

LANDMARK WEST!

From: "LANDMARK WEST!" <landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org>
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2004 11:56 AM
Subject: 2 Columbus Circle - The Next Ladies' Mile?

.More headlines for the Lollipop Building (a.k.a. 2 Columbus Circle)!

In her article in yesterday's New York Times (see below), columnist Joyce Purnick took her second shot at architect **Edward Durell Stone's plucky, portholed building**. She portrays the structure's would-be destroyer, the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD), as the victim of lawsuits and public outcry that may ultimately scare them away. Preservationists, she suggests, would have blood on their hands.

MAD's lack of vision for 2 Columbus Circle has always been disturbing. Even more astonishing is Purnick's short - or selective - memory. Does she forget the 1986 New York Times editorial that championed the preservation efforts of a small group called the Drive to Protect the Ladies' Mile, calling them "the best friends a neighborhood can have"? Back then, the Real Estate Board of NY responded swiftly with a letter to the Times editor claiming that creating the Ladies' Mile Historic District would have a "chilling effect" on renovations in the area. Today, Ladies' Mile is one of the city's most vibrant shopping districts - its historic architecture still happily intact, proving that time and rational consideration are often the friends of preservation and revitalization.

In short, Ladies' Mile has come full circle. Mayor Bloomberg and his landmarks commission would do New York a huge service by giving 2 Columbus Circle the chance to follow suit.

Don't let Purnick have the last word! **We're writing letters to the Times editor, and so should you!** Give them a piece of your mind by e-mailing letters@nytimes.com. Then, visit www.save2columbus.org and also send your message to Mayor Bloomberg, Landmarks chair Robert B. Tierney, and MAD director Holly Hotchner. Only a small number of New Yorkers care about saving 2 Columbus Circle? Prove them wrong!

To read the Joyce Purnick article, please click on the link below or copy and paste the URL into your web browser:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/03/nyregion/03matters.html>