lincoln Center to Carnegie Hall and the 53rd Street museums. Already there is a multi-use facility in development on the site of the Coliseum, which will bring the performing arts into Columbus Circle and animate the area during the evenings. What's needed is a cultural attraction that will draw a broad range of visitors during the day, making Columbus Circle—and the whole corridor—fully alive. The Dahesh Museum can, and should, be that link.

The Museum launched its project of acquiring 2 Columbus Circle in October 1996, when we submitted a proposal and bid to the property's owner, the City of New York. For two years, we knew that the Dahesh Museum and a well-known real estate developer were the two finalists in the bidding process. Now the City has decided to reopen the process and has issued a new request for proposal.

Since we first made our bid for 2 Columbus Circle, attendance and recognition have steadily increased. Many local, national and international partnerships have developed. The Museum has produced major publications and presented important international loan exhibitions: *Rosa Bonheur: All Nature's Children*, *Training an Artist: Alexandre Cabanel and the Academic Process in 19th-Century France* and the current *Overcoming All Obstacles: The Women of the Académie Julian*. In recent years, our bid has won support from an impressive array of art professionals worldwide, architects and preservationists, scholars, Museum Members and concerned citizens, who have made us feel justified in our belief that the Museum's mission is timely and valid.

Calls have already poured in, asking how to help. As we present our new proposal to the City, we will let you know how you can be part of this campaign. All of us thank our many supporters for past help and urge you to keep the faith.

The Museum's website, www.daheshmuseum.org, will be regularly updated on the progress of our bid, and we invite you to check it for the latest news.