

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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MODERN BUILDING PLANNED FOR WASHINGTON'S "PETRIFIED FOREST"

The results of America's most important architectural contest during the last fifteen years will be shown Friday, January 12, when the Museum of Modern Art will open an Exhibition of Prize-Winning Designs For A New Smithsonian Gallery of Art. The Museum will also have on exhibition in its third floor galleries a selection of painting and sculpture from its Permanent Collection augmented by loans. These two exhibitions will remain on view through March 3.

John McAndrew, Curator of the Department of Architecture of the Museum of Modern Art, says of the Competition for a New Smithsonian Gallery of Art:

"A modern building will be erected in the midst of Washington's petrified forest of classic columns if the prize-winning design for a New Smithsonian Gallery becomes a reality. This would be a gratifying contrast to the Jefferson Memorial, an imitation Pantheon now being built in Washington to honor one of our greatest Presidents and architects. Ignoring the thousands of protests received from all parts of the country, from a wide range of citizens including individual architects and the D.A.R., the Jefferson Memorial is being constructed just as designed.

"The sterile 'classicistic' facades of the 'new Washington' are perhaps impressive in a dreary way, but they are not representative of the best architecture our country can produce. A nation-wide competition such as the Smithsonian, judged by a progressive and distinguished jury, is perhaps the most effective (and democratic) way of securing a fine design. Through holding an open competition to choose an architect for an important public building to be built with public funds, the Smithsonian assured itself of the best architectural talent of the country.

"Although the Treasury Department has held many highly successful competitions for mural painting, this is the first architectural competition to originate in its Fine Arts Section. It was authorized by the 75th Congress, which has also authorized one of the finest building sites remaining in Washington, directly across the Mall from the new thirteen-million-dollar National Gallery."

The Competition For A New Smithsonian Gallery of Art was held in two stages. The first stage was open to all citizen architects in the United States. From those submitted the ten best designs were chosen. These ten architects were then invited to compete in the second stage. The winners were: First prize, \$7,500, Eliel and Eero Saarinen, associated with J. Robert F. Swanson of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Second prize, \$3,500, Percival Goodman of New York City. There were also eight third prizes, each of which carried an honorarium of \$1,000. These were awarded to:

Paul P. Cret, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Philip L. Goodwin, New York City
(Louis C. Jaeger and Albert Frey, Associates)

Harry F. Manning, Chicago, Illinois
(David W. Carlson, Associate)

James A. Mitchell, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
(Dahlen K. Ritchey, Associate)

Eliot F. Noyes, Cambridge, Massachusetts
(Robert W. Kennedy, Associate)

G. Holmes Perkins, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Peter and Stubbins, Boston, Massachusetts

Edward D. Stone, New York City

The jury was composed of Frederic A. Delano, Chairman,
John A. Holabird, Walter Gropius, George Howe and Henry R. Shepley;
Professional Advisor: Professor Joseph Hudnut, Dean of the School of
Design, Harvard University; Technical Advisor: Thomas Dabney Mabry, Jr.