

2CC press

1 of 3 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2005 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)

February 25, 2005 Friday
SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 22

LENGTH: 169 words

HEADLINE: JUDGES STICK TO 'LOLLIPOP' BLDG. PLAN

BYLINE: BY Helen Peterson

BODY:

AN APPEALS court cleared the way yesterday for the sale and redesign of the controversial, so-called "lollipop" building at 2 Columbus Circle.

In a unanimous five-judge decision, the Appellate Division upheld a lower court ruling finding that the city went through the proper channels in selling the white, nearly windowless 10-story building to the Museum of Arts & Design for \$17 million.

The building, built in 1965 and designed by Edward Durell Stone, got its nickname from its lollipop-shaped columns. It is considered cute and quirky by fans and an eyesore by foes.

It served as an art gallery, a cultural center and later as city offices before being shuttered for sale in 1998. The Museum of Arts & Design wants to radically overhaul the building's facade.

"It's been clear to us from day one that decisions about this building have been made behind closed doors with no public participation," said Kate Wood, executive director of Landmark West, which sued to stop the sale. "We will explore all of our options."

LOAD-DATE: February 25, 2005

2 of 3 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2005 N.Y.P. Holdings, Inc.
All Rights Reserved
The New York Post

February 25, 2005 Friday

SECTION: All Editions; Pg. 36

LENGTH: 306 words

HEADLINE: THE END OF AN EYESORE

2/28/05

BODY:

In a double-stroke for sanity, two different courts just threw out challenges to the city's long-overdue sale of 2 Columbus Circle to the Museum of Arts & Design.

In the more important ruling, the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court yesterday unanimously upheld a lower-court ruling that the sale of the "lollipop" eyesore was not flawed on environmental and procedural grounds.

The 5-0 vote makes it difficult - if not impossible - for the obstructionists, led by preservationist zealots Landmarks West!, to bring a second appeal.

This is wonderful news for the museum, which needs to move and expand from cramped quarters elsewhere; it plans a sensitive redesign that will replace the impractical, crumbling and windowless marble facade with attractive terra cotta and glass.

It's also great news for all New Yorkers who want to see the vacant hulk transformed into an accessible - in every sense of the word - home for the museum's splendid collection and community-outreach programs.

So shed no tears for Edward Durrell Stone's windowless monstrosity - the last remaining blight on reborn Columbus Circle.

A second court threw out an even more ridiculous suit arguing that a public hearing on the sale last August was flawed because it was held during a month when some people take vacations.

That suit showed how low some elitists will stoop to block the democratic process. Indeed, once upon a time, that argument might have gotten some traction.

But a measure of sanity seems to have overtaken Manhattan's famously loopy bench; frivolous lawsuits don't seem to go as far as they used to - knock on wood.

Still, one more peep from the Columbus Circle plaintiffs and the museum should counter-sue for "tortious interference" - an obvious and provable attempt to disrupt a legal contract.

Let's see how they like it.

LOAD-DATE: February 25, 2005

3 of 3 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2005 N.Y.P. Holdings, Inc.
All Rights Reserved
The New York Post

February 25, 2005 Friday

SECTION: All Editions; Pg. 42

LENGTH: 342 words

HEADLINE: SALE OF 'LOLLIPOP' BUILDING GETS OK

BYLINE: DAREH GREGORIAN and STEVE CUOZZO

BODY:

Fans of the "lollipop building" have been licked again - an appeals court has given the green light for the sale and redesign of the controversial Columbus Circle structure.

In a unanimous decision, the state Appellate Division found the city followed proper procedures in its bid to sell the almost completely windowless building to the Museum of Arts & Design, which plans to refurbish and renovate it.

Preservationist group Landmark West! and others had sued to stop the sale, arguing the city gave short shrift to its stance that the vacant nine-story structure with lollipop-like columns is "a historic resource" that should be preserved.

The Appellate Division, however, agreed with Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Walter Tolub's ruling last year that found that the city "took the required hard look at the relevant areas of environmental concern and made a reasoned

elaboration of its findings."

Jerome Chazen, the chairman of the museum's capital campaign who has donated \$12 million to the project, said, "We're very pleased and especially pleased that the Appellate Division handed down a 5-0 decision.

"We're finalizing our contract with the city. Our understanding is that the city is ready to go. As fast as we sign, we're going to work."

Once the museum buys the property for \$17 million, a redesign by architect Brad Clopefil will replace the mostly window-less marble facade with terra cotta and glass.

Landmark West! suffered another blow yesterday when another judge, Harold Beeler, dismissed a second suit that contended a Manhattan Borough Board meeting where the sale of 2 Columbus Circle was approved should be voided because there wasn't enough public notice. Beeler said reps from Landmark West! were at the meeting, so they can't complain they didn't know about it.

Two Columbus Circle was commissioned by A&P supermarket heir Huntington Hartford to be an art gallery and designed by renowned architect Edward Durrell Stone. It became a city visitor center in 1980 but has been empty and crumbling since the mid-1990s.

LOAD-DATE: February 25, 2005