

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Excavation work for the new building of The Museum of Modern Art has been completed at 11 West 53 Street and the work on the foundation will begin this week. Although the address of the new building will be 11 West 53 Street the site of the building includes the properties formerly known as numbers 9 to 19, with a frontage of 130 feet. The Museum property extends through the block with a frontage of 75 feet on 54 Street. The building will face 53 Street with a garden in the rear on the 54 Street side. The addition of the property on 54 Street, which was received as a gift several months after the property on 53 Street had been acquired and tentative plans drawn for the new building, made certain modifications in the architecture advisable. The final plans have now been embodied in a detailed model which may be said to represent quite accurately the appearance of the building to be completed before the end of 1938 at a cost of approximately one million dollars. The architects are Philip L. Goodwin and Edward D. Stone Associated.

Of modern design and construction, the Museum's new building will not have what is ordinarily known as a "cornerstone." Mr. Goodwin, the architect, says: "There is no foundation stone for The Museum of Modern Art because the building is not made of solid masonry construction nor is there any veneer of masonry below the level of the second story except the side walls, which do not show. The lower part of the front and rear facades is of sheet metal and plate glass. It is possible that the Museum will mark on some part of this sheet metal the date of the erection of the building and some of the names of those connected with its design and construction."

The building will be five stories with penthouse and superstructure. The construction is reinforced concrete and steel. The front is faced with Georgia white marble except for the ground floor which is of plate glass and the fourth and fifth floors which are lighted by strip windows. The back, or

garden side, of the building is faced in part with marble, the remainder being plate glass and glass brick. The building will be equipped for air conditioning, will have a sub-basement for the necessary machinery, storage, packing and workroom space. Below the street level will be a lecture hall seating about five hundred. The first floor will have a large lobby, an exhibition hall opening on the garden, and several galleries. The second and third floors will be devoted principally to exhibition galleries. The fourth floor will contain the offices of The Museum of Modern Art Film Library together with a preview room seating about fifty. On this floor also will be the Museum's art library. The fifth floor will contain the offices of the Museum. The penthouse will have a gardened terrace, a Trustees room, member and committee rooms, a large rest room and a kitchen. The lobby of the building will be floored with terrazzo, the galleries and offices with linoleum, the library with cork. The lounge and lecture hall will be carpeted.