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Artistic Touches at Top and Bottom

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It will hardly rival the Corcoran Gallery of Art, but an 11-story, 136,000-square-foot office building under construction at 10th and K streets NW in downtown Washington will include two art galleries.

The galleries, located in hallways on the lobby and the penthouse floor, will be lined with black-and-white pictures by the late Ezra Stoller, a renowned architectural photographer known for his use of light and space.

The building, which is scheduled to open next year, is being developed by the Tower Cos. of North Bethesda and Lenkin Company Management of Bethesda.



Thomas M. Fulcher Jr., executive vice president at Studley, a commercial real estate brokerage, said Hickok Cole Architects of Georgetown and the developers gave his firm a presentation on the building a few weeks ago.

"I think a lot of buildings have some degree of art in the lobby, but I think they've taken it further," Fulcher said. "It's very uncommon. I don't think this will be for every tenant, but I think there's going to be some who appreciate it."

The glass-facade building will have rooftop greenery and is designed to save energy and water, Abramson said.

Tower and Lenkin bought the land, which was a parking lot near the old Washington Convention Center, 20 years ago.

"There's all kinds of development going up in the area," Abramson said. "I think you're going to see a lot more law firms coming down to the east side of K Street where the buildings are going up."

Abramson said the buildings' art galleries play into the companies' philosophy.

"We try to affect peoples' perceptions of the work environment," she said. "We try to deliver unexpected details. This sort of softens the experience."