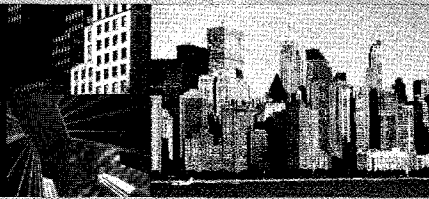


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## New York, New York

edited by VALERIE BLOCK

### Building support for a building

The battle between preservationists and the city over 2 Columbus Circle is about to get noisy again. Preservationist group Landmarks West! has just hired The Advance Group, the consulting firm that helped union workers at the Plaza Hotel rescue more rooms from condo conversion.

"We plan to run a campaign similar to the one we ran to save the Plaza," says **Ken Frydman**, a consultant for The Advance Group, who promises a lot of "coalition building."

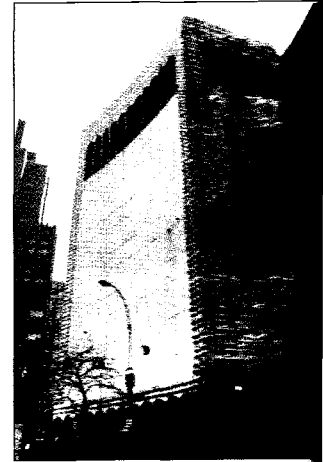
The initial goal is to get the Landmarks Preservation Commission to reconsider its decision not to hold hearings on the 41-year-old building, whose eccentric design by **Edward Durell Stone** has attracted celebrity defenders such as architect **Robert A.M. Stern**.

Meanwhile, the Museum of Arts and Design is moving forward with plans to make the building its new home, complete with a new facade. "We're on schedule," says Laurie Beckelman, director of the new building program at the museum, adding that construction will begin in the fall.

### Club corrects its politics

The controversial Harlem Club is finally opening next month at 143 Madison Ave., more than one year after it created an uproar over policies that require female members to be "pretty and in great shape, 21 to 35 years of age, single with no children and college educated," according to publicity materials.

To appease critics, owner **Thomas Lopez-Pierre** is launching a number of social clubs within the space that are based on professional achievement rather than looks. "A number of businessmen



**2 COLUMBUS CIRCLE** will take a page from Plaza

Stone's design of the building is the centerpiece of the city's

### Mets score better ratings

With the Mets putting a \$500 million bid for a new stadium, WPIX is turning a home on the stadium. So far this season household viewership jumped 26%, compared with the same period a year earlier, according to Nielsen Media Research. While the team isn't breaking any performance records, new star **Pedro Martinez** and **Carlos Beltran** providing a boost.

With television advertising stuck in a soft spot, "the Mets are a very positive thing for us right now," says **Betty Ellen Berlamino**, WPIX's general manager.

Now that games are back on Time Warner Cable, ratings, which dropped 50% on Fox Sports New York and 26% on MSG Network, should recover. Meanwhile, the



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