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HEADLINE: 'LOLLIPOP' FANS LICKED IN COURT

BYLINE: STEVE CUOZZO Real Estate Columnist

BODY:

A judge kicked the sticks out from under Columbus Circle's "Lollipop" yesterday, tossing two lawsuits that sought to prevent the city from selling the controversial building to the Museum of Arts & Design.

State Supreme Court Justice Michael Stallman threw out the suits by preservationist groups led by **Landmark West**, which oppose the museum's plan to replace architect Edward Durell Stone's marble facade with a new face of terra cotta and glass.

The rulings clear the way for the long-delayed sale of the funky, decayed structure on the circle's south rim and its conversion into the museum's new home.

The vacant building is considered an eyesore by some and a masterpiece by others. The museum wants to move its collection there from cramped galleries in a Midtown office building. It has a contract to buy it from the city for \$17 million, but the suits held up the deal.

The Lollipop is not a designated city landmark and enjoys no protection from changes.

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