

FOR PRESS



PM. No. 18/1968

COMPETITION TO SELECT NATIONAL GALLERY DESIGNER

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton

A competition will be held to select an architect to design Australia's National Gallery in Canberra.

It is intended that the competition will be among architects practising in Australia including some of the younger men in the profession.

The entries will be assessed by:

1. Eminent architect and specialist in creative arts, Mr Robin Boyd
2. Chairman of the National Capital Planning Committee, Sir John Overall.
3. Vice President of the R.A.I.A., Mr J. H. McConnell.

The aim of the Government and the Assessors is to obtain a vigorous and imaginative architect with a touch of adventure. It is very important that the design of the Gallery should reflect the most modern thinking of the present day, that it should be particular to Australia and be an expression of the national character.

The limited competition is for a design approach. The winner will be commissioned to submit the actual design of the Gallery.

A site has been nominated for the purposes of the competition, but the final site for the building is still to be determined by the Government.

The services of a Gallery Director of world standing will be sought to assist in the preparation of the final brief for the appointed architect.

The competition should enable the designer of the National Gallery to be chosen by June this year.

By that time, the governing body of the Gallery should have been appointed and be available for the necessary consultations to enable the detailed design work to proceed.

Planning for the project is directed towards having the building completed early in the 1970's.

CANBERRA,
6 February, 1968