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May 25, 2005

Museum of Arts & Design signs contract for Lollipop Bldg.



by Wendy Blake

The Museum of Arts & Design announced the signing of the contract for the purchase of 2 Columbus Circle from the city of New York. The signing allows the museum to move forward with controversial plans to create a new home in the so-called Lollipop Building, which preservationists consider a prime example of midcentury design.

The museum was chosen in 2002 to redevelop the building, which has been vacant since 1998. The institution plans to begin construction as early as this fall, and the museum plans to move into its new building in 2007.


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But, for the plan's opponents, the battle is not over. Preservationist group Landmarks West! recently hired consulting firm The Advance Group, which helped union workers in their fight to save rooms at the Plaza Hotel, to launch a campaign aimed at preserving the structure. The initial goal is to get the Landmarks Preservation Commission to reconsider its decision not to hold hearings on the 41-year-old building (*Crain's*, "New York, New York," May 16, 2005).

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