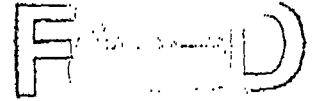


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June 30, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE 212-720-3219

*RC: Arthur Simon
(212) 875-0209*

Ms. Amanda Burden
City Planning Commission Chair
22 Reade St.
New York City, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Burden:

I am writing in support of Landmark designation for the building at Two Columbus Circle, known as the Gallery of Modern Art, or The Hartford.

I am the son of Edward Durell Stone, the architect for the building, and a Landscape Architect in private practice in Florida.

My brothers, Robert Stone and Hicks Stone, both New York City residents, have made articulate and well reasoned arguments for the preservation of this delightful, small, and spirited building. I share their concern that the building may be demolished without a proper hearing. Their letters of support are attached.

I had the privilege of serving as the Landscape Architect member of the Commission of Fine Arts, with appointments by Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter. The Commissions' mandate is the approval of buildings, or memorials to be built in the Nations' Capitol. The Commission also has oversight over the Georgetown Historic District. Should the demolition of Two Columbus Circle have come before the Commission, I predict that permission to demolish would be denied.

Father won the Rotch Traveling Scholarship in 1927, and toured and studied in Europe from 1927 until 1929. During his European stay, he created an amazing portfolio of sketches and watercolors in the classic Beaux Arts tradition. He also was exposed to the work of the early European modern architects, which he clearly found compelling.

My fathers' modernist credentials were in very good order with The Mandel House, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Conger Goodyear House, as very early modern buildings in the United States.


In the late 1950's and early 1960, he traveled extensively again in Europe, but also in the Middle East and India. He began to search for a new architectural vocabulary that led to a number of important buildings that did move architecture

Ms. Amanda Burden
June 30, 2003
Page 2 of 2

in a different direction. The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, the U.S. Pavillion at the Brussels Worlds' Fair, and Two Columbus Circle, are buildings of this period of experimentation.

I know that you and the City Planning Commission will give the building a thoughtful hearing, and hopefully share my conclusion that Two Columbus Circle is worth preservation and rehabilitation.

Sincerely yours,



Edward D. Stone, Jr., FASLA
EDS,Jr:md

cc: Mr. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor via fax 212-788-2460
Mr. Robert B. Tierney, Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair via
fax 212-669-7960
Ms. Arlene Simon via fax 212-875-0209