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September 20, 2005

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

One of New York's great monuments of 20th-century Modern design is in imminent danger of being lost forever. The former Gallery of Modern Art at **2 Columbus Circle**, designed by internationally acclaimed American architect Edward Durell Stone and built in 1964, has for too long been mischaracterized and underappreciated for the important work of art that it is.

A growing constituency of architects, artists, designers, scholars and other members of the public have expressed their deep concern about the future of this building.

We do not oppose the acquisition of 2 Columbus Circle by the Museum of Arts and Design. However, we believe the Museum is headed down the wrong road with its plan to re-skin the building and eliminate its distinctive façade. We also understand that other noteworthy institutions have come forward as alternative owners who would refurbish the building's unique exterior and make it again one of Columbus Circle's prized structures.

Meanwhile, thousands have urged the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission to hold a public hearing to consider whether 2 Columbus Circle should be a protected landmark. We support a hearing so that all those who have taken such a passionate interest in this building have an opportunity to express themselves in an open forum where their voices will be heard.

New York is the world's most creative city. And 2 Columbus Circle is a building of worldwide significance. We simply cannot afford to lose it. **Don't let it happen on your watch!** Let's use our collective creativity and intelligence to come up with a solution.

Sincerely,

Chuck Close and co-signers (*see right*)

Howard G. Abel
Michael Henry Adams
Jonathan Adler
Eric Allison
Kurt Andersen
Hilary M. Ballon
Bruce Barnes and Joseph Cunningham
Barry Bergdoll
Jeffrey Bilhuber
Charles A. Birnbaum
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Raymond Plume
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George Ranalli
Leslie E. Robertson
Witold Rybczynski
Martin & Margy Meyerson
Vincent Scully
Britt Smith
Ken Smith
Virginia Smith
Michael Somoroff
Michael Sorkin
Susan Weber Soros
Beverly Moss Spatt
Robert A.M. Stern
B. Hicks Stone
Edward Durell Stone, Jr.
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