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Arts, Briefly; 2 Columbus Circle Is Sold

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The city has closed on the \$17 million sale of 2 Columbus Circle to the Museum of Arts and Design, the museum announced yesterday. Alterations to the building are to begin immediately, and the museum plans to occupy it by early 2008. The closing ends a three-year struggle in which preservationists fought to prevent changes to the 1964 building, right, designed by Edward Durell Stone. Its Venetian-inspired marble-clad facade and lollipop-like columns are viewed by Stone's defenders as a turning point in Modernist design. Its facade and interior spaces will be revamped under a design by Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works Architecture, which is collaborating with Gary Edward Handel & Associates. The building has been unoccupied since 1998. The museum also announced that it had raised more than \$48 million in a capital campaign started three years ago. The fund-raising goal has increased to \$65 million from \$50 million to support enhancements to the design and endowment, the museum said. ROBIN POGREBIN