

LANDMARK WEST!

From: "LANDMARK WEST!" <landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org>
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Subject: 2 Columbus Circle: Do the Wright Thing

According to yesterday's New York Times ("Guggenheim Reviving Its Main Asset: Itself" by Carol Vogel - see <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/10/arts/design/10GUGG.html>), architect **Frank Lloyd Wright's** iconic, once-controversial design for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (Fifth Avenue at 88th Street) is about to get a "facelift."

Don't panic! Unlike **Edward Durell Stone's 2 Columbus Circle**, the Guggenheim is a designated NYC Landmark. Moreover, Guggenheim director Thomas Krens says, "**The care and preservation of the Frank Lloyd Wright building has been a priority for us.**" A board member calls the structure "**the most important piece of art in the collection.**"

Like 2 Columbus Circle, the Guggenheim attracted huge crowds and much controversy over its design when it opened in 1959. Like 2 Columbus Circle, the Guggenheim needs a little TLC (as do most half-century-old buildings). Like 2 Columbus Circle, the Guggenheim is a provocative building designed by a mid-century Modern master specifically to house a museum - therefore, like 2 Columbus Circle, the structure is almost windowless.

In a statement calling for the preservation of 2 Columbus Circle, architect and historian Robert A.M. Stern wrote: "No one will disagree that Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum is a masterpiece, though a highly idiosyncratic one to say the least....[T]here was a strong, mutually acknowledged kinship between Frank Lloyd Wright and Edward Durell Stone, whom many thought was the master's leading disciple. **Ed Stone was a very important architect and that the Gallery of Modern Art is one of his masterworks.** The value of Stone's work is only now coming to be re-appreciated."

***Go to www.save2columbus.org and click on "Get Involved" to send Mayor Bloomberg, the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the Museum of Arts and Design email "postcards" telling them to do the Wright thing! Where there's a will, there's a way.