

**Kate Wood**

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**From:** Ken Frydman [kfrydman@nyc.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 08, 2005 12:24 PM  
**To:** katewood@landmarkwest.org  
**Subject:** Story from NYPOST.COM from Ken Frydman



Ken thought you would find this story from NYPOST.COM interesting:

FYI: Ken Frydman

## **SWEET 'LOLLIPOP'**

By JENNIFER FERMINO

The proposed renovation for the empty building at 2 Columbus Circle is seen in this artist's rendering.

After years of lawsuits and bitter public feuding, the problems hounding the vacant "Lollipop" building at 2 Columbus Circle appear to have been licked.

Architects yesterday unveiled their \$60 million plans for the building — and it's a far cry from the gloomy, windowless Edward Durell Stone creation currently occupying that spot.

A model of the new light-filled design is now on public display at the Center for Architecture in lower Manhattan.

"We're opening it up and bringing it back to life," said architect Brad Cloepfil, of Allied Works Architecture.

The 54,000-square-foot building, which will house the Museum of Arts and Design when completed in 2008, will remain roughly the same size and odd, parallelogram shape.

But the new ground floor is slated to feature floor-to-ceiling windows all around and a museum gift shop. The second to fifth floors also will have thin, zigzagged windows cut out of the iridescent terracotta and glass exterior.

"The not very wide strips of light are what's different than other buildings," said Holly Hotchner, the museum's director. "It's a unique design."

Scaffolding will start going up today and the renovation will take about 18 months, she said.

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"We are raring to go," Hotchner said. "The delays have been difficult."

The delays she's referring to are the numerous lawsuits filed by Landmark West, a preservationist group.

Hotchner yesterday dismissed their gripes, stating she was confident there were no legal barriers left to the renovations.

"Everyone believes in the process that's happened. It's been totally legal," she said.

But Kate Wood, director of Landmark West, said there hadn't been a public hearing for the development. "The feeling across the board is when a building excites this much attention, it deserves a public hearing."

Many preservationists in her group would like to see the building receive landmark status and fear the revamping would be an architectural blunder to match the 1963 razing of Penn Station.

On Monday, they filed an appeal on an old lawsuit, one of eight the group has launched.

One Landmark West member who wants things to remain the same, Donald Fowle, told The Post: "I understand people say it's the Lollipop. But I think it's beautiful."

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