

**CHUCK CLOSE**  
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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 20<sup>th</sup>-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

*Together with the undersigned*

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\* The World Monuments Fund listed 2 Columbus Circle as one of the world's "100 Most Endangered Sites" for 2006. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has also called 2 Columbus Circle one of the "11 Most Endangered Historic Places" in America, and the Preservation League of New York State placed the building on its "Seven to Save" list.

Amy Newman, art writer

Arnold Newman

Gene A. Norman, AIA, former Chair of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

Liz O'Brien, Liz O'Brien Gallery

Franklin Parrasch, Franklin Parrasch Gallery

Ellen Phelan, artist

Claude Picasso

Raymond Plume, AIA

Theodore H.M. Prudon, PhD, FAIA

George Ranalli, AIA, Dean of Architecture, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, City College of New York

Leslie E. Robertson, Hon. AIA New York Chapter

Witold Rybczynski, Honorary FAIA, Martin & Margy Meyerson Professor of Urbanism;  
Professor of Real Estate

Vincent Scully, Sterling Professor Emeritus of the History of Art, Yale University

Britt Smith, interior designer

Ken Smith, FASLA

Virginia Smith, Professor of Art, City University of New York

Michael Somoroff, artist

Michael Sorkin, Director of the Graduate Urban Design Program, City College of New York

Susan Weber Soros, PhD, Founder and Director of the Bard Graduate Center for the Decorative Arts

Beverly Moss Spatt PhD, AICP, Hon. AIA New York Chapter, former Chair of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, former member of the NY City Planning Commission

Robert A.M. Stern, FAIA, Dean of Yale School of Architecture

B. Hicks Stone, AIA

Edward Durell Stone, Jr., FASLA

Robert Venturi, FAIA, and Denise Scott Brown, FAIA

Alan Wanzenberg, AIA

Mark Wigley, Dean of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Columbia University

Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor and Chair of Architectural History, University of Virginia

Tom Wolfe

Andrea Woodner, Founder and Chair, Design Trust for Public Space

Susan Yelavich, FAAR

*List in formation as of 9/19/05*

Howard G. Abel, FASLA

Michael Henry Adams, architectural historian

Jonathan Adler, designer

Eric Allison, PhD, AICP, Coordinator, Graduate Historic Preservation Program, Pratt Institute

Kurt Andersen, Hon. AIA New York Chapter

Hilary M. Ballon, PhD, Professor of Art and Architectural History, Columbia University

Barry Bergdoll, PhD, Chair of the Department of Art History & Archaeology, Columbia University

Jeffrey Bilhuber, designer

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR

Françoise Bollack, AIA

Francis Booth, AIA

Peter Coombs, AIA

Page Ayres Cowley, FAIA, RIBA

Joan K. Davidson

Michael Formica, designer

Denis Gallion and Daniel Morris, Historical Design Collection

Eric Joseph Gering, AIA

Milton Glaser

Laura Gottwald, designer

Agnes Gund

Albert Hadley

Laura Heim, AIA

Bob Hiemstra, photographer

Jane Holzer

Mary Anne Hunting, AIA

Barbara Jakobson

Kyle Johnson, AIA

Harry Kendall, AIA

Thomas F. Little, AIA

Charles Lockwood, architectural writer and consultant

Walter B. Melvin, AIA

Jeffrey P. Miles, AIA

Steven Miller, Director of the Morris Museum

Andrew Craig Morrison, AIA

LeRoy Neiman

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