

Committee For Environmentally Sound Development
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It is not unanimous but an overwhelming number of architects; art connoisseurs and general art orientated public consider 2 Columbus Circle a rare and beautiful structure worth preserving. It has won international acclaim. The novel and daring style in which a modern building incorporates classic themes, is a joy to the imagination and refreshing to the eye. White marble cladding, filigree portholes, arcade, columns and loggia that reflect the Byzantine roots of the Venetian Gothic style. This building should be cherished and land marked; one of the few architectural treasures in the City.

What is particularly heartbreaking in this circumstance is that a museum whose mission is appreciation, collection and display of art is the proponent of destroying what probably is the most precious object in their collection.

On our watch, this generation has not shown the knowledge and appreciation of art and history that becomes a cultured society. In the City, we destroyed Penn Station and the Old Metropolitan Opera House. Internationally, we didn't know enough to protect humankind's heritage housed in the Iraqi Museum. The destruction there is equal to that of the barbarians of the Mongol invasion.

We ask; beg the administration of the Museum of Art and Design to reconsider: repair 2 Columbus Circle. It is your most outstanding possession, use it as it is. In addition, save your \$50 million, which you apparently don't have, for better use. We and the generation to come will thank you

Speaking of finances the Museum claims, and the City acquiesced, that they don't have the money to pay for the structure until 2006, maybe. The City may be out the sale price as well as this outstanding structure.

Further, why did the Museum directors bid on the building if they did not like it? They are probably the only museum directors in the City or the world who don't recognize the building's significance.

Use the buildings as it is or leave it for others. There are places that would welcome your collection.