



*The Barbican is the largest single development of its kind in Western Europe.*

of the proposed theatre and concert hall to the highest professional standards, and from this arose the idea that they should become the London homes of the Royal Shakespeare Company and of the London Symphony Orchestra. Grouped around this nucleus and linked by the foyer spaces are library, art gallery, cinema, conference

facilities, and the catering necessary to serve the large numbers of people which they would attract.

Comparisons are inevitable with the South Bank, where many of the ingredients are much the same, and doubts, which will only be settled by experience, may arise about whether so large an addition to London's cultural equipment can easily be assimilated. What more than anything distinguishes the Barbican Arts Centre from the South Bank, the Lincoln Center and others, is the close link with an educational establishment for the performing arts of the standing of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama which, although administered separately,

can only be profoundly beneficial to both.

The architectural, engineering, and constructional problems involved in the project have been formidable. To give just one example,—The Metropolitan line runs right across the site between Barbican and Moorgate stations. It is actually immediately beneath the Lakeside Terrace in front of the Arts Centre and the track was straightened as part of the redevelopment. In order to prevent the noises of ghost trains being very audible in the auditoria during performances the tracks have been supported on rubber vibration isolators, something never previously done in this country at any rate, and complete structural separation had to be maintained at all joints between the railway tunnels and the foundations of the buildings.

The largest element in the Centre is the Concert Hall which seats 2025 people. It is placed in the semicircle formed by Frobisher Crescent and below the Sculpture Court which itself forms part of the podium or general system of pedestrian circulation throughout the site. The seats are on three levels (stalls and two balconies,

