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SUING OVER 2 COLUMBUS CIRCLE

As the Museum of Arts and Design (formerly the American Craft Museum) opens two new shows this week, it is still awaiting final word on whether it can proceed with its move to a new home at 2 Columbus Circle. The museum hired architect Brad Cloepfil to renovate Edward Durrell Stone's 1964 Venetian design, and his proposed plan would obscure the building's marble facade and add windows to its white, concave surface. The only thing holding the museum back: A decision, expected in the next few weeks, from the state court of appeals over the city's sale of the building.

Following the city's 2002 decision to sell the building for \$17 million, the Upper West Side preservation organization, Landmark West, swiftly brought a challenge on the grounds that no public review of the decision was provided. When a lower court dismissed this in November 2003, Landmark West appealed. With the appellate decision imminent, Landmark West's executive director, Kate Wood, and her organization filed two more lawsuits last month.

On December 1, it filed a lawsuit in state court against the Manhattan Borough Board for failure to provide proper public notice of its meeting where the sale was approved. The board gave less than three days' notice. Then, on December 23, Landmark West filed another lawsuit to gain access to the internal records on 2 Columbus Circle from the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the New York City agency responsible for identifying and designating the city's landmarks as well as regulating changes to such buildings.

While the museum this week unveils "Ruth Duckworth: American Sculptor" and "Terra Nova: Sculpture and Vessels in Clay" in its current location on 53rd Street, Landmark West will hold a day of talks about Edward Durrell Stone on January 18. Come May, perhaps both sides can enjoy the museum's planned show "Dual Vision: The Jerome A. & Simona Chazen Collection," featuring works owned by its chairman emeritus - and head of its building campaign for 2 Columbus Circle.

NOTES Geoffrey Brock is the winner of the fifth annual New Criterion Poetry Prize. Judges Roger Kimball, A.E Stallings, Hilton Kramer, Charles Martin, and David Yezzi selected Mr. Brock to receive the prize of \$3,000 and publication of his book, "Weighing Light," in the fall by Ivan R. Dee. ... Kenneth Ruoff has become the first foreigner to win the Jiro Osaragi Commentary Prize, a top Japanese literary award. Mr. Ruoff will receive 2 million Yen (\$19,805) for the translated version of his 2001 book, "The People's Emperor: Democracy and the Japanese Monarchy, 1945-95" (Harvard University Press). ... The International Fine Print Dealers Association has given its first book award to Wendy Weitman, curator of prints and illustrated books at Museum of Modern Art, for "Kiki Smith Prints, Books & Things," her catalog to the 2003 MoMA exhibition....The Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, founded by Jasper Johns in 1963, has awarded the John Cage Award for Music and \$20,000 to New York artist David Behrman. Grants of \$10,000 each went to 10 artists: Germaine Acogny, Karole Armitage, Marc Mellits, Yasunao Tone, Peggy Shaw, Carla Harryman, Harryette Mullen, Wade Guyton, Stuart Hawkins, and Arturo Herrera.

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