

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART TO PRESENT I. M. PEI DESIGN  
FOR EAST BUILDING, FOLLOWED BY GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

WASHINGTON, D.C. April 26, 1971. After two and a half years of intensive planning, the National Gallery of Art has completed final design plans for its projected East Building.

A presentation of these plans to the press will be given by the Director of the Gallery, J. Carter Brown, and the architect of the new building, I. M. Pei, on May 5, 1971, at 9:45 a.m. in the Founder's Room at the Gallery. (For convenience, television crews should use the Constitution Avenue entrance to the Gallery.)

A ground-breaking ceremony will be held the following day, May 6, at 12:45 p.m., on the site of the new East Building, at the corner of 4th Street and Madison Drive, to which the press is also welcome.

At the ground-breaking, Chief Justice of the United States and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery Warren E. Burger and President of the Gallery Paul Mellon will address an invited audience. The audience will include, in

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addition to government dignitaries, members of the scholarly community from around the country.

An exhibit covering the design and program of the new building will open to the public after the ground-breaking ceremony, in the Rotunda area on the Main Floor of the Gallery.

Past and present Kress Professors and Fellows of the National Gallery--two programs which constitute the nucleus of the Gallery's planned Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts--will be honored at a luncheon given by the Director of the Gallery following the ground-breaking ceremony.

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The new building, to be called the East Building and to be constructed on the site bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, 3rd Street, Madison Drive and 4th Street, as authorized by Public Law 90-376 approved by the President on July 5, 1968, will be connected underground to the existing 30-year-old National Gallery building by a pedestrian concourse and cafeteria level beneath a new plaza and 4th Street.

When the site for the National Gallery was appropriated by Public Resolution of the 75th Congress on May 24, 1937, provisions for expansion were made by reserving the site to the east for future Gallery use. That action provided the base for planning for the East Building, which will include the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts. The action was furthered by a gift from Paul Mellon and his sister, the late Mrs. Mellon Bruce, as announced by the President on November 6, 1967.

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The firm of I. M. Pei and Partners was appointed as architects on July 29, 1968, following Congressional authorization for construction of the building on the Mall site.

The Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts will include facilities for a major library and photographic archive. The East Building will also incorporate exhibition galleries for both permanent and temporary exhibitions, a terrace café and housing for the expanding extension, publications and education programs.

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