



Museum of Arts & Design

40 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

News

MUSEUM OF ARTS & DESIGN SIGNS CONTRACT WITH CITY FOR PURCHASE OF TWO COLUMBUS CIRCLE

Signing of Contract Enables Museum to Move Forward with Redevelopment of Site As Dynamic Cultural, Educational, and Civic Center

New York, NY, May 25, 2005— The Museum of Arts & Design (MAD) today announced the signing of the contract for the purchase of Two Columbus Circle from the City of New York. The signing enables MAD to move forward with the creation of its new home, which will transform the site into a vibrant cultural and educational resource that will serve New York City and visitors from across the country and abroad.

The sale of Two Columbus Circle to MAD marks the culmination of an extensive public review process which was required prior to the Museum’s acquisition of the building – which has been vacant since 1998 – from the City. MAD was designated by the City to redevelop Two Columbus Circle in June 2002. The Museum subsequently embarked on a comprehensive series of public hearings to seek input on its plans from neighbors and community boards, state and city agencies, and elected officials.

“Today’s signing of the contract marks a milestone in the redevelopment of Two Columbus Circle as the future home of the Museum of Arts & Design,” says Jerome A. Chazen, Chairman of the Capital Campaign for the Museum. “We are grateful for the support we received from community representatives and public officials over the past 24 months who embraced our plans to bring Two Columbus Circle back into public use as a thriving museum. This is a great day for the Museum, our visitors and artists, and all New Yorkers.”

“We are very pleased to see the Museum of Arts & Design move forward with the redevelopment of Two Columbus Circle,” says Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff. “This important cultural project—

which has been endorsed by city agencies, community boards, and elected officials who represent all of New York—adds a valuable dimension to the neighborhood and contributes to the economic vitality of the City.”

“We look forward to creating a welcoming and architecturally distinguished museum in one of Manhattan’s most significant urban spaces,” adds Barbara Tober, Chair of the Museum. “Our new building will enable us to provide a new level of service to the hundreds of thousands of families, schoolchildren and visitors who come to this institution each year, and the Museum will contribute significantly to the educational and cultural life of the West Side.”

“For the first time in the history of this institution, we will have the variety of quality spaces that we need to display our renowned permanent holdings in galleries specifically designated for the collection,” says Holly Hotchner, Director of the Museum. “With nearly triple the space that we have in our current facility, we will also be able to accommodate a growing number of educational programs and artist studios.”

Construction on the Museum of Arts & Design at Columbus Circle is scheduled to begin as early as fall 2005. MAD will move into its new building in 2007.

The Museum’s new 54,000-square-foot home is designed by Allied Works Architecture, led by Brad Cloepfil, in collaboration with Gary Handel and Associates. Allied Works Architecture has worked on a number of important cultural and educational projects throughout the United States, including the new Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis, MO; the expansion of the Seattle Art Museum, and the new Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, TX. The firm is also working on the renovation and expansion of the University of Michigan Museum of Art in Ann Arbor.

The design for MAD’s new home at Two Columbus Circle is Allied Works Architecture’s first project in New York City.

The Public Process

In the fall of 2002, MAD began a cycle of meetings and public hearings, seeking feedback on its plans from neighbors and community boards, state and city agencies, and elected officials who endorsed the redevelopment of Two Columbus Circle as the Museum’s future home and continued

to provide input on the project. Since the fall of 2002, public hearings were held before the following city agencies and community boards who voted in favor of the project:

- Manhattan Community Board 5
- New York City Planning Commission
- New York City Council
- Manhattan Borough Board

The New Museum

MAD's new 54,000-square-foot home will transform Two Columbus Circle into an educational, cultural, and civic center serving visitors, students, families, and artists. The new building will include 14,000 square feet of gallery space for the display of the permanent collection and special exhibitions; studios and classrooms for master classes, artists-in-residence, and open studio programs; a refurbished, 155-seat auditorium and theater; a restaurant and lounge on the 10th floor overlooking the City and Central Park, and an expanded museum store.

The new building will weave together the museum experience and the City's street life, capitalizing on the building's pivotal location linking Midtown, the Upper West Side, and Central Park. The new Museum will have a dynamic, sculptural quality and reveal different grades of transparency from different vantage points. The façade of the new building will be composed of textured terracotta panels glazed in a light color—a material that resonates with MAD's craft tradition—and transparent and fritted glass.

Museum of Arts & Design (MAD)

The Museum of Arts & Design is the country's leading cultural institution dedicated to the collection and exhibition of contemporary objects created in a wide range of media, such as clay, glass, wood, metal, and fiber. The Museum celebrates materials and processes that are today embraced by practitioners in the fields of craft, decorative arts, and design. MAD's distinguished permanent collection includes over 2,000 objects by renowned and emerging artists and designers from around the world, representing many forms of creativity and craftsmanship.

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