

Mesopotamia and Egypt, the Levant, Rome and its provinces, and the long traditions of Islam.

The Palaeontological Sciences section, which will comprise a vertebrate fossils gallery and an invertebrate fossils gallery, has been renovated and is ready although it is still waiting for the invertebrate fossils display.

The Life Sciences cluster has five galleries open with several more to be created. The cluster is expected to be composed of galleries under the following headings: evolution, living invertebrates, reptiles, arthropods, botany, mammalogy, ornithology, ichthyology, as well as an interdisciplinary gallery.

Four more sections still to come bear the headings: Far East, European, New World and Earth Sciences. A fifth, still untitled, will deal with decorative arts as they came from Europe to Canada.

During the first half of 1983, the New World archaeology and ethnology galleries will be completed along with the mammalogy gallery and additional galleries of the Mediterranean World cluster. The Ming Tomb will be installed in the Terrace Galleries and the Discovery Gallery, illustrating the role played by the ROM in mankind's effort to discover himself and his universe, will also be ready.

Later next year, an additional block of Far Eastern galleries, a gallery on ornithology and the McLaughlin Planetarium permanent exhibition area will open. By the summer of 1984, the new prehistory gallery will be opened in the Terrace Gal-



ROM workers piece together a fifteenth-century Iranian mosaic tile which will be on view in the Islamic gallery of the Mediterranean World cluster.

The renovation and expansion project for the Royal Ontario Museum was carried out by the architectural firms of Mathers & Haldenby and Moffat Moffat & Kinoshita (now the Moffat Kinoshita Partnership). Gene Kinoshita, who was appointed design architect for the project in 1974 said at the outset he was "greatly overwhelmed by the complexity of the problems that faced the architect" in such a project. "But even then," he said, "it was clear that the most important criterion in assessing a design must be its success in solving the problems of 'spatial identity' for people." By this he meant that staff members of the museum and visitors "must not be lost or bewildered". Mr. Kinoshita said that the final design, incorporating terraces, open atria and natural light, helps solve this problem along with that of "museum fatigue". At the same time, he said, the design provides for harmony between the new buildings and existing ones and yet allows the new structures to reflect "their own times rather than past times".

eries. During the next two years, as more and more gallery areas are opened, many artifacts and specimens, such as the material from ROM archaeological digs in Iran, Jerusalem and Jericho will be on view to the public for the first time.

Exhibition program

The new museum provides ample space for both large and small temporary exhibitions. The new exhibition hall in the main building compares very favourably in size and facilities with exhibition space in most major museums around the world.

The museum plans to present four major exhibitions during the next two years. Three exhibitions of international significance will open during 1983: *The Search for Alexander* and *Treasures from the Tower of London (Arms and Armour)* in March, and *Silk Roads/China Ships* in September.

The nucleus of *The Search for Alexander* exhibition is one of the largest collections of antiquities ever circulated to North America by the Greek government. The 100 works of art, largely crafted from precious metals and dated to the fourth and third centuries B.C., came primarily from northern Greece, the homeland of Alexander the Great.

The Royal Ontario Museum will be the sole Canadian host for *Treasures from the Tower of London (Arms and Armour)*, an exhibition of arms and armour from the tower's unparalleled collections. This is the first exhibition of its kind ever to leave the tower during its 900-year history. Approximately 120 masterpieces, dating from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries, are featured in the exhibition.

The Silk Road has captured imaginations ever since the long-lost cities lying beneath the dunes of the Taklamakan desert began to surrender priceless trea-

asures to archaeologists at the turn of the century. Images of camel caravans and clipper ships, the markets of Samarkand, Sian and Antioch, the ports of Lisbon, London, and Amsterdam evoke the romance of the traffic in the luxury goods of the Orient. The Royal Ontario Museum's collections contain priceless artifacts that reflect all aspects of this trade. The *Silk Roads/China Ships* exhibition will deal with the market setting, the trade routes, the goods traded, the tastes and fashions that followed the availability of goods, and the abstract ideas that moved along with the commercial interchange.

This will be the first major travelling exhibition of ROM materials, with 90 per cent of the artifacts coming from the museum's own collection. The exhibition is scheduled to be circulated to six additional centres after it closes at the ROM. Soon after it was announced to the museum community, more than 20 museums across North America had made application to present *Silk Roads/China Ships*.

In addition from June to October 1984, the museum will present an exhibition to celebrate Ontario's bicentennial and Toronto's sesquicentennial. The exhibition, as yet untitled, will have a broad theme dealing with the evolution of English Canada between 1745 and 1830 as illustrated by the fashion, taste, art and craftsmanship of Britain and North America during the formative decades of modern Canada. Noted paintings, elegant furniture and silver, together with militaria, documents and objects of the period, will highlight British heritage overseas and its military and cultural origins. The exhibition will be organized from extensive ROM collections and contributions from over 50 lenders in Canada, Britain and the United States. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, has extended her patronage of this exhibition.