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Museum to Buy Contested Site

By THE NEW YORK TIMES

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The Museum of Arts and Design announced yesterday that it had signed a contract to buy 2 Columbus Circle from New York City.

The contract enables the museum to proceed with the reconstruction of its future home in the building, designed by Edward Durell Stone as Huntington Hartford's Gallery of Modern Art.

The museum's new 54,000-square-foot home is designed by Allied Works Architecture, led by Brad Cloepfil, in collaboration with Gary Edward Handel & Associates.

The facade is to be composed of light-colored terra-cotta panels and transparent and fritted glass. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall and to be completed in 2007.

With lawsuits and public protests, preservationists have unsuccessfully called on the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to hold a hearing on the building, which has been vacant since 1998.

The commission has refused to revisit its 1996 decision not to have a hearing.

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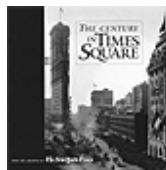
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