

YALE TO DEDICATE NEW LABORATORY

Johnson Building Unveiling Scheduled for Today

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

The first of three important new buildings opening at Yale University this fall will be dedicated today, the latest in a 10-year series of spectacular structures that have made the Yale campus one of the leading forces in today's architectural design.

The Kline Geology Laboratory, a \$3,500,000 no-nonsense facility with the most up-to-date resources for teaching and research in geology, geophysics and geochemistry, is the work of Philip Johnson.

It will be followed by the dedication of the Beinecke Rare Book Library, by Gordon Bunshaft of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, on Oct. 11, and the Art and Architecture Building by Paul Rudolph, chairman of the Department of Architecture, on Nov. 9.

The Kline Laboratory is the first unit of a \$10,000,000 science center, for which funds have been given by C. Mahlon Kline, an 83-year-old Yale alumnus who is honorary chairman of Smith, Kline and French Laboratories in Philadelphia.

The National Science Foundation also gave \$400,000 toward its construction. The focus of the science center will be the Kline Tower, the main element of the total plan developed by Philip Johnson, which is still to be built.

Rooms Around Stairwell

The new Geology Laboratory is a somber structure of plum-colored brick and sandstone containing a businesslike lineup of austere, cement block-walled rooms around a severely handsome, skylit stairwell.

Outside, the dark color and rounded brick projections at each bay suggest a modern version of some medieval keep, and students have already dubbed it "Fint's Fort," for Prof. Richard Flint, chairman of the Geology Department.

What the architect has attempted to do, in his own words is to establish a "grammar of design"; a unity of forms and materials that will be a suitable, contemporary successor to campus Georgian and collegiate Gothic, that curious blend of the nineteen-twenties and thirties of which Yale and most American campuses are built.

Whether he has succeeded will not be evident until the other buildings of the group are complete. The Kline Science Center will come off either with traditional richness, or it will be the apotheosis of gloom. It is too early to tell.

However, the Yale building program in general has served as a successful experimental laboratory for the boldest and best in today's progressive architectural practice. Under the strong leadership of the university's late president, A. Whitney Griswold, who was appointed in 1950 and died at the age of 56 in April, an outstanding selection of the country's leading talents was commissioned.

Twenty-three new buildings have been completed and four more are projected for immediate construction. At least 10 of these are examples of the best that the United States has to offer.

Louis Kahn's Art Gallery of 1953 was one of the most influential designs of the early fifties, and set the pace for the rest. Eero Saarinen's 1958 hockey rink, with its flaring,

cable-hung roof, was an early adventure in the "free-form" engineering that has been pre-occupying architects ever since. Paul Rudolph's School of Forestry in 1959 and Saarinen's Morse and Stiles Colleges of 1962 advanced decorative, romantic ideas that were architectural heresy at the time but have become increasingly accepted.