

# MARKS & SPENCER press release

Issued: 26 November 2007

## **REDESIGNED M&S PANTHEON STORE UNVEILED THIS WEEK**

After almost 70 years of trading in one of Oxford Street's most landmark buildings, Marks & Spencer is set to unveil its redesigned Pantheon store on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Iconic M&S model Twiggy and Marks & Spencer Chief Executive Stuart Rose will open the store at 9am.

As part of the work the exterior of the store has been restored to its original stone façade of the 1700s and the 75,000 sq ft store has been completely redesigned.

Mark Goodson, Marks & Spencer Pantheon Store Manager said: "We are delighted that Twiggy and Stuart Rose are joining us for the unveiling of Pantheon. It has been a major project for us over the last year and we have encountered some challenges along the way but we have worked hard to restore the store in keeping with its heritage.

"The end result is a store that we are extremely proud of - a truly iconic building for Oxford Street."

The redesign is the latest milestone for a building with over 230 years of history. The M&S Pantheon store is Grade 1 listed and was originally built in 1770 to resemble a Roman temple and intended as a venue for concerts, shows and balls.

The site was purchased by M&S in 1937 and underwent a complete re-design before it opened to the public the following year. Architects Messrs. Lewis & Hickey, along with Robert Lutyens, son of the renowned Sir Edwin Lutyens, were responsible for the remodel of the building which is constructed entirely of steel and concrete.

During its 70 years as an M&S store, the building has experienced a great deal, including surviving a bomb attack. In 1940 during the London Blitz a bomb penetrated the roof of the store and embedded itself in the basement floor, five yards from the air raid shelter, which was occupied by 20 members of staff and their relatives.

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The store has undergone a number of changes over the last 100 years, including three extensions in the 1950s, which increased the total square footage of the store to 28,300 sq ft. It underwent further extensions and rebuilding from 1961 to 1963, which increased the store size to 33,500 sq ft. Then in 1971 to 1972 the upper floor was extended and the first floor was developed into a sales area. By 1978 the basement stockroom was also converted into a third sales floor.

The latest re-design is part of M&S' strategy to modernise its entire chain, the largest store refurbishment plan underway in the UK. The re-model programme is now in its third phase and 70% of M&S store are now refurbished.

On Wednesday the store will re-launch under M&S' new signature style, with contemporary interior design, brighter lighting, easy to navigate walkways and more spacious fitting rooms throughout.

Increased space has allowed for wider customer choice across womenswear, menswear, childrenswear, lingerie, beauty, home and food. A full range of technology products including flat screen televisions, touch screen iPods and digital radio alarms has also been introduced.

The food hall has undergone a number of changes as a result of the extensive refurbishment. It will be the first store to have a complete Food To Go offer with hot and cold take away solutions located together. Hot food will include fresh soups and toasted baguettes and will be complemented by an improved bakery with a new patisserie counter offering a wide selection of freshly baked breads, pastries and cakes.

Other highlights will include a brand-new 120-seater M&S Café, serving hot food including toasted sandwiches and ciabattas, as well as a range of hot drinks including Fairtrade tea and coffee.

-Ends-

For further information, please contact:

Rachael Cokayne

Staniforth\

020 3103 0515

For images or background information on Marks & Spencer, please visit our website at [www.marksandspencer.com/mediacentre](http://www.marksandspencer.com/mediacentre)

**Notes to Editors:**

1.Store Address: Marks & Spencer  
173 Oxford Street  
London  
W1R 1TA

2. Opening Hours:	Monday to Saturday	09.00 – 21.00
	Sunday	12.00 – 18.00