

Record News

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Cloepfil design for 2 Columbus Circle draws preservationist ire

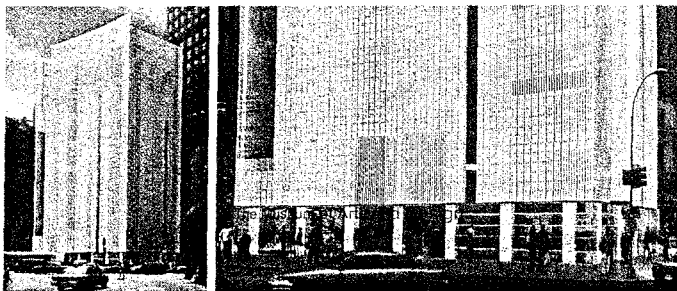
Although 2 Columbus Circle—a 10-story gallery designed by Edward Durell Stone in 1964—is not an official landmark, New York City preservationists are preparing to fight the \$50 million redesign of the building by Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works for the new home of the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design.

The redesign replaces the idiosyncratic building's crumbling white marble cladding with, according to Cloepfil, "somewhat diaphanous" terra-cotta panels punctuated by vertical glazed openings. He says the strategy increases the museum's visibility by "giving an idea of what's happening inside," and allows daylight into the galleries.

But the new exterior spells the end of the existing portholes and sidewalk arcade of lollipop columns. To preservationists, Cloepfil's "design treats these remarkable elements as though they were expendable, if not contemptible," Kate Wood, executive director of Landmark West,

wrote in a letter to *The New York Times*.

Cloepfil responds: "People have definite associations with the decoration, but I also think the building's singularity, monumentality—the color of it, even—are just as evocative."



Terra-cotta panels may replace the building's white marble exterior.

The scheme also redefines the interior. Full floors will be constructed in lieu of the original half-story intervals. Glass columns, with artwork inside, will run vertically through the 54,000-square-foot space.

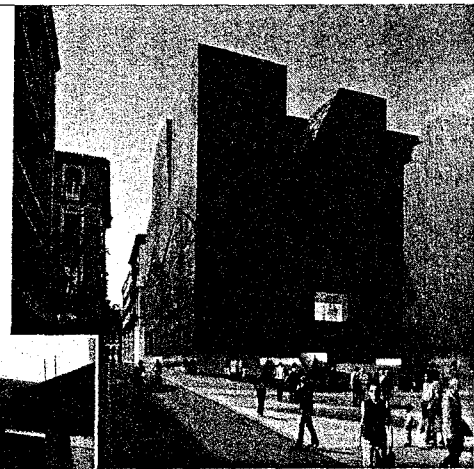
The City Planning Commission must approve Cloepfil's design before the museum can purchase the building and reconstruction can begin. D.S.

Factory buildings transformed into CaixaForum-Madrid

Swiss architects Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron have unveiled their design for the CaixaForum-Madrid, a new private museum in the Spanish capital. The museum will house the collection of contemporary art of the Caixa Foundation, which is supported by the Caixa Savings Bank (a sister institution opened in Barcelona last year, in a factory refurbished by Arata Isozaki and local architect Roberto Luna). A pair of early-20th-century factory buildings a few steps from the Paseo

del Prado are presently on the site. The museum will be connected to the Paseo by a small plaza currently occupied by a gas station (pictured, left).

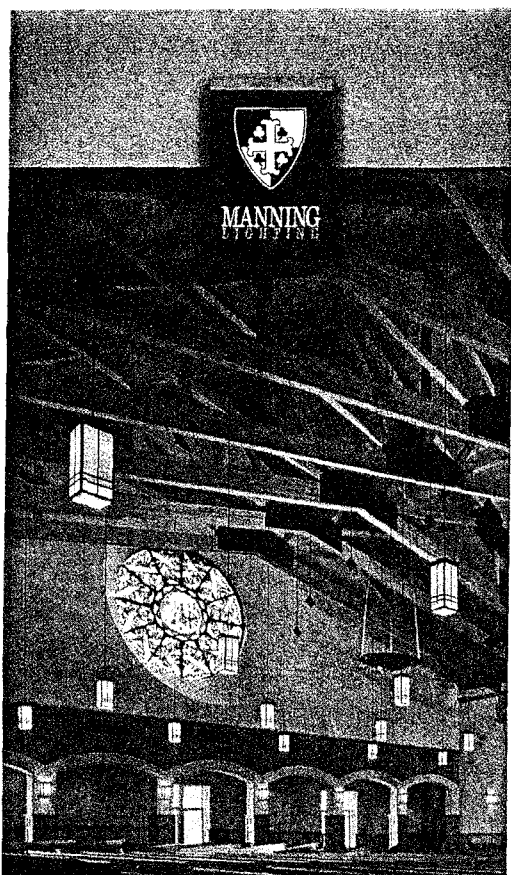
Herzog and de Meuron's plans call for a radical restructuring of the original brick buildings. The architects suggest removing the granite bases and leaving the brick shells, creating a covered entry plaza that occupies the entire site. The levitation of the buildings, they explain, resolves "problems such as the narrowness of



The design will transform factory buildings (left) into a museum (above).

the surrounding streets, the placement of the main entrance, and the architectural identity of the institution in a single sculptural gesture."

An auditorium and the museum's technical and service spaces are located below the plaza, with the exhibition galleries and other public facilities above. A metal-clad superstructure, which will rise to a series of inclined planes, will be above the original brick walls. The \$25 million museum will be completed in 2005. David Cohn



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