

Marine biology building (SIO) architects announced

July 11, 1969

The site and the name of the architectural firm handling the design for a \$6 1/2 million marine biology building to be constructed on the campus of Scripps Institution of Oceanography were announced today by H. D. Johnson, vice chancellor-business and finance for the University of California, San Diego.

Johnson said the La Jolla firm of Liebhardt, Weston, and Forester, AIA, had been designated architect for the building, exterior design sketches for which were approved by the Regents of the University yesterday (July 10).

The new building will be constructed west of La Jolla Shores Drive on Scripps' north parking lot and south of the La Jolla Laboratories of the University's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics. Construction is expected to start in late summer of next year and be completed within 20 months.

The Regents earlier had approved the location of and the architect for the building.

Mae A. Cason, chief UCSD campus architect, said Robert F. Messmer is project architect for the building. Robert Thorburn, senior campus architect, will coordinate overall planning for the building as it relates to other facilities on the Scripps campus.

Construction of the building calls for an expenditure of \$31-4 million in state appropriations and an equal amount of federal funds, the latter through grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

If federal funds are not available at this time, the state-funded half of the building will be constructed.

Dr. William A. Nierenberg, director of Scripps, said the new building will greatly extend the University's research and teaching capabilities.

"We have too long been cramped for space for marine biology instruction and research, and we badly need more laboratories," he said.

"The new building will help us assimilate our anticipated growth in graduate student enrollment and increase our potential research competence."

Cason said the marine biology building, as planned, will be the largest building on the Scripps campus and one of the largest in the world devoted to oceanographic science. It will have 132,000 square feet of space.

The building will incorporate a unique marine culture facility which will simulate light and temperature conditions in all parts of the oceans. Microorganisms and larger marine plants and animals will be grown and studied in this controlled environment system.

Use of this facility will augment the research facilities of the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries' Fishery-Oceanography Center, La Jolla, in BCF's studies of factors affecting fish and their relation to man's existence.

The new building also is expected to house part of the UCSD's Institute for Studies in Developmental Biology, under Dr. Herbert Stern, chairman, Department of Biology, UCSD, and Dr. Clifford Grobstein, vice chancellor-medicine and biological sciences and dean of the UCSD School of Medicine; the Scripps Neurobiology Unit, headed by Dr. Theodore H. Bullock, professor of neurosciences in the medical school; and the Photobiology Group, under Dr. Martin Kamen, professor of chemistry at UCSD. These three organizations will be working closely with Scripps research personnel in marine environment studies.

Members of the Liebhardt and Weston firm were architects for the biology building now under construction on UCSD's John Muir campus, in addition to the natatorium and gymnasium, which serve the first four colleges of UCSD.

An advisory committee has been working with campus architects for several years in defining project requirements for the new building. Dr. A. A. Benson, associate director of Scripps and professor of biology, chaired this advisory group.