MIT plans $11 million cut

By Kurt Kalinski

The construction of MIT's Arts and Media Technology Center should be completed as scheduled in spring 1984, but the upper floors may remain unfinished at that time, according to Paul E. Barrett, Director of Physical Plant. MIT has raised about $29 million for the facility's construction, according to John A. Currie, St. Director of Finance. The Center's construction budget is about approximately $25 million, said John DeMouchoux, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning in 1984. The projected 17 million construction budget, including furnishing for two of the building's floors, is being met, according to Barrett.

DeMouchoux is now planning the remaining three floors of the building. "He is reviewing the needs of the school and of the various potential users of the space to see if their original requirements are still valid, or if there have been any changes in the requirements," Barrett said.

In the center of the building will be a four-story experimental media theater, DeMouchoux said. The ground floor will include a "studio laboratory, designed to film and video studios and a listening gallery," and the second floor will house "two major gallery spaces, a number of minor gallery spaces, and administrative offices," he continued.

Construction was delayed for about a month this summer, because a subcontractor's bid for the Center's curtain wall — the skin of the building — was too high, Barrett said. MIT and general contractor DeMouchoux's Sons, Inc. sought and received a bid matching the original cost estimate of architect I. M. Pei '40.

Raymond International, Inc. completed the building's foundation. The general contractor has begun construction of the frame, which should be completed by the beginning of 1983.