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**TWO COLUMBUS CIRCLE NAMED TO “SEVEN TO SAVE” LIST**  
*Preservation League of New York State Announces Most Endangered Places*

**ALBANY, November 24, 2003** – The Preservation League of New York State will name **Two Columbus Circle** in Manhattan as one of New York State’s *Seven to Save*, the nonprofit group’s annual list of New York’s most threatened historic places. **The announcement will take place at the Hudson Hotel, 356 West 58<sup>th</sup> Street, at *The Loft*, and will feature remarks from Barry Bergdoll**, Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Art History & Archaeology, Columbia University; artist **Chuck Close**; and author **Tom Wolfe**. Numerous preservation and civic groups who share a concern for the building will be present.

Two Columbus Circle represents a turning point in the Modern Architecture Movement. Edward Durell Stone’s 1964 museum for Huntington Hartford’s art collection broke ground as arguably one of the first Post-Modern building designs. Current plans for adaptive use would significantly reconfigure the interior and completely replace the building’s marble façade with transparent glass.

“Two Columbus Circle has generated tremendous passion in the preservation community,” said Scott P. Heyl, President of the Preservation League of New York State. “The League has long felt that this mid-twentieth century building should be recognized for its contribution to the modern vernacular.”

According to Anthony Wood, chair of the Seven to Save Committee, “Our jury’s decision to list Two Columbus Circle reflects our belief that the building truly represents a unique moment in modern architecture.”

Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, offered support for efforts to protect the building. “Preserving the architectural integrity of Two Columbus Circle is of the

utmost importance. Designed by famed architect Edward Durell Stone, this nationally recognized – albeit controversial – building is an icon of the Modern Movement.”

Artist Chuck Close noted that he has “always enjoyed this distinctive and delightful building with its opaque white facades and punched out hole windows. Stone designed it perfectly to fit the circle, while giving pedestrians and traffic viewers a sense of scale and locale ... The building is a little monument, which should not be changed, whether people like it or not.”

“The daring design of the AOL Time Warner Center now under construction takes its cues directly from Stone’s building, at once continuing its play of curved facades and playing off its windowless façade by creating a play of great transparency,” said Barry Bergdoll, Professor of Graduate Studies, Department of Art History and Archeology, Columbia University, and Vice President of the national Society of Architectural Historians (SAH). “History has continued to play itself out at Columbus Circle and Stone’s building is an integral part of the larger picture that is now coming into focus as work pushes to a completion on the new building.”

Frank Stella, noted artist, also spoke to the relationship between 2 Columbus Circle and the AOL Time Warner Center. “This building needs to be preserved and treated as a landmark, not just for its distinctive identity, but also because it serves a necessary function towards the formal definition of Columbus Circle,” said Stella.

According to artist Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, “It’s a really cool building. One can’t say that about most. We certainly don’t want to lose this one.”

Professor Stanislaus von Moos, Professor of Modern Art, former Jean Labatut Visiting Professor at Princeton University, wrote that the building’s “scale and the quality of its detail enhance Columbus Circle as a pedestrian space, while its emblematic character ... is able to enrich and give a distinctly urban atmosphere to the entire stretch of Broadway that connects Columbus Circle to Lincoln Center.”

Robert A.M. Stern, noted architect, applauded the “courageous and farsighted decision of the Preservation League of New York State to list Edward Durrell Stone’s Two Columbus Circle as one of its *Seven to Save*, an important list of the most significant endangered properties in the entire state.”

“We have been concerned with the total lack of opportunity to explore the building’s unique contribution to the city’s architectural vocabulary as exemplified by the denial of a Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing,” said Heyl. “Our ultimate hope in the listing is to encourage a modified design approach that would lessen the impact on the exterior fabric of the building, thus respecting its architectural and historical integrity. We feel that regardless of official designation, Two Columbus Circle is truly a New York City Landmark.”

A complete listing of other *Seven to Save* designees is attached and will be posted at [www.preservenys.org](http://www.preservenys.org).

Since 1999, the Preservation League of New York State has identified 35 threatened historic sites in New York State. Additionally, the League has used the *Seven to Save* list to raise the visibility and importance of the Modern Movement within the larger preservation dialogue. Recent **Seven to Save** sites have included Edward Durell Stone’s **A. Conger Goodyear House** (1938); the **Edgar J. Kaufman Conference Rooms** (1965) designed by Alvar Aalto; and Eero Saarinen’s **TWA Terminal** (1956-61). “As we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, these mid-century buildings gain ever more importance – they represent the American Century,” said Heyl.

The Preservation League of New York State, founded in 1974, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection of New York’s diverse and rich heritage of historic buildings, districts and landscapes. From its headquarters in Albany, it provides a unified voice for historic preservation. By leading a statewide movement and sharing information and expertise, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize the Empire State’s neighborhoods and communities.