

**LANDMARK WEST!**

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**From:** "LANDMARK WEST!" <landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2005 3:24 PM  
**Subject:** More News on 2 Columbus Circle

**East Side, West Side, All Around the Town...Modern Buildings Stir "Preservation Wars"**

The fight to save **2 Columbus Circle** and other important, threatened works of Modern architecture is the focus of *New York Times* reporter Robin Pogrebin's latest article in a string of pieces on urgent issues facing community-based preservation organizations and the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). For a full view of "In Preservation Wars, A Focus on Midcentury," 3/24/05, go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/24/arts/design/24pres.html?ex=1112677200&en=899c88979d3ffe3f&ei=5070>.

Citing experts including **architect and historian Robert A.M. Stern, former LPC Chair Beverly Moss Spatt and former Commissioner Anthony M. Tung**, Pogrebin connects the dots between the Commission's failure to hold a public hearing for 2 Columbus Circle (Stern: "It is a building that should be saved; it's still not too late...Under any definition of what a landmark is - culturally, physically and geographically - this is a landmark") and much broader problems confronted by local groups attempting to work with the LPC to protect their neighborhoods. (For a copy of the report entitled *Problems Experienced by Community Groups Working with the Landmarks Preservation Commission*, compiled and endorsed by nearly 40 groups representing areas in all five boroughs, go to <http://www.wccny.org/advocacy/advocacyf.html> - for an updated list of supporters, email [landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org](mailto:landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org)).

The LPC's response? A staff member speaking on behalf of Chair Robert B. Tierney said, "All of the preservation advocacy groups say the commission is slow to respond. The commission balances the concerns of advocacy groups across the city with *our own interests*" [emphasis added].

**What in heaven's name are the LPC's "own interests"?** This statement is a sad, but evidently true reflection of the fact that, somewhere along the line, the LPC and preservationists stopped working towards the same goal of protecting New York City's irreplaceable historic resources. And so the fight – since a fight it apparently must be – goes on...