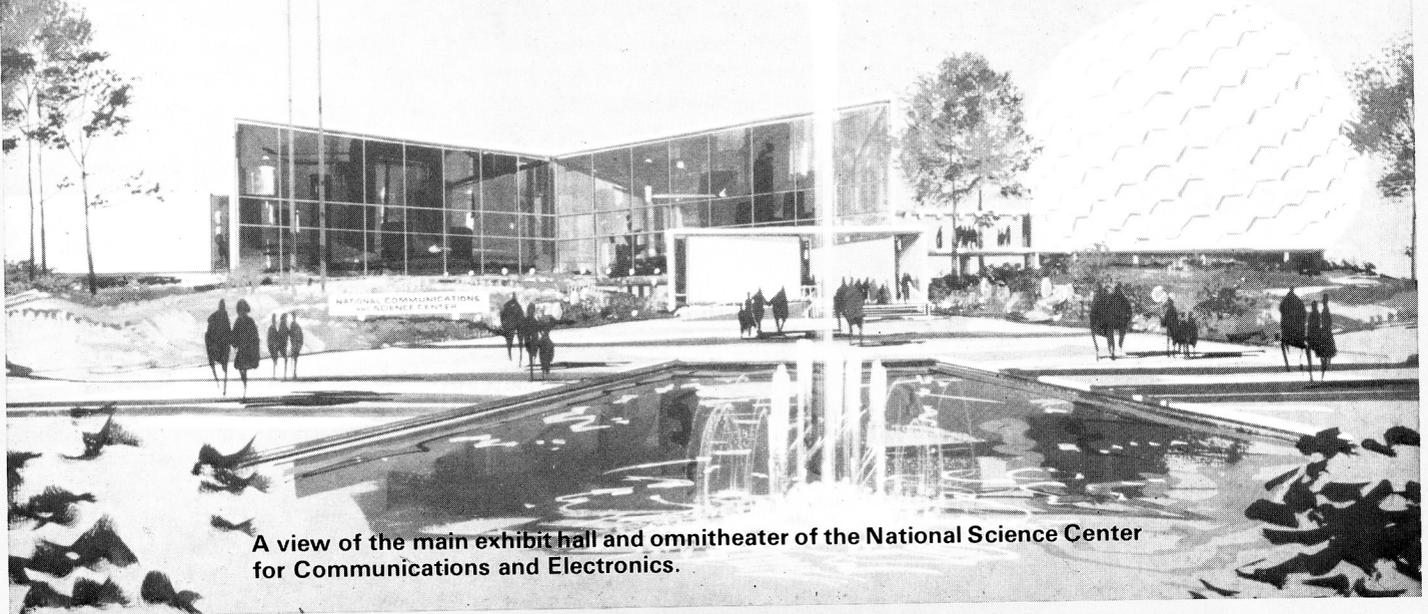


Museum and Science Center dream moves toward reality



A view of the main exhibit hall and omnitheater of the National Science Center for Communications and Electronics.

Updated plans for the Museum and Science Center project were presented to a meeting of The National Science Center for Communications and Electronics Foundation 29 April 1981.

One of the goals of the Science Center project is to create a national asset at Fort Gordon which will be a catalyst for turning our young people toward math and science. The concept for a museum, omnitheater and science center will capture the rich heritage of the past and evoke enthusiasm for searching the future. The project's official name, The National Science Center for Communications and Electronics, reflects this concept.

Plans call for three phased construction over a five year period. The main exhibit hall will be built in Phase I, with Construction tentatively set to begin in 1983. This section will house permanent exhibits, special temporary displays, demonstration areas, etc.

Phase II will be the omnitheater. This section is expected to be a major tourist attraction because of its high entertainment value. Seeing an omni film is reportedly like being part of the film. In addition, the omnitheater will have important military training applications. For example, it would be an ideal way to illustrate system integration concepts to new soldiers.

Phase III will consist of a series of modules which will house temporary

exhibits on particular areas of communications electronics. For example, there will be radio, computer and radar modules.

The total cost of the project, which with its estimated completion date of 1986, is 17.5

million dollars. Funds are being raised by the foundation.

A year ago, the Museum and Science Center was little more than an idea. The planning which has been completed moves that dream one step closer to reality.



A rear view of the science center shows the modules, with their solar panels providing energy.