

# Trump made bid on Columbus Circle, but city's moving slowly

**D**ESPITE a new round of bids submitted last year — after four and a half years and two requests for proposals — the city has yet to decide the fate of 2 Columbus Circle.

The white monolithic structure at the intersection of Central Park South, Broadway and West 58th Street, was expected to be torn down by the Giuliani administration.

Then admirers of the stark and nearly windowless Edward Durell Stone design — which opened in 1964 to house the art collection of Huntington Hartford — rallied to save it. Art museums, including the Calder Foundation and the Dahesh Museum, also wanted it.

But the Alexander & Louise Calder Foundation was finally lured to Philadelphia this year with its collection of Calders to develop a new \$40 million museum.

The Dahesh Museum, currently housed at the office building 601 Fifth Avenue, resubmitted a proposal and has its brushes crossed.

**LOIS WEISS**



But there are other developers who want to tear it down and put up something else.

"It's a terrible building that's becoming a martyr," said Donald J. Trump, who is in his second round of bidding, too. "I was going to do a small, luxurious hotel that could capitalize on the tremendous success of Trump International Hotel & Tower," Trump told us. "It was a way to utilize the small space, but it's a small project."

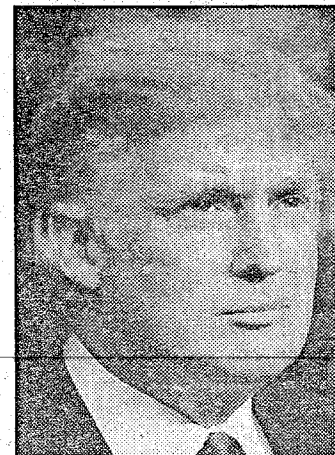
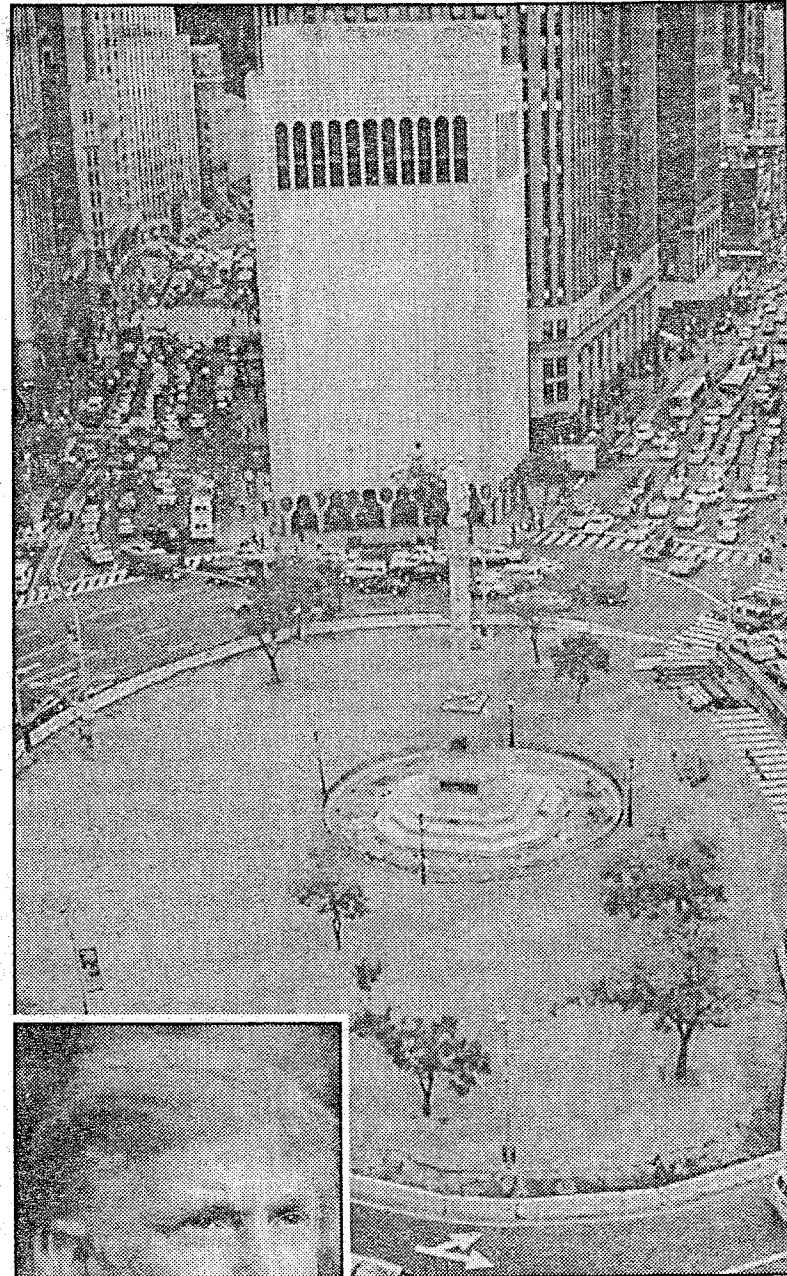
Another bidder is Max Capital.

"We were going to build a beautiful residential building," said Adam Hochfelder, president of Max Capital, confirming his company's interest. Designed by Moed D'Armas & Shannon, it would be "roughly the same height" as the existing structure.

But no one's been contacted by the city's Economic Development Corp.

At the end of March, the mayor appointed a "Blue Ribbon" Task Force to study Columbus Circle, the traffic there, and to review the applications — with no time line other than the end of his term.

The City Council held an oversight hearing last week where community leaders and elected officials called for the preservation of the building, and complained about the secretive selection process, which will avoid the land use review process.



**HELLO?** Donald Trump is one of several potential 2 Columbus Circle developers waiting on a City Hall "Blue Ribbon" panel report on traffic — and word from the city's Economic Development Corp.

AP: New York Post; Don Halasz