

Arts in Brief
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Community To Weigh In On 2 Columbus Circle

Architecture critics may have already weighed in on Brad Cloepfil's design to renovate 2 Columbus Circle, but it will be months or even years before work begins.

The long process will move forward this week, with a vote by the local community board, the first step in a public review process that the city recently green-lighted, following its decision last year to sell the building to the Museum of Arts and Design, formerly the American Craft Museum.

On Thursday, Community Board 5 will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. at the International Toy Building at 1107 Broadway, and then vote on whether to approve the city's transfer of the building to the museum.

So far, returns on Mr. Cloepfil's plan to place a clear façade on Edward Durell Stone's 1960s Venetian palazzo-inspired building have generally been positive. But at least one preservation group, Landmark West, would like the building to be given landmark status, which could significantly impair Mr. Cloepfil's design.

Landmark West is in favor of the building's use as a museum, but would like more public input in the sale process. ³A lot of people assume this is a done deal,² said Kate Wood, the executive director of Landmark West. ³But it's a city-owned property. It has to go through the [public review] process.²

³It's all a public process,² was all Laurie Beckelman, the director of the Museum of Arts and Design's new building program and a former head of the Landmarks Preservation Board, would say.

Kathy Kinsella, the district manager for Community Board 5, said she couldn't comment on the board's thinking about 2 Columbus Circle. ³We don't speculate as to what the position is before the meeting,² she said.

In the meantime, the Museum of Arts and Design has launched a capital campaign ahead of the renovation, which is reported to cost about \$50 million.