

## **LANDMARK WEST!**

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**From:** "LANDMARK WEST!" <landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 05, 2004 5:31 PM  
**Subject:** 2 Columbus Circle: Muschamp Takes Stock

Not with a sigh, not with a wimper, but with a big, loud BANG!!! So ended 2003 on the **2 Columbus Circle** front.

Was it the sound of the Landmarks Preservation Commissioners diving under their desks, clapping their hands over their ears, and shoving history and the concept of landmarks preservation itself through the shredder (to paraphrase **Tom Wolfe's** sizzling, two-part *New York Times* Op-Ed piece, which appeared in October)?

No, not this time. This resounding "thwack" came from *New York Times* architecture critic **Herbert Muschamp**, whose recent inventory of the past year's architectural Highs and Lows cites 2 Columbus Circle in both categories.

*NYT* 12/28/03

The Highs: The Buildings (and Plans) of the Year

"Faint heart never won fair critic. **Brad Cloepfil's proposal for remodeling Edward Durell Stone's mid-20th-century campanile at 2 Columbus Circle is an unwelcome exercise in caution**" ...in comparison with David Childs' Time Warner building next door, which, whatever its faults, is arguably an improvement over previous designs.

The Lows: Banner Year for Lost Opportunities

In the same breath as he condemns the Ground Zero planning process, Muschamp denounces the Landmarks Commission's failure to act on 2 Columbus Circle: **"The refusal of the New York City Landmarks Commission to hold hearings on the future of 2 Columbus Circle is a shocking dereliction of public duty. Unacceptable in itself, this abdication also raises the scary question of what other buildings the commission might choose to overlook in the future."**

Coming from a critic of Mr. Muschamp's considerable wattage, those are fightin' words indeed. **What are we to conclude about our city's leadership on important preservation issues? WHAT MORE WILL IT TAKE?**