



June 3, 2003

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chairman  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Committee  
One Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Tierney, *Bob*

For several years, Landmark West! has been leading a valiant effort to protect Edward Durell Stone's 2 Columbus Circle. The Preservation Committee of the MAS, which as you know deals with our preservation policies, feels very strongly that this building should have a landmark designation hearing, and we have been saying so for a very long time.

Because the building has always been so controversial, and because of its high profile location, it does not seem fair that the public has no real opportunity to discuss its design values – and the appropriateness of potential changes to it – with a City agency whose jurisdiction includes regulating the building as a work of architecture. Only a designation hearing would set the stage for such an important discussion. This is why we have felt so strongly about the building being calendared for a hearing by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The way the process of redeveloping the building has unfolded, we are now faced with a situation where the only forum for comment is at the City Planning Commission, which can only consider the appropriateness of selling the building to a cultural institution. While this disposition seems to be an excellent idea that we would support, the CPC has no control over the fate of the building once it is transferred.

Therefore, we respectfully renew our call for a designation hearing at LPC. On June 18<sup>th</sup> we plan to testify at the City Planning Commission to assert our position on the importance of a public discussion of this building's merits. On June 19<sup>th</sup> the Museum of Art and Design and its architect will be making a presentation to our Preservation Committee regarding their plan for altering the building – to what end, we are not quite sure, but we will meet with the Museum because this is too important an issue not to review the plans.

I would be happy to discuss this issue in greater detail. Please call me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Frank Sanchis  
Executive Director