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Known as the "lollipop" building, preservationists are suing the city to keep it from being altered.

Legal wrangling over 'lollipop'

BY LORE CROGHAN
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PRESERVATIONISTS SAY they aren't licked yet in their efforts to save the lollipop building.

In their latest effort to stop the sale of 2 Columbus Circle — nicknamed the "lollipop" building because of the shape of the columns on which it stands — preservationists including "Bonfire of the Vanities" author Tom Wolfe are being joined by the board of the neighboring Parc Vendome condominium apartment buildings on W. 57th St. in suing the city.

The lollipop building, designed by prominent post-World War II architect Edward Durell Stone, is a magnet for controversy.

The marble building was donated to the city in 1980 as a public facility for visitors' services and cultural affairs. The sale of city property that's designated for public use requires authorization by the state legislature — which hasn't been sought, the state Supreme Court suit alleges.

The filing follows hard on the heels of a legal decision that would have allowed the sale of the property to go forward.

Late last month, an appeals court upheld an earlier ruling okaying the purchase of the lollipop building by the Museum of Arts & Design — which plans to strip the facade off the building.

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