

CITY ROOM

A New Face at Columbus Circle, but the Lollipops Remain

New York may not be able yet to place the name, but the lollipops will certainly be familiar.

So will the shape and the pale color of Edward Durell Stone's Gallery of Modern Art, built at 2 Columbus Circle in 1964 to house Huntington Hartford's art collection. Almost everything else has changed, however, with the transformation of the building into the Museum of Arts and Design (formerly known as the American Craft Museum), designed by Brad

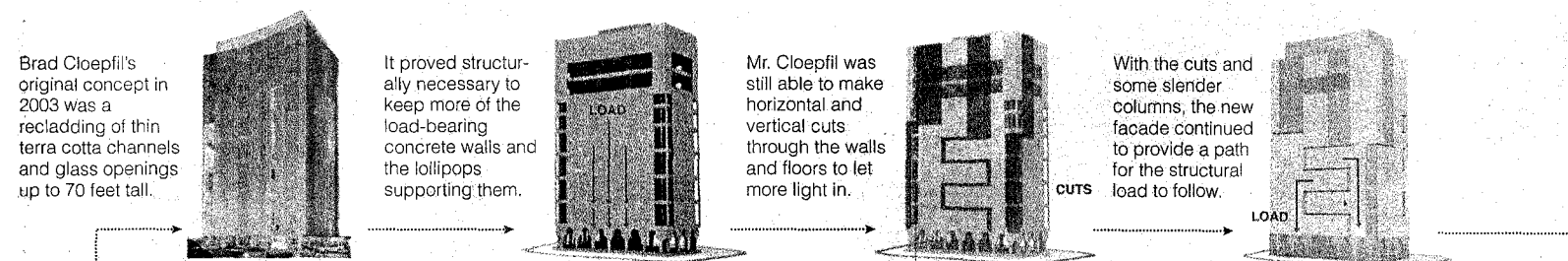
Cloepfil of Allied Works Architecture.

Stone's design, initially disparaged, gained admirers in recent years, including Tom Wolfe; the architectural historians Vincent Scully and Robert A. M. Stern; and Herbert Muschamp, former architecture critic of The New York Times. Their pleas could not move the Landmarks Preservation Commission to hold a hearing on whether to designate the building. So the transformation went ahead. Though the

museum is four months from opening, the new facade has now emerged from its construction cocoon. Some viewers discern the word "HE" in the facade. It is the inadvertent result of a late design revision calling for a band of glass where a restaurant will be. That created a crossbar, making an H. Once one sees it as a letter form, it is hard to ignore.

DAVID W. DUNLAP

Highlights from City Room, the metropolitan blog, which is updated each weekday. To read more and submit a comment for publication: nytimes.com/cityroom

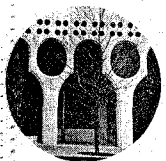


Before

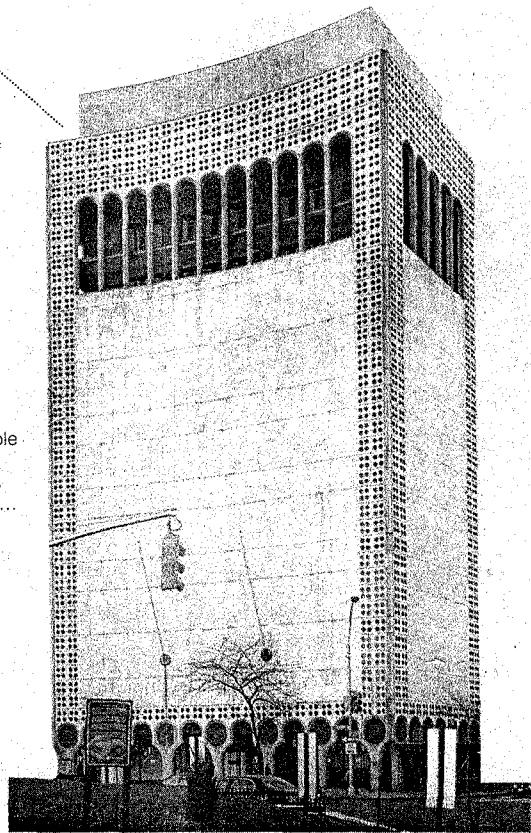
The corners were punctuated with 12-inch portholes that let a limited amount of light into the galleries.



The exterior walls, covered in white marble panels, shouldered some of the building's weight, transferring it ...

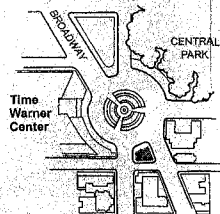


... to a series of columns at the base, which formed three-lobed arches that were likened to lollipops.



JACK MANNING/THE NEW YORK TIMES

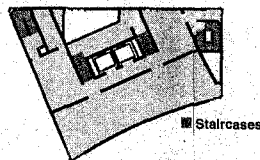
GRAPHICS BY MIKA GRÖNDAHL/
THE NEW YORK TIMES



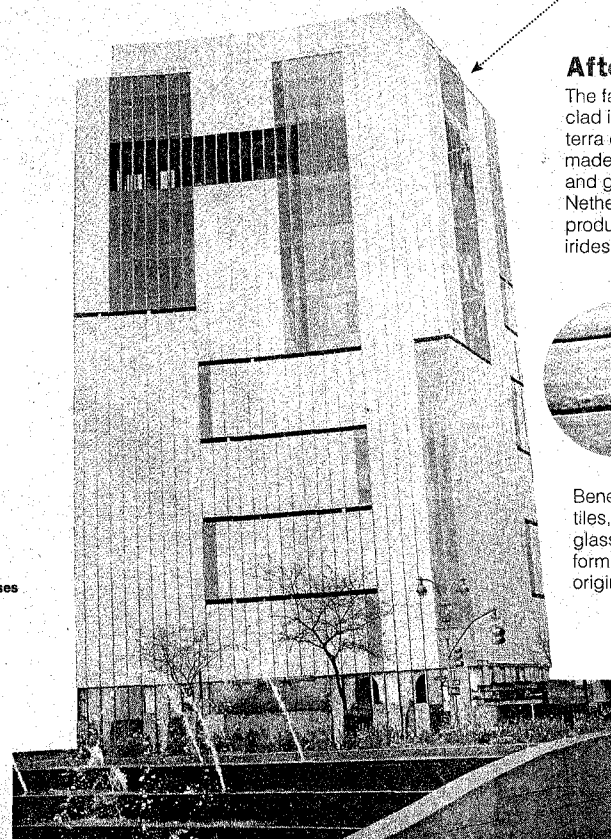
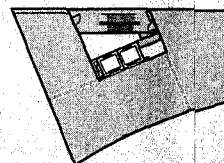
2 Columbus Circle

The original gallery layout was cramped and confusing. Mr. Cloepfil moved staircases to provide more gallery space.

ORIGINAL GALLERY



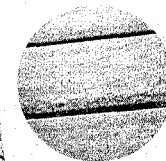
NEW GALLERY



LIBRADO ROMERO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

After

The facade is now clad in 22,000 terra cotta tiles, made in Germany and glazed in the Netherlands, that produce an iridescence.



Beneath those tiles, now under glass, are the forms of the original lollipops.

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