Building new home for arts and media

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The Media Laboratory will also contain the Visible Language Workshop, the Imaging Technologies Laboratory, the Film/Video section and the Experimental Music Studio.

The new Albert and Vera List Visual Arts Center will house all the displays of the Committee on Visual Arts except the permanent collection, which will remain distributed throughout the campus, according to Kathly Halbreich, director of exhibitions for the committee.

The Hayden Gallery, presently in the Hayden Memorial Library (Building 14), will move to the new building and will continue to feature contemporary art and design, Halbreich said. Next to the Hayden Gallery will be the Regional Consortium, another gallery which will provide historical background for exhibitions at the Hayden Gallery, she continued.

The Visual Arts Center will also include the Sculpture Archives and the Active and Study Archives of paintings and artworks done on paper. Both archives will display various collections.

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The additional visual arts storage space in the new building will allow MIT to accept more gifts from donors, according to Halbreich.

The Artists in Residence program, in which MIT allows artists to use an institute gallery as a studio during the Independent Activities Period, will continue in the new location.

An experimental media theater, 64 feet square and four stories high, will be used for research and performance in the new building.

I. M. Pei and Partners designed the new building in consultation with three artists, Richard Fleischner, Scott Burton and Kenneth Nolan.

The building, built by contractor D. O'Connell's Sons, Inc., rises four stories above street level in addition to an "English basement," with windows looking on to the street, according to Harry P. Portney, campus architect of MIT, Physical Plant.

The multi-story atrium has skylights, and Nolands plans to design a 60 foot by 120 foot main wall which will continue the visual scheme of the building's exterior.

The landscape around the building will include a sculpture court between the building and the recently completed Health Services Center.

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