



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Plus' premier on the World Stage**

Melbourne-based architecture practice, Plus Architecture, is pleased to announce its first international project: the design of the new home for the Margot Fonteyn Academy of Ballet (MFAB) in New York.

The Margot Fonteyn Academy of Ballet is an American art institution; one that prides itself on providing classical ballet training of a world-standard.

With consistent growth and ambitious future plans, the MFAB has identified a need for bigger and better facilities, planning to construct a multi-level, multi-purpose structure on the corner of Union and South Streets in Downtown Preskill, New York in which to house their Upper School.

Led by Plus Director, Ian Briggs and Project Architect, Mark Schipano, Plus has commenced work on the concept design and it is envisaged that construction will begin late in 2009, with completion expected approximately one and a half years later.

Says Ian Briggs:

*"This is a very exciting project for us, not simply for the international exposure, but for the breadth of work required. The brief encompasses a design for the arts, hospitality, residential and commercial all in the one iconic facility."*

The new Upper School facility of the Margot Fonteyn Academy of Ballet will house much more than just the Academy.

With facilities required for a variety of uses, from performance, recording and rehearsal spaces to libraries and residences, the building design will require a considered approach and a flexible architecture skills set.

Says MFAB Artistic Director, Ken Ludden:

*"We seek to build a new generation of artists, grow future generations of classical performing arts enthusiasts, and take a creative approach in getting performing arts audiences in our community and across the nation."*

MFAB was established in 1978 through the non-profit organisation, National Arts Group, which was created by Artistic Director Ken Ludden. It is the first and only dance academy to carry the name of renowned ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn.

Through the many programs being planned, the organisation will allow under privileged youths and promising artists to have the opportunity to grow through the arts and develop their talents regardless of their financial means.

And if Plus' exceptional body of work is anything to go by, they will be doing so in serious style.

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