

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

Washington, D. C. July 30, 1968. The architect I. M. Pei has been retained to begin work on the design of the new east building of the National Gallery of Art, it was announced today.

The additional building will stand at the junction of Washington's two major axes, Pennsylvania Avenue and the Mall. The 4.9 acre site lies on the Capitol side of the present building, between Fourth and Third Streets. The new building will house a Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, as well as exhibition facilities, offices, and the Gallery's rapidly-expanding Extension Service, which provides exhibits and educational materials to over 3,000 American communities.

Among recent projects by the New York firm of I. M. Pei and Partners are the John F. Kennedy Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts; the Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York; the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado; the Des Moines Art Center addition, Des Moines, Iowa; the East-West Center, University of Hawaii; and the planning of large-scale urban developments in many U. S. cities, including a

design and rehabilitation project in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York.

A naturalized citizen of the U. S., Ieoh Ming Pei was born in China in 1917 and came to this country at the age of 18. He holds architectural degrees from M.I.T. and Harvard.

He was the recipient of the Arnold Brunner Award for excellence in architecture for 1961, the Medal of Honor of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for 1963, and last month won the A.I.A.'s 1968 architectural firm award.

Mr. Pei was appointed by the President a member of the National Council on the Humanities in 1966; is a member of the State Department panel on the Visual Arts, the Urban Design Council, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and the National Academy of Design; and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Legislation authorizing the construction of the Gallery's new building on the Mall was passed unanimously by Congress last month and signed by the President on July 5. Funds for the building were donated by Paul Mellon and Mrs. Mellon Bruce.