

## THE NEW GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL CONCERT HALL ATTRACTS WORLD ATTENTION

# International Acclaim

BY CRAWFORD DAVID FULTON

**T**he most exciting challenge of a multi-purpose building in a prime city-centre site that ever has been built in the United Kingdom." That's how Cameron McNichol views the new £27 million (US \$46 million) Glasgow International Concert Hall. Mr. McNichol,

formerly general manager of London's Royal Albert Hall, is the man charged with the task of filling the 2,500-seat auditorium, 500-seat conference hall, and 500-seat exhibi-

tion hall on 365 days of the year.

The enthusiasm of the Hall's new director is matched by the entire design and construction team, who have their eyes firmly fixed on their target completion date of 1 September 1990, officially opening on 8 October 1990 with a performance by the Scottish National Orchestra.

The history of this project dates back to the tragic destruction of the city's St. Andrew's Hall in 1962. This fine classical building was consumed in a voracious fire which left only the caryatid-featured façade as a reminder of paradise lost.

Since this date, the City Council has attempted to finance a replacement. However the high cost necessitated partnership with the private sector. It was determined that the Concert Hall should form part of a new shopping development

in a prime central location. However, joint developers came and went, and it was the designation of the city as Cultural Capital of Europe 1990 in 1987 that provided the necessary spur to get the project on site. March 1988 saw the first pile being driven. The waiting was over.

The waiting was over too for the man whose vision the new building is, architect Sir Leslie Martin, who also designed London's Royal Festival Hall. It was he who produced the first designs for the new hall in the 60s and carried on tenaciously through the changing fortunes of the project in the two subsequent decades.

Dr. Michael Barron of Cambridge University, who provided the acoustic support to the project from its first days, joined Sir Leslie to provide the core of the design team for the project.

The buff coloured Yorkshire sandstone exterior (the largest stone-clad public building to be built in the United Kingdom in the last 20 years) houses a "lozenge-shaped auditorium," in the words of McNichol, with 1,130 stall seats and 1,030 seats at balcony level, increased by 160 choir seats behind the stage when they are not in use.

■ The Glasgow International Concert Hall (drawing below), scheduled to open 8 October with a performance by the Scottish National Orchestra, will house a 2,500-seat auditorium, a 500-seat conference hall, and a 500-seat reception/exhibition hall. It has been designed by Sir Leslie Martin, who also designed London's Royal Festival Hall.

● *Le Glasgow International Concert Hall (plan ci-dessous), qui doit s'ouvrir avec une représentation du Scottish National Opera, comprendra un auditorium de 2.500 places, une salle de conférences de 500 places et une salle d'expositions/réceptions de capacité identique. Il a été réalisé par l'architecte Sir Leslie Martin, qui est également à l'origine du Royal Festival Hall à Londres.*

▼ Die Glasgow International Concert Hall (Zeichnung unten), deren Eröffnung auf den 8. Oktober mit einer Vorstellung des Scottish National Orchestra geplant ist, wird einen Konzertsaal mit 2.500 Sitzen, einen Konferenzsaal mit 500 Sitzen und eine Empfangs- und Ausstellungshalle mit 500 Sitzen haben. Sie wurde von Sir Leslie Martin entworfen, der auch Londons Royal Festival Hall entwarf.

