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# THE FEDERAL ARCHITECT

*July-1931*



*Published by*  
THE ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL  
ARCHITECTS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

# INDIANA LIMESTONE



*Wilbarger County  
Court House,  
Vernon, Texas  
Voelker & Dixon,  
Architects*

*Built of Grey Indiana  
Limestone furnished  
from quarries of Bloom-  
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# INDIANA LIMESTONE



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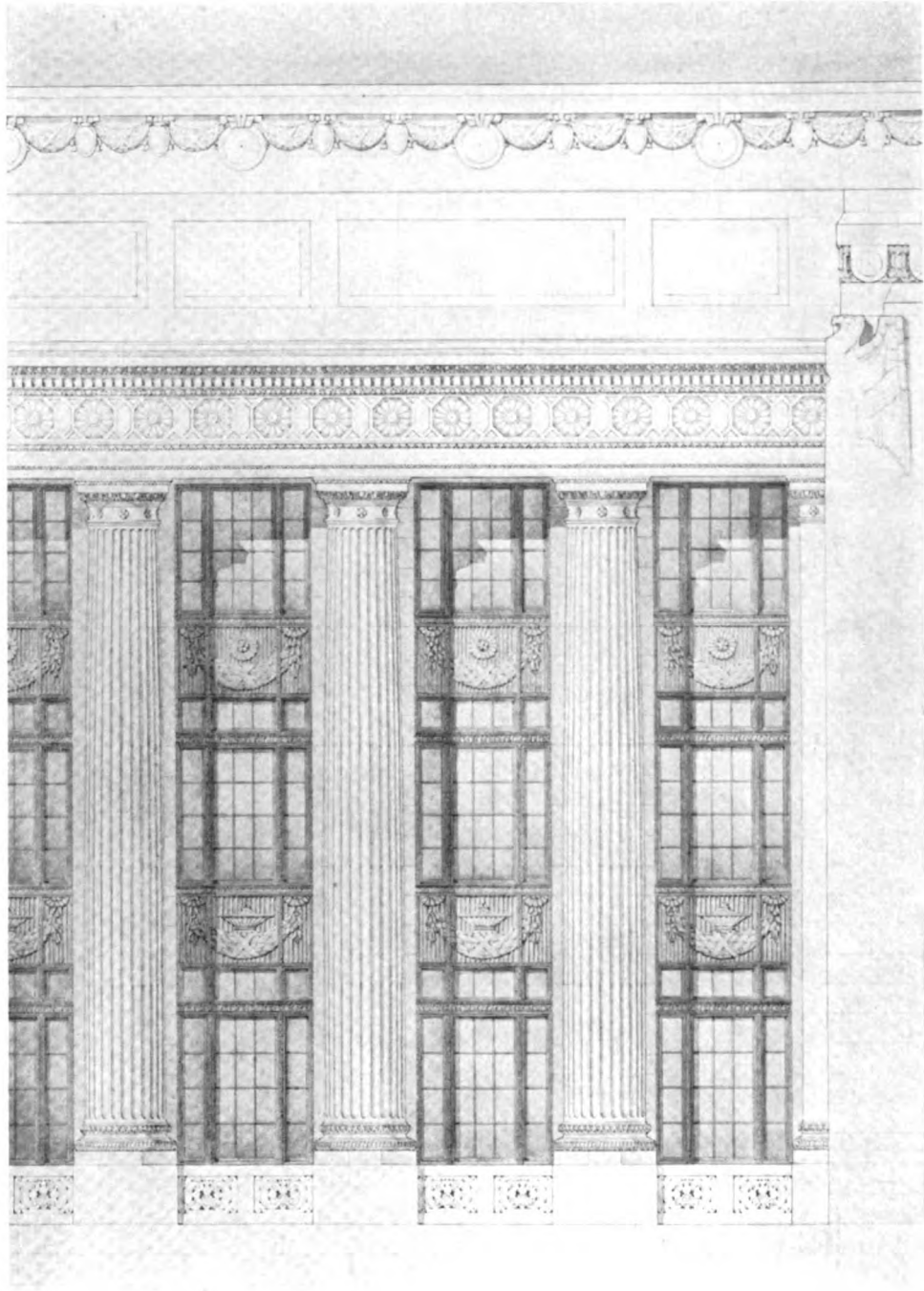
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UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, KANSAS CITY, MO.  
Office of Supervising Architect, Architects  
Ring Const. Co., Contractor  
Detail study of colonnade with hi-lighted cast aluminum for the ornamental filling between columns. See article "Aluminum in Modern Architecture."

# THE FEDERAL ARCHITECT

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■ **T**HERE has been a lot of type set up and inked and printed upon the general subject of the distribution of Government architectural projects to private architects.

For this has been the first controversial subject of major importance open to the architectural magazines in many years and naturally it has been good journalism to take hold of it and make it as readable and exciting as possible.

To get at the facts in this matter would have required extensive research—which the journals and the organizations stirred up by the journals could not, or at any rate did not, make.

The journals proceeded upon the basis of three theorems:

1. That the Government officials were opposed to the giving out of the work.

2. That the moment the legislation for any building project became a law, the project immediately became a live issue—for which, without any land on which to build having been selected, an architect could at once be appointed.

3. That the Government architectural offices, and particularly the Supervising Architects Office, were immeasurably inferior to private architects.

Certain efforts to get the facts on the above three theorems before those interested has not proved welcome. To help these efforts in a minor way THE FEDERAL ARCHITECT quoted from the Congressional hearings on the Second Deficiency bill of the last session of Congress to show that, as of date of January 15th, of the projects then available for distribution, seventy-five per cent in value had been distributed to outside architects.

This information, which should have been good news to the proponents of Government jobs for private architects, was not so favorably received. The Construction Digest, a weekly published in Pittsburgh, discovered to its own satisfaction that the figures printed in the above Congressional hearings were in error; and thereafter followed the logical course of explaining that the figures given by THE FEDERAL ARCHITECT were "a lie out of the whole cloth."

Having attained this momentum the Digest went on to state that "not more than five percent of the new Government structures are being designed by private architects." This was under date of May 16th. Almost on this identical day a committee appointed by the American Institute of Architects, having visited President Hoover on May 7th, arranged at the President's suggestion an interview with the Acting Supervising Architect to get the real facts in the matter.

At this interview it was shown that a hundred architects had been given commissions to do Government buildings, either alone or in consultation with other architects—and that fifty more would be given out as soon as possible. The record showed that about two hundred million dollars worth of work had been thus given out—or nearly half the total authorization. Of the half not given to outside architects a large proportion was for buildings in cities where sites had not been selected.\*

This did not go far toward supporting the five percent idea advanced by the Construction Digest. Like many others it had leaped into the controversy without facilities for investigation.

Similarly, there has been the general

failure to grasp the fact that cities are actually as much, if not more, interested in the location of their respective Federal buildings than in the architecture of them. The process of selecting a site satisfactory to everyone is a protracted operation, which however must be gone through with before an architect is selected. This misunderstanding gives rise to the thought, so frequently printed, that immediately after an appropriation is made, an architect should at once be appointed and the work put in motion. The fact that escapes attention is that a cabinet officer who selects a site in haste, usually repents in leisure, and time must be allowed for this very vital and delicate selecting process.

There is also the uninvestigated subject of the inferiority of the Government architectural offices. This needed investigation and considerable thought. It has not received that. If the high architectural talent of the country could be persuaded to take over the Government work—the York and Sawyers, the Holabird and Roots—there would be room for argument. But that is a visionary thought, not having any immediate need for consideration. In normal times, only the large jobs—furnishing a compensation commensurable with the large amount of work and conference in Washington required—are attractive to such firms.

And, since the Government architectural offices are not and would not be called upon to stand or fall by comparison with these, the top of the profession, they are not so modest as to believe they are not superior to the average run-of-the-mine small-town architects.

Those who plead the inferiority of the Governmental offices have a considerable amount of proving yet to be done.

\*To keep ourselves from another unanimous election to the Ananias Club, we hasten to state that these figures are also mentioned in the May edition of *The Octagon*, the American Institute of Architects publication.



■ THE Association of Federal Architects is indebted to the National Terra Cotta Society for an unusual exhibit of ornamental terra cotta held under the auspices of the Association at the Washington Hotel on the evening of April 30th, and all day May 1st.

The exhibits furnished by the National Terra Cotta Society were interesting examples of the possibilities of architectural terra cotta. The forms and finishes showed a wide variety of effects; and the soft shades in the various jars, spandrels, lunettes, panels and garden benches were very charming. It was one of the times when an architect might stop and pleasurably reflect that, whatever the disadvantages of his profession, it was still one which dealt with pleasant and appealing materials.



■ WE were so pleased with the success of the terra cotta exhibit that we at once became exhibition-conscious. On June 4th, in cooperation with the Houserman Company, the Association put on a steel partition show.

This was arranged by the Houserman Company and was a very excellent demonstration of the steel-partition idea. There were on view many full-sized examples showing the various possibilities of the material. An actual partition was set up on the platform and taken down again. In addition moving pictures were run showing various phases of the manufacture and erection of portable partitions. The show was greatly enjoyed by the crowd of more than one hundred and fifty who attended.



With this edition THE FEDERAL ARCHITECT starts its second annual lap in the Tombstone Handicap. If the first hundred years are the hardest, we can expect happy days after our century plant blossoms.

## Specialization in Architecture

### Design of Federal Buildings Introduce Exacting Problems

**S**PECIALIZATION in architecture is a generally accepted fact. Firms who by virtue of good service rendered in designing buildings of a particular type have come to be accepted by clients as specialists in such buildings.

Financial interests, concerned in their investments, have felt safer in advancing money on buildings which were designed by architects who thoroughly understood the nature and purpose of the building and were qualified by their experience in such construction to be called experts in it.

We have architects who are specialists on theatres, on hotels, on railroad terminals, on telephone buildings and so on. This does not mean that other architects cannot design such buildings. But it does mean that the training and experience of the specialized architect reduces the possibility of costly error. Because the specialist has the background of experience.

Criticism has been aimed at the Government for maintaining specialized architectural offices. But it is unquestionably good business and has proved to be so through a period of three-quarters of a century.

The Government architectural offices are part architects and part client. They are the mouthpieces which formulate and crystallize the construction requirements of the Federal departments. Private architects can do a certain amount of the work. The Government architectural office must set the boundaries of the problem, lay down the rules and so on. They must have a control on plan, a vision as to upkeep, (an item forever in the hands of the Government's architectural offices), a voice on contract requirements which might lead to legal complications, a guiding hand in materials, so that they will not lead to controversies.

All of these things put the Supervising Architects Office—or any similar Government office—in partnership with the private architect having a Government project to design, whether the latter wills it or not.

The private architects approach the problem of designing a Government building, therefore, with a good deal of uncertainty, and their work is apt to show this. They are like a man playing golf with a new set of clubs.

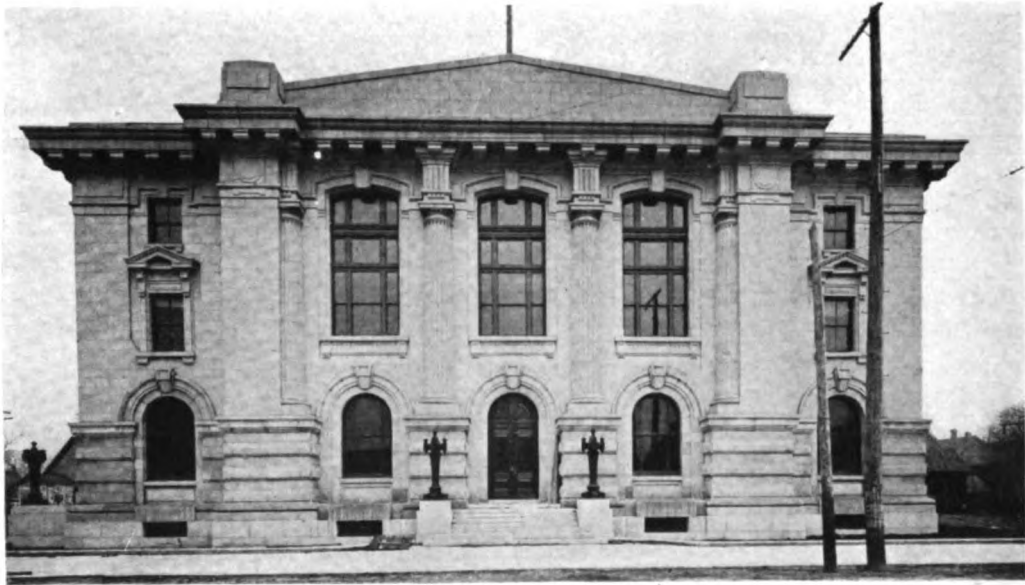
It has therefore been questioned whether the double expense of a private architect and, in addition, the supervising work of the Government architects is advisable. For larger projects it probably is advisable. For they are usually obtained by architects at the head of the profession who absorb the problem and bring to it a new point of view.

But in the smaller buildings there has been noticed a certain nervousness—a touch of buck ague—which is reflected in the buildings they design.

The practical problem in itself—the skating on new ice—appears to absorb all their resources, so that their completed buildings have not the spontaneity—as though they had worked too hard. Or else, as in the case of such buildings as Hammond, Indiana, the architect disregards everything and runs clean off the reservation.

The statement of a private architect, writing in the *American Architect* puts the matter concisely:

“The private practitioner would necessarily have to take the time to learn the problem whereas the Office of the Supervising Architect already *knows* it and of course *knows* it better than any private architect would hope to learn it. There would be delay there.



HAMMOND, IND., FEDERAL BUILDING  
*Private architect, a little hasty.*

“The private architect would have to consult the Supervising Architect’s Office many times during the course of preparing the drawings, causing further delay.

“In the end it would seem to me that the Supervising Architect would have furnished seven-eighths of the brains and labor.”

The Government work done by private architects does show, in general, the uncertainty resulting from this hand-in-hand stuff.

The Tarsney Act was repealed in 1913. A list compiled at that time showed that Federal buildings in the following cities had been designed by private architects:



VINCENNES, IND., POST OFFICE  
*Private architect, not very fortunate.*





ORANGE, N. J., POST OFFICE  
*Private architect, an excellent result.*

Allentown, Pa.  
 Atlantic City, N. J.  
 Baltimore, Md.  
 Battle Creek, Mich.  
 Boston, Mass.  
 Camden, N. J.  
 Chicago, Ill.  
 Cleveland, Ohio.  
 Denver, Colo.  
 Green Bay, Wis.  
 Hammond, Ind.  
 Honolulu, T. H. (3  
 projects—Post Of-  
 fice, Court House,  
 Q. S.)  
 Hilo, T. H.  
 Huntington, W. Va.  
 Indianapolis, Ind.  
 Kankakee, Ill.  
 Marblehead, Mass.  
 Nashua, N. H.  
 New Haven, Conn.

New Orleans, La.  
 New York, N. Y. (4  
 projects — Post  
 Office, Immigrant  
 Station, Custom  
 House, Sub Treas-  
 ury)  
 Norfolk, Va. (The  
 first building de-  
 signed under Tars-  
 ney Act)  
 Portland, Oreg.  
 Providence, R. I.  
 San Francisco, Cal.  
 (2 projects — Cus-  
 tom House, Sub  
 Treasury)  
 Superior, Wis.  
 Vincennes, Ind.  
 Waukegan, Ill.  
 Wheeling, West. Va.  
 Zanesville, O.

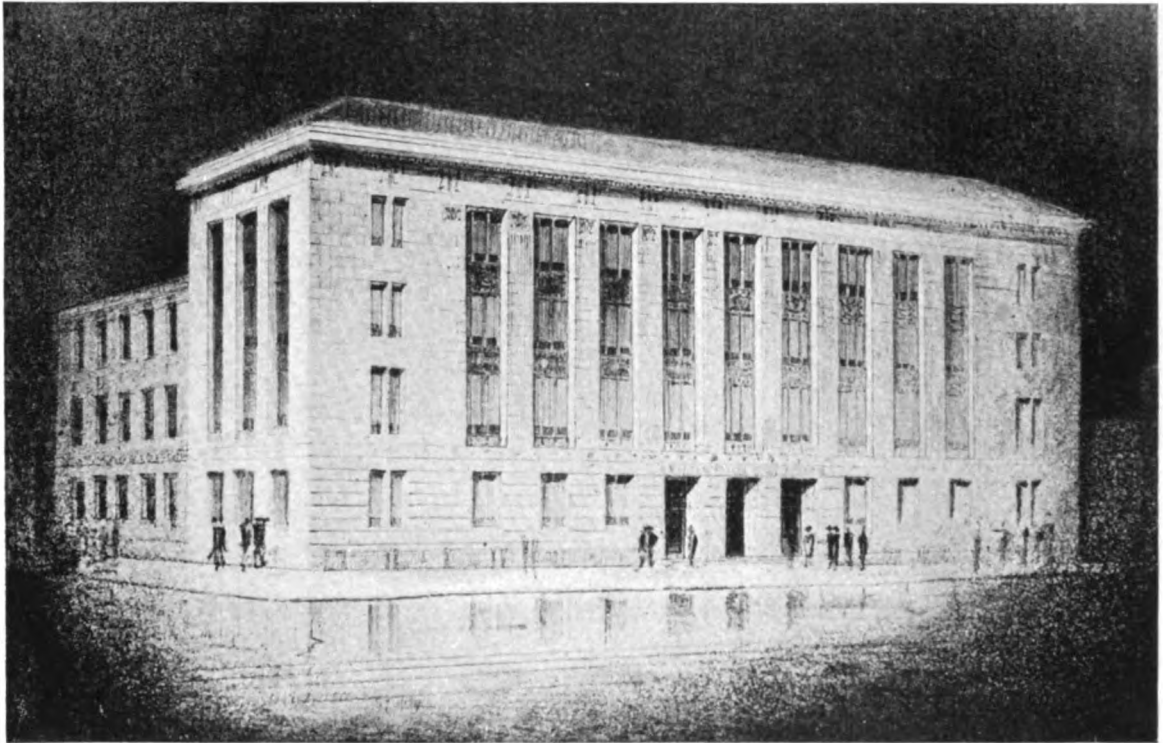
A study of the photographs of these buildings brings to mind the observation of David Harum that there is as much human nature in one person as in another—if not more. The conclusion one must inevitably reach from looking through a file of photographs of Federal buildings designed by Federal architects and Federal buildings designed by private architects is that there is as much architecture in the one as in the

other. A person would have to be endowed with second sight to state without previous knowledge whether a building was designed by a private or a Federal architect.

The good buildings by private architects are a little better than the good ones by Federal architects. The mediocre ones a little more mediocre. And the bad ones a little worse.

We publish photographs of a few of the buildings designed for the Government by private architects, which may be of interest.

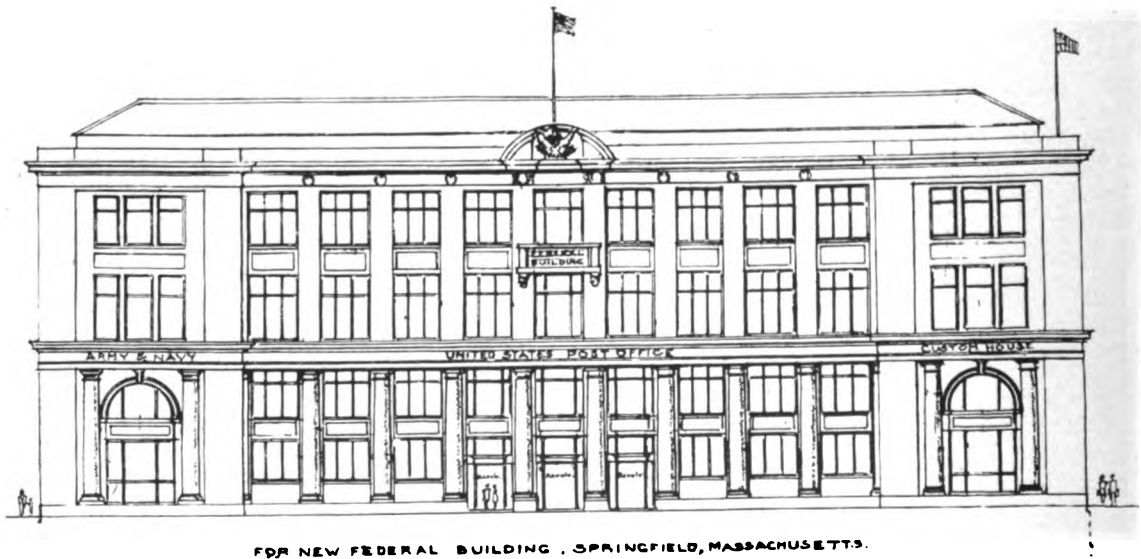
There is a slogan now current to the effect that the Government should get out of the architectural business. This ought to be amended by inserting "not" after the word "should." The question must be considered with the fact in mind that the Government runs quite a large business. It is a business which it is hard enough to conduct under any circumstances but harder if the physical plant is not perfectly adapted to the requirements. It is a wonder therefore that the Government does maintain its own architectural services to make sure that the physical plant is perfectly adapted.



*NEW FEDERAL BUILDING AT SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS*

*A letter published in the American Architect complained of the design by the Office of the Supervising Architect as shown above.*

*A local architect proposed the remedy as shown below.*



**FOR NEW FEDERAL BUILDING, SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.**

## Aluminum in Modern Architecture

By C. E. MAGILL

ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA

**M**ODERN architecture — questioned by some, praised by others, but accepted as a basis of observation by all, has brought about some interesting innovations in the building field, in design and in material. The modern architect recommends simplicity, lightness and efficiency. This does not, or should not, necessarily entail a sudden drastic change from all previous forms of architecture. It is, or should be, merely a revision of the older standards, in an effort to fit them more closely to the present scheme of living. Today's architect turns to the metals.

Aluminum, newest of the major metals, has played an extremely interesting part in the development of this

modern architecture. Introduced to architectural fields in 1884 as a small capping for the peak of Washington Monument, it has, in the short span of 47 years, grown from an expensive, practically unknown metal, to the widely used building material it is today.

There are a number of logical reasons for the rise of aluminum to architectural prominence. Chief among these are its lightness, strength, corrosion resistance, appearance and workability.

Spandrels constitute one of the most important uses for aluminum in modern architecture. Its advantages here lie in its ability to withstand weathering and in the fact that it will not stain adjacent surfaces.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Office of Supervising Architect,  
Architects

Ring Const. Co.,  
Contractor

*Aluminum will be used for the entrances and the ornamental filling between columns.  
The exterior facing is variegated limestone with granite base.*

Aluminum spandrels are available in a wide variety of finishes ranging from light silver-gray, to almost black. Sometimes no additional finish is employed, the spandrels being used just as they come from the moulds. Usually, however, the spandrels are given a sand blast, which results in a matte finish, either light or darker gray, depending on the type of sand used. For particularly dark finishes a deplating process is employed. Pleasing contrasts are secured by high-lighting the relief surfaces, which gives a bright polished silvery surface against the dark matte background. In the new Empire State Building in New York, the five thousand aluminum spandrels used on the building were given a sand blast finish and then deplated. A 5 foot by 5 foot aluminum spandrel cast a quarter of an inch thick, weighs about 100 pounds and two men can put it in place with ease.

Other interesting decorative effects are often gained through the use of aluminum. The two metal sphinxes atop the roof of the St. Louis Civil Court House which measure approximately 12 feet high, 12 feet wide and 20 feet long, were cast entirely from aluminum and in spite of their size weigh but 5,000 pounds each.

Aluminum is also used for roofing. On large buildings it is usually applied in sheets, while on smaller buildings aluminum shingles, furnished in color, may be used.

Aluminum windows and frames are becoming increasingly prominent in modern architectural design. This metal has been selected for use in windows, spandrels and doorways of two of the largest Federal Buildings recently awarded, the Boston Post Office and Court House, and the Kansas City, Missouri, Post Office.

Aluminum has numerous other exterior uses. Outside doors, door frames, flag-pole bases and mullions may be easily fabricated from this metal. Bridge railings, ornamental fencing and gates are

other examples. The famous Lindbergh Beacon on the top of the Palmolive Building in Chicago, housing the most powerful aerial searchlight in the world and the Zeppelin mooring mast which caps the Empire State Building are both enclosed and protected by a sheathing of aluminum.

One of the outstanding interior architectural aluminum applications in the country is seen in the "450 Sutter" Building in San Francisco. All of the metal work on the inside lobby of this building is of cast aluminum.

Architects often obtain very striking interior effects through the use of aluminum sheet, foil and paint. Because of its varied color possibilities, aluminum is well adapted to interior decoration. In its natural state aluminum resembles silver but with a slightly bluish cast. When an aluminum section is polished the tinge of blue becomes more pronounced and the surface has a greater reflectivity for light. Sand blasting reduces this reflectivity, producing a finish resembling etched glass. A carborundum blast or an anodic treatment gives a lead gray color. If a wire brush is used or if the section is rubbed with emery paper, a satin finish results.

Aluminum sheet may be attached to walls in the same manner as wall board and in such cases the seams are concealed by metal or wood. Sheet aluminum, of course, can be employed only on plain surfaced walls. Where intricate angles and curves are present, or where a design has been worked into the plaster background of the wall, aluminum foil, leaf or paint are the logical materials for producing a metallic covering. An inexpensive, yet highly pleasing effect is often gained by using aluminum foil and paint in combination.

Ventilator grilles, radiator enclosures and radiators are often made from aluminum.

Chairs made from strong aluminum alloys are finding increasing favor



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, BOSTON, MASS.

*Cram and Ferguson,  
Architects*

*N. P. Severin Co.,  
Contractor*

*Aluminum is used for all windows, spandrels and doorways. The exterior facing is granite with terra cotta ornament.*

among interior decorations. Their extreme rightness and remarkable rigidity make them especially applicable wherever hard usage is encountered. Aluminum chairs are furnished both in the natural color of the metal, or enameled to match any particular decorative scheme.

What the future holds for aluminum in architecture, it is difficult to say. Its unique characteristics have already won for it a prominent place. To what additional uses this interesting metal will be put is a problem which is being worked out by manufacturer, architect, builder and research scientist.

## Address delivered by Mr. Waddy B. Wood, Architect, to the Association of Federal Architects

**G**ENTLEMEN, what I am going to tell you tonight is something that I feel you already know, and you know it because there is nothing new under the sun, not even Modernistic Architecture, but am telling it, not as news, but to fix it in your minds for the Glorification of Washington.

Architecture has often been referred to as "frozen music," but this, while poetic, is a vague and meaningless definition. It would seem more logical to call it "frozen history," as it tells a concrete story of civilizations that are past and tells us, if we have the key to read it, more accurately than any other proof we have, what those civilizations were and whether in different periods civilization advanced or degenerated.

One can go to England and view the remains of Roman roads and baths and see from later Saxon ruins that the great Roman civilization has tottered; its light dimmed and then went out. For centuries England groped in the dark ages. Nothing makes this clearer than to find such a lack of appreciation of the previous civilization than their savage desire to destroy it. It not only shows the history but also shows conclusively that we do not, as so many think, improve our civilization on a regular progressive line. Civilization rises and falls, and architecture writes it down on tablets of stone for future generations to read. Let us read these stones in Washington, our capital, and see if we cannot learn a lesson that will help all of us present, who will play a large part in either improving its beauty or hurting it.

What lesson do we learn when starting today? We turn back the pages about 130 years and arrive at the beginning. Do we learn that we have improved on the first thirty years of designing buildings that are beautiful and still admired and never disliked in all these years? We find that during all the period which has elapsed since, they were never out of style, and while there may have been times when the public were not as interested as they were in the beginning and are today, there was no period, even during our Victorian age, when they

were disliked. This does not apply to any other period since then.

Starting when this work began to degenerate gradually, we find the completed Treasury Department not as interesting as the buildings which have gone before, but still very good. Later, we find the State, War and Navy and Pension Buildings worse than anything that had gone before, and in our day we find the Post Office Building on Pennsylvania Avenue with its tower, not only impracticable, but very bad, and later we find the Municipal Building better than the others, but not as good as the original buildings, and still later we find Bacon's beautiful Lincoln Memorial which comes nearer to being in keeping with the aspirations of our early architects than any modern building in Washington, and studied by a serious architect in very much the way our early architects would have studied it were they living now and had a similar problem.

Today, with this information before us, there is only one conclusion to be reached, that styles that are anachronisms and exotic, trying to do something different, have been a failure as things of beauty in Washington, and the only gain that has been made is in the fleeting attention paid to something queer that eventually becomes a horror. This assertion, I am sure, cannot be contradicted and the lesson that can be drawn from this is that if our civilization is as good as it was in the beginning, the chances are that we will carry on with a very beautiful Washington, but if our civilization is slipping, which some of the work sometimes makes me think is so, then we are going to spend not nine million dollars, the cost of the old State Department, but one hundred million dollars, and if it is bad, one hundred million dollars mispent is eleven times as bad as nine million, so would it not be wise for all of the designers of these new buildings coming from all over the country, to thoroughly examine and study the buildings that were done in our early history. These buildings probably would be the Capitol, particularly the older part; the old Court House; the Patent Office and the Old

Post Office opposite; also the restored Arcade on the Fifteenth Street side of the Treasury and the White House, and in this connection it is well to remember that McKim, Mead and White who did more for architecture in the last fifty years in this country than all the rest of the architects put together, remodeled the White House and did it with respect to the tradition of the old and yet made it practical and modern. This is a lesson on the forgotten path they reopened, and is the path that we should follow.

There is a lurking danger when looking at the beautification of our Capital City from this

point of view, that modernistic buildings which might go very well in Chicago, New York, Detroit, etc., would have none of the foundation and no basic reason for being here, and it would be dangerous for them to creep in except in a very modified form.

This, gentlemen, is my message to you with the hope that you will give it serious consideration because we each have a great problem before us that has got to be solved independent of fleeting styles and independent of individual ambition to make something that will knock you in the eye today and ruin Washington in the future.

### Special Competition

The Association of Federal Architects announces a competition and exhibition of sketches and working drawings by its members this fall.

Prizes for the best sketch and also for the best working drawing will be awarded by the following named jury of private architects: Mr. Bedford Brown-IV, Mr. Edward W. Donn, Jr., and Mr. Frederick V. Murphy.

The Federal-Seaboard Terra Cotta Company, through its interest in architecture and architectural terra cotta, has donated the two prizes. The winners will each gain a trip to New York City to inspect the new architecture and building materials.

This competition is limited to members of The Association of Federal Architects. Announcement is published now that sketches may be made during the summer months and on vacation trips.

Further details and date of the exhibition will be announced later by THE FEDERAL ARCHITECT.

The following editorial was published in *The Wichita Eagle*, Wichita, Kansas, June 21, 1931.

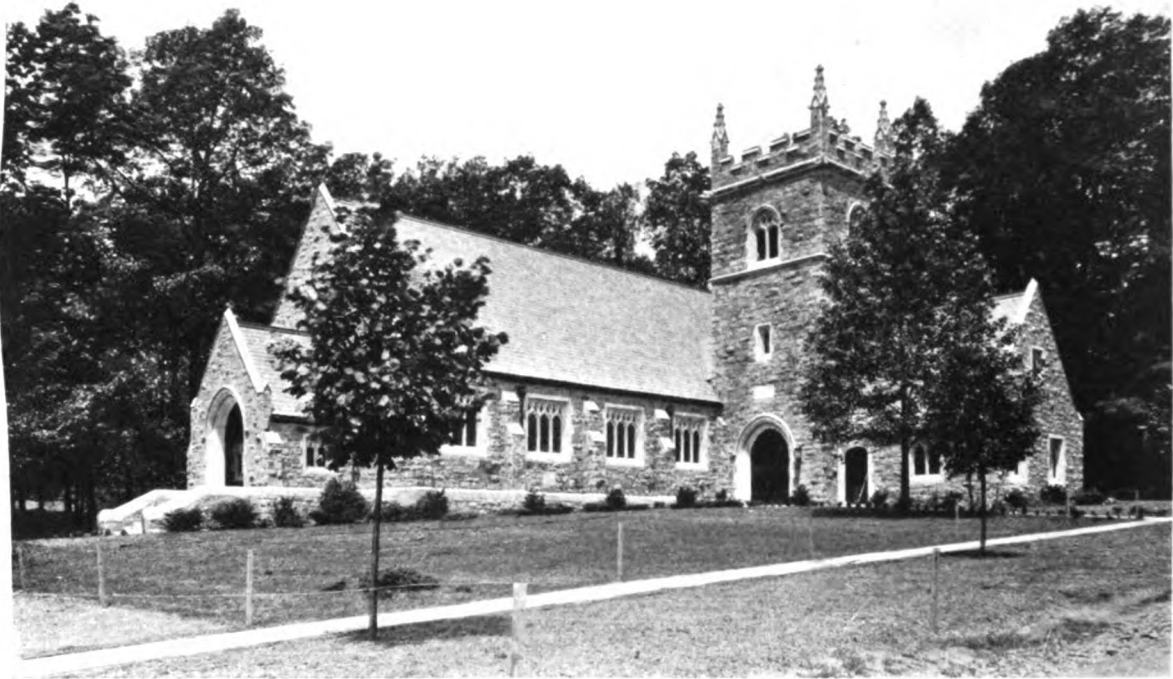
### A Thing of Beauty

Evidence that the Federal government has done an exceptional thing for Wichita is now daily before the eyes of the people of this community. That evidence is the beauty of the new Federal building, far enough along now to show that the structure is one of those superlative architectural achievements rare in a world always aiming at beauty in building but seldom attaining it.

Those who designed the Postoffice and Courthouse for Wichita have not committed a single sin against simplicity. Only those ornaments which would give stress to that simplicity were indulged. Every inclination to delirium in decoration was summarily ditched in the

architect's office down in Washington, and entire reliance placed in the incomparable charm found only in straight lines kept in symmetrical proportion.

As a symbol of the majesty of the law and as an implement of the vastly important business of ready intercommunication, the edifice is to enter deeply into the future life of the citizens of Wichita but neither as symbol nor as implement will the building have as great an effect on this people as from the daily subtle impact of its beauty upon their civic consciousness in confirmation of a persistent popular belief that in the art of architecture things really can be done right.



CHAPEL AT WALTER REED GENERAL HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

*DESIGNED* by and erected under the supervision of the Office of the Quartermaster General. The De Sibour Construction Company was the contractor.





## Miscellaneous Details

### WHO CHECKED THIS?

The oldest known architectural plan is now in the Museum at Vienna. On a baked tile discovered in Mesopotamia by Dr. J. Stur in 1927, this four thousand year old equivalent of the modern blue print shows the arrangement of the ground floor for what was evidently a palace. Walls and openings for the seventeen room spaces are carefully indicated at a scale of 1/30 of an inch to the foot, and the largest room shown is 40 feet by 46 feet.

### MODERNE

The small girl from the city was making her first visit to the country and on her first night there she went to the barn to see the hired man milk the cows. She was much impressed but said nothing. The next morning the hired man came running with the news that one of the cows had been stolen.

"Don't worry," piped up the kid, "they won't get far, because we drained her crank-case last night."

—*Green Goat.*

### DIMMED STARS

This year's football season without Rockne will be similar to this year's golf tournament without Bobby Jones.

### LIKE TO TAKE A WALK?

A virgin forest is a place where the hand of man has never set foot.

—*Virginia Reel.*

### TRAJICK POME

My bonnie bent over the lotion  
To make her face lovely to see  
To sip the stuff she had a notion  
O, bring back my bonnie to me.

—*Western Reserve Red Cat.*

### BEFORE PANSIES

Digging among the Graeco-Roman ruins of Egypt, scientists recently unearthed some rooms about 2,000 years old and found the walls of one of them decorated with an all-over wall-paper pattern of gay red roses.

### FOUL! FOUL!

Bookmaker: Larkspur was scratched in the Preakness.

Sympathetic Customer: And that's such a tender spot!

—*Lafayette Lyre.*

### TIME OUT

Sergeant (saluting): A flag of truce, sir.

Officer: What do the rebel dogs want?

Sergeant: They would like to exchange a couple of generals for a can of condensed milk.

—*V. P. I. Skipper.*

### PAGE MR. RIPLEY

The largest Federal building on Uncle Sam's program, a \$15,000,000 Post Office, is to be built in a bankrupt city! Chicago.

Watch those stamps Mr. Postmaster.

### THIS STONE AGE

"If it is versatility you seek, find an architect. He must be an artist, or his buildings will offend the eye; an engineer, or they will crumble; a lawyer, or he will get his clients into trouble; a doctor, or his buildings will be hygienically unfit to live in; and last, he must be a gentleman, or we will have nothing to do with him."

—*Cardinal Richelieu.*

And now he must be a geologist, using granite, limestone, marble, mankato, kasota, sandstone and gallsstone.

### HOLD EVERYTHING

"Ever wear any Indian underwear?"

"What kind is that?"

"The kind that creeps up on you."

### TAB THIS

Watch for the September issue of THE ARCHITECTURAL FORUM.

### THEY LAFFED AT ME

I spoke to the waiter in poor French, but he returned with excellent Scotch.

### OH WINNIE MAE!

Member of the Notre Dame football team (leaning out of train window): I say there, sir, what place is this?

"This is Seattle."

"Tut, tut. Cut out the details. What continent are we on?"

—*Northwestern Purple Parrot.*

### MIND THEIR Ps AND Qs

1-C: Why are the streets in Washington named alphabetically?

4-C: So the Congressmen can learn their A B C's.

—*Annapolis Log.*

### DIAL HER

Among the things which Emily Post forgot to mention — the tactful way of asking a gangster's daughter to go out for a ride.

—*Notre Dame Juggler.*

### FAMOUS LAST WORDS

But, Mr. Simon, I didn't know that was in the "Working Orders!"



UNITED STATES VETERANS' HOSPITAL, COATESVILLE, P.A.  
South Front of Main Building

Construction Div. of Veterans' Bureau,  
Architects

A. C. Samford,  
Contractor

**C**OMMANDINGLY situated on a prominent ridge some thirty miles west of Philadelphia, this imposing Georgian group looks out over a wide region of historical background. It seems especially appropriate that the magnificent terrain that attracted our forefathers' interest should contribute its remedial and recuperative qualities to our modern veterans, and that every brick and stone in the buildings—by the design adopted—swings memory to the vigor and stamina of those early settlers.



RECENT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN CONSTRUCTION DIV., VETERANS' BUREAU

U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 116, Waco, Texas; hospital buildings and utilities; contractor, Henry B. Ryan Co., 500 No. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. ....	\$ 842,900.00	U. S. Veterans' Hospital, No. 117, Canandaigua, N. Y.; mechanical equipment; contractor, J. F. Powers, Bennettsville, S. C. ....	318,600.00
U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 116, Waco, Texas; mechanical equipment; contractor, J. C. Koriath Plumbing & Heating Co., 414 East Lamar St., Sherman, Texas. ....	332,100.00	U. S. Veterans' Hospital, Knoxville, Iowa; officers' quarters and additions; contractor, Morley Const. Co., 1643 Bellevue Ave., Kansas City, Mo. ....	135,900.00
U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 51, Tucson, Arizona; patients building; contractor, Orndorff Const. Co., 437 South Hill St., Los Angeles, Calif. ....	248,200.00	U. S. Veterans' Hospital, Albuquerque, N. M.; mechanical equipment; contractor, P. M. Meyer Co., 635 So. Preston St., Louisville, Ky. ....	306,474.00
U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 118, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; buildings and utilities; contractor, H. B. Nelson Const. Co., Box 626, Columbus, Ga. ....	587,792.00	U. S. Veterans' Hospital, Albuquerque, N. M.; hospital buildings and utilities; contractor, Murch Bros. Const. Co., 611 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. ....	772,000.00
U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 118, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; mechanical equipment; contractor, Bryce Plumbing & Heating Co., Florence, S. C. ....	232,477.00	U. S. Veterans' Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind.; nurses' quarters and storehouse; contractor, R. Sollitt & Sons Const. Co., South Bend, Ind. ....	99,924.00
U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 117, Canandaigua, N. Y.; buildings and utilities; contractor, L. Balkin Co., 1850 West Austin Ave., Chicago, Ill. ....	899,949.00	U. S. Veterans' Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah; hospital buildings and utilities; contractor, Orndorff Const. Co., 437 South Hill St., Los Angeles, Calif. ....	405,600.00



UNITED STATES VETERANS' HOSPITAL, COATESVILLE, PA.

Recreation Building

Construction Div. of Veterans' Bureau,  
Architects

A. C. Samford,  
Contractor

## RECENT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN OFFICE OF SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Post Office and Court House; extension remodeling; contractor, Murch Brothers Construction Co., 611 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo...	239,000.00	P. Severin Co., 222 West Adams St., Chicago, Ill.....	1,269,900.00
Woonsocket, R. I., Post Office; extension and remodeling; contractor, A. M. Lundberg, Railway Exchange Building, St. Louis, Mo.....	105,600.00	Hamilton, Ohio, Post Office; construction; contractor, Coath & Goss, Inc., 1109 S. State Street, Chicago, Ill.....	171,425.00
Lyons, New York, Post Office; construction; contractor, Samuel Plato, 614 W. Walnut Street, Louisville, Ky.....	48,269.00	Warren, Pa., Post Office; construction; contractor, Rosen & Fischel, Inc., 11 So. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.....	142,970.00
Hoboken, N. J., Post Office; construction; contractor, Quaker City Masonry Contr. Co., 1722 Lefcort Building, Newark, N. J.....	220,900.00	Noyes, Minn., Inspection Station; construction; contractor, Frank A. Carlson & Co., 616-7 Lyceum Building, Duluth, Minn. ....	59,750.00
Norfolk, Nebraska, Post Office; extension and remodeling; contractor, Tapager Construction Company, Albert Lea, Minn...	122,646.00	Pembina, N. Dak., Custom House; construction; contractor, Frank A. Carlson & Co., 616-7 Lyceum Bldg., Duluth, Minn. ....	67,750.00
Oakland, Calif., Post Office, Custom House, etc.; construction, except elevator; contractor, K. E. Parker Co., 135 So. Park, San Francisco, Calif.....	545,200.00	Freemont, Ohio, Post Office; construction; contractor, Rosen & Fischel, Inc., 11 So. La Salle Street, Chicago, Ill...	132,438.00
Hoquiam, Wash. Post Office; construction; contractor, William T. Post, 4720 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, Wash.....	118,900.00	Rochester, Pa., Post Office, etc.; construction; contractor, The R. B. McDanel Co., New Brighton, Pa. ....	82,999.00
Coleman, Texas, Post Office; construction; contractor, Christy - Dolph Construction Co., Dallas, Texas.....	69,800.00	Boston, Mass., Post Office; elevators; contractor, A. B. See Elevator Co., 52 Vesey Street, New York, N. Y.....	415,695.00
Sweetwater, Texas, Post Office; construction, including approaches; contractor, Christy-Dolph Construction Co., Dallas, Texas.....	78,800.00	Rock Hill, S. C., Post Office and Court House; construction; contractor, Batson Cook Co., West Point, Ga. ....	175,793.00
Kansas City, Mo., Post Office; construction, including approaches; contractor, Ring Construction Co., 808 Wesley Temple Building, Minneapolis, Minn. ....	2,330,000.00	Lumberton, Miss., Post Office; construction; contractor, Algernon Blair, 1209 First Natl. Bank Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. ....	48,725.00
Kansas City, Mo., Post Office; mail handling equipment; contractor, The Alvey-Ferguson Co., Oakley, Cincinnati, Ohio.	276,983.00	Seattle, Wash., Marine Hospital; elevators; Otis Elevator Co., 810 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. ....	61,127.00
Kansas City, Mo., Post Office; complete elevator plant; contractor, The Haughton Elevator & Machine Co., 1103 Vermont Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.....	138,867.00	Salt Lake City, Utah, Post Office and Court House, etc.; construction; contractor, Orndorff Construction Co., 437 South Street, Los Angeles, Calif....	815,000.00
Seattle, Wash., Marine Hospital; construction buildings, approaches, etc.; contractor, N.		Mansfield, Louisiana; Post Office; construction; contractor, Algernon Blair, 1209 First Natl. Bank Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. ....	52,460.00
		Bath, New York, Post Office, etc.; construction; contractor, The J. P. Foley Construction Co., Inc., 80 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. ....	78,315.00

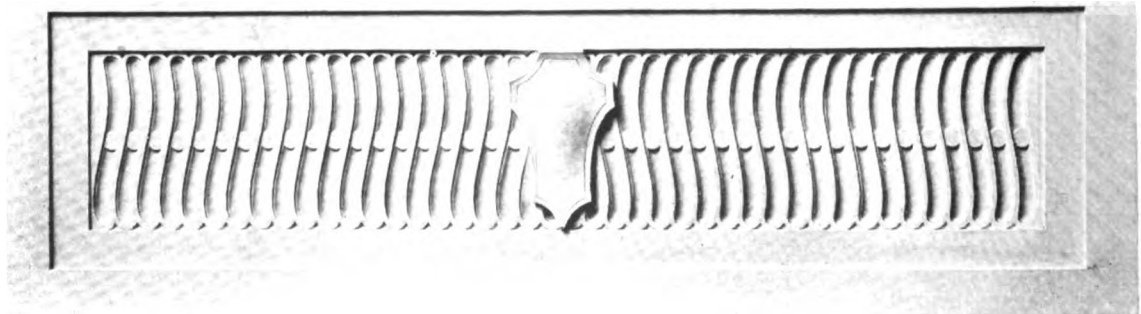
Internal Revenue Bldg., Wash- ington, D. C., painting plaster; contractor; Alliance Const. Co., 1457 Broadway, New York, N. Y. ....	78,869.00	Rutland, Vermont, Post Office and Court House; construc- tion; contractor, Brooklyn & Queens Screen Mfg. Co., Inc., Mitchell Field, Hempstead, Long Island .....	292,600.00
Portland, Maine, Court House; construction; contractor, Na- tional Const. Co., 631 Tower Bldg., Washington, D. C. ....	342,000.00	Key West, Fla., Post Office, Court House & Custom House; construction; contractor, Al- gernon Blair, 1209 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Montgomery, Ala.	\$170,000.00
Greenfield, Ind., Post Office; construction; contractor, James I. Barnes, Barnes Building, Logansport, Ind. ....	50,500.00	Bay City, Mich., Post Office, Court House, Custom House, etc.; construction; contractor, Ideal Construction Co., 515 West Fifth Ave., Gary, Ind. . .	313,000.00
Shreveport, La., Post Office and Court House, construction; contractor, Algernon Blair, 1209 First Natl. Bank Bldg., Montgomery, Ala. ....	303,848.00	Houston, Texas, Post Office and Court House; construction; contractor, Robert E. McKee, 1918 Texas Street, El Paso, Texas .....	514,900.00
Freeport, Ill., Post Office and Court House; construction; contractor, Sjostron & Sons, Inc., 1617 Crosby Street, Rockford, Ill. ....	144,395.00	Public Health Service Building, Washington, D. C., clearing site, excavations and founda- tions; Raymond Concrete Pile Co., 140 Cedar Street, New York, N. Y. ....	60,000.00
Lafayette, Ind., Post Office, etc., construction; contractor, Jo- seph A. Tintari, 22 Illinois Street, Chicago Heights, Ill. . .	245,760.00		

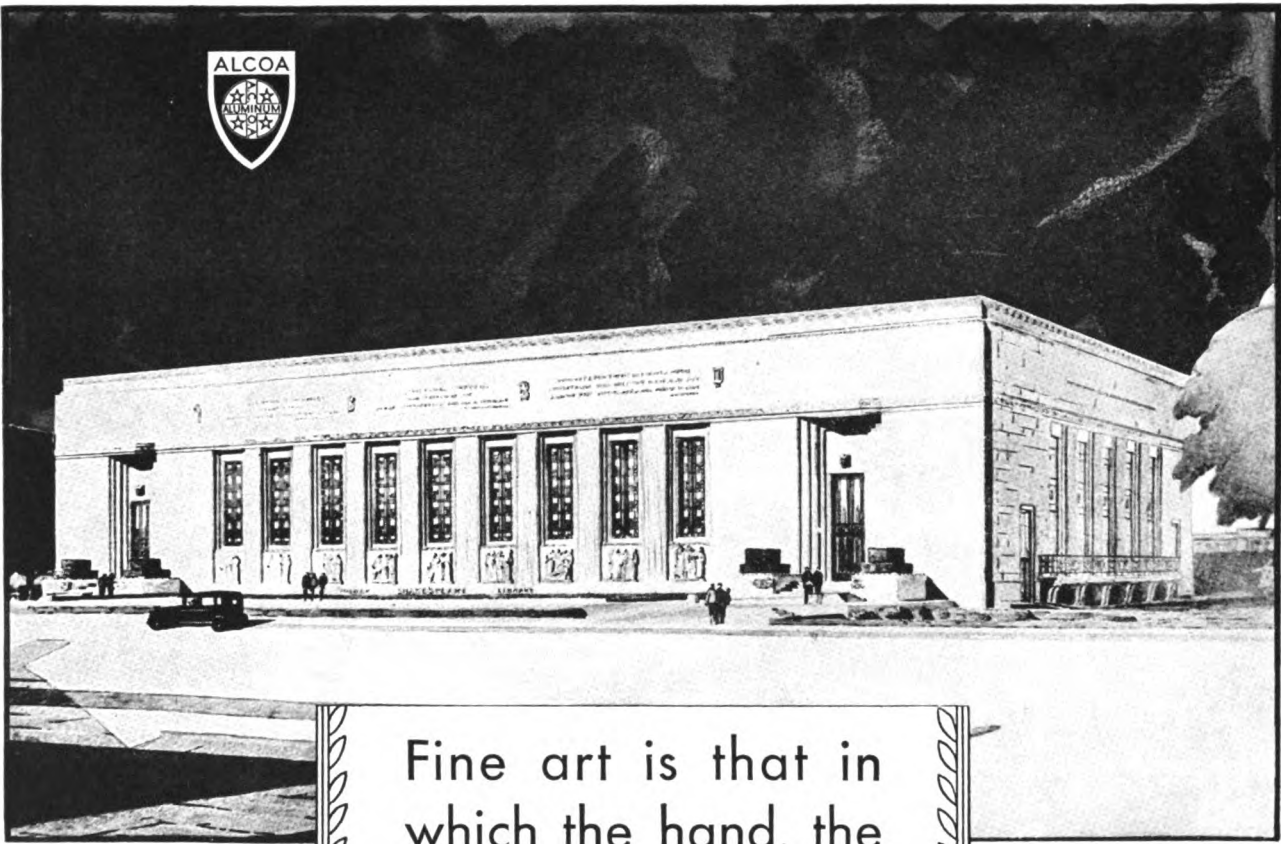
RECENT CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS,  
NAVY DEPARTMENT

Buildings, Roads and Services, Naval Ammunition Depot, Oahu, T. H.; contractor, Thomas Haverty Co., Los An- geles, Cal. ....	\$1,900,000.00	Disciplinary Barracks, at Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va.; con- tractor, Green & Stowe, Welch, West Va. ....	62,140.00
Dredging at Naval Operating Base, Pearl Harbor, T. H.; contractor, Standard Dredging Co., Los Angeles, Calif. ....	262,080.00	Mess Hall, Naval Training Sta- tion, San Diego, Cal.; contrac- tor, M. H. Golden, San Diego, Calif. ....	264,692.00
Dredging at Naval Operating Base, Pearl Harbor, T. H.; contractor, Hawaiian Dredging Co., Honolulu, T. H. ....	769,225.00	Reerect Dismantled Dirigible Hangar, Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N. J.; contractor, Seacoast Iron Wks. Co., Red Bank, N. J. ....	73,000.00
Motor Generator Sets and Switch- board, Navy Yard, Boston, Mass.; contractor, F. A. Maz- zur Co., Inc., Boston, Mass. . .	60,000.00	Submarine Escape Training Tank, Naval Operating Base, Pearl Harbor; contractor, W. P. Thurston Co., Inc., Richmond, Va. ....	61,900.00
Boilers and Accessories, at Ma- rine Barracks, Quantico, Va.; contractor, M. H. Pagenhardt & Co., Washington, D. C. ....	108,540.00	Barracks and 8 Quarters, Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N. J.; contractor, McCormick Len- ham Co., Philadelphia, Pa. . . .	327,568.00
Extension, Assembly Shop, Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R. I.; contractor, J. R. & J. A. Whelan, Inc., Newport, R. I. .	64,000.00	Hangar Extension to Aircraft Shop, Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Squantum, Mass.; con- tractor, Hartenstine-Zane Co., Inc., 225 Broadway, New York City .....	55,565.00
Dredging at Naval Ammunition Depot, West Loch, Pearl Har- bor, T. H.; contractor, Stand- ard Dredging Co., Los Ange- les, Calif. ....	50,585.00	Fuel-burning equipment and in- stallation of boilers, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.; con- tractor, Mechanical Engineer- ing & Construction Co., Wash- ington, D. C. ....	111,745.00
Aircraft Overhaul Shop, Naval Air Station, Coco Solo, C. Z.; contractor, N. C. Nelson Co., 853 Broadway, N. Y. ....	78,750.00		

RECENT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE

Arlington Cem., Va., Adm. Bldg., etc.; contractor, Lee T. Turner, Washington, D. C.... \$	39,870.00	Selfridge Field, Mich., Hdqrs. & Parachute Bldg.; contractor, A. W. Kutsche Co., Detroit, Mich. ....	60,993.00
Barksdale Field, La., Sewer system; contractor, Forgy, Hanson & McCorkle, Lake Charles, La. ....	37,400.00	Wheeler Field, Hawaii, Barracks; contractor, Ames & Wells, Ltd., Honolulu, H. T.	409,663.00
Ft. B. Harrison, Ind., addition to Hospital; contractor, American Const. Co. of Indiana ...	127,097.00	Army Medical Center, D. C., Quartermaster's Qtrs., contractor, H. R. Blagg Co., Dayton, Ohio. ....	174,445.59
Fort Jay, New York, Detachment Barracks; contractor, Neinken-Mertz Const. Co., Brooklyn, N. Y. ....	221,847.00	Fort Benning, Georgia; Barracks; contractor, Murphy Pound, Columbus, Georgia. ..	244,417.00
Langley Field, Va., Post Hospital; contractor, Jewell Riddle Co., Inc., Sanford, N. C....	149,893.00	Fort Bragg, No. Car.; Hospital; contractor, W. P. Rose Co., Goldsboro, No. Car. ....	256,650.00
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Hospital Ward; contractor, Huff Bros. Const. Co., Pittsburgh, Kansas .....	61,885.00	Chattanooga, Tenn., paving Miss. Ridge Crest Road; contractor, J. J. Higginson, Jr., Macon, Georgia. ....	150,185.02
Letterman Gen. Hospital, new ward & addition; contractor, Frank J. Reilly, San Francisco, Cal. ....	81,886.00	Duncan Field, Texas; Hangars, etc., contractor, K. L. Colburn, Inc., Pasadena, Cal. ....	59,463.00
Maxwell Field, Ala., N. C. O. Quarters; contractor, Algeron Blair, Montgomery, Alabama .....	37,999.00	Fort Jay, New York; Hospital; contractor, Supreme Const. Co., New York, N. Y. ....	331,600.00
Fort Monmouth, N. J., Co. Ofs. Qtrs. & N. C. O. Qtrs., etc.; contractor, National Const. Co., Washington, D. C....	285,999.00	Langley Field, Va., Hydraulic Fill; contractor, Canton House, Baltimore, Md. ....	62,745.00
Plattsburg Bks., N. Y., kitchens, etc.; contractor, Smythe & Co., Washington, D. C. ....	74,924.00	March Field, Cal.; Roads, walks, etc., contractor, W. J. Brand, Riverside, Cal. ....	62,500.00
Springfield Armory, Mass., boiler plant; contractor, A. D. Granger Co., New York, N. Y....	74,444.00	Fort Myer, Va.; Officers' Qtrs., contractor, Taylor Mfg. Co., Fredericksburg, Va.....	88,386.00
Selfridge Field, Mich., Co. Ofs. Qtrs. & N. C. O. Qtrs.; contractor, Atkin & Stock, Inc., Detroit, Mich. ....	222,143.00	Fort Myer, Va.; N. C. O. Qtrs., contractor, Brooklyn & Queen Screen Co., New York, N. Y.	95,470.00
		Wright Field, Ohio.; Torque Stands & misc. bldgs., etc.; contractor, F. L. Matthaes, Columbus, Ohio.....	182,500.00





Fine art is that in  
which the hand, the  
head and the heart  
go together . . . . .

J O H N R U S K I N

It is significant that the architects, Mr. Paul P. Cret and Mr. Alexander B. Trowbridge, should choose Alcoa

Aluminum for many structural and decorative purposes in the Folger Shakespeare Library. The memorial, which is privately undertaken, is one of the units in the Capitol group at Washington, D. C., being developed under the direction of the Architect of the Capitol, Mr. David Lynn.

The silvery color of the aluminum complements the white marble of the facing and both complete a whole which is "modern" in design, and yet withal secures the dignity and simplicity of a classical structure.

Alcoa Aluminum insures permanency. It will not weather streak onto the white marble. It has been used for the entrance doors and frames, French casement windows, double hung windows, spandrel ornaments, large exterior grilles, exterior balcony railings and exterior lighting fixtures.

Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.  
Architect: Paul Philippe Cret, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Consulting Architect: Alexander B. Trowbridge, Washington, D.C. General Contractor: James Baird Company, Inc., New York and Washington. Aluminum Metal Contractor: William H. Jackson Company, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Alcoa Aluminum as a building material has many specific advantages. It is plastic to the needs of creative design.

It is strong but light. It weighs only 1/3 as much as previously used metals. Alcoa Aluminum is supplied in cast, extruded or sheet form and is low in cost, comparable to other metals that do not have its very decided advantages.

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## NATIONAL TERRA

230 PARK AVENUE



## FEDERAL ARCHITECTURE

For the smaller government structures such as the Sedalia, Mo. Post Office, shown opposite, terra cotta is a complete architectural material for use, as in this case, for everything above the top of the base course.

For the larger structures its use for column capitals, spandrels, cornices, fret courses and ornament generally is in no way inconsistent with the spirit of monumental design, while offering the designer greater freedom in the use of color and ornament than would otherwise be possible.

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OTTA SOCIETY

NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Custom House  
Denver, Colo.  
Yule Colorado  
Marble.*

*Office of  
Supervising  
Architect,  
Architects*



## *Custom Houses --- Old and New*

The little picture at the bottom of the page—taken from a late photograph—represents one of the first of Vermont Marble buildings, the Old Custom House, built in 1836 at Erie, Pa. In those days the transportation problem was a vital issue. The marble for this century-old Erie structure had to be brought down from the Vermont mountains by team, canal and lake boat.



Great is the contrast between the old ways and the new. Modern machinery and equipment are no more advanced than modern ways of moving marble. The marble for the Denver Custom House was turned out by our Colorado quarries—10,000 feet above sea level—with less effort, probably, than the pioneers expended on the old Erie building.

“No time has been lost on the federal building job,” says the Denver Post. “Uncle Sam knew exactly what he wanted when he started. The building materials were available. The work went ahead without a hitch. There wasn’t a minute of delay.”

An achievement of this kind would have been impossible a century ago. The only thing about the industry to remain unchanged is the marble itself.

**Vermont Marble Company  
Proctor, Vt.**

*BRANCHES IN THE LARGER CITIES*

*See Sweet's Catalogue for Specifications and other Data*

# VERMONT MARBLE



## **TILED WASHROOMS**

Washrooms in Federal and Public buildings are usually subjected to maximum abuse and minimum care. The average citizen is thoughtless about the appearance of public places, and usually the caretakers spend less effort on the washrooms than on the more public areas.

Only the most rugged, waterproof, and impervious material should be used in these spaces, and one that may be easily kept clean. A cheerful color often will be an inducement to keep the room in good condition.

Specify nothing but the best.

## **ASSOCIATED TILE MANUFACTURERS**

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New York, N. Y.

Alhambra Tile Co.  
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The Architectural Tile Co.  
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The Mosaic Tile Co.  
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Olean Tile Co.  
The C. Pardee Works  
Penn Tile Works Co.  
The Sparta Ceramic Co.  
The Standard Tile Co.  
United States Encaustic Tile Works  
The United States Quarry Tile Co.  
Wheatley Tile & Pottery Co.  
Wheeling Tile Co.

# COPPER for vertical surfaces THE TREND OF TOMORROW

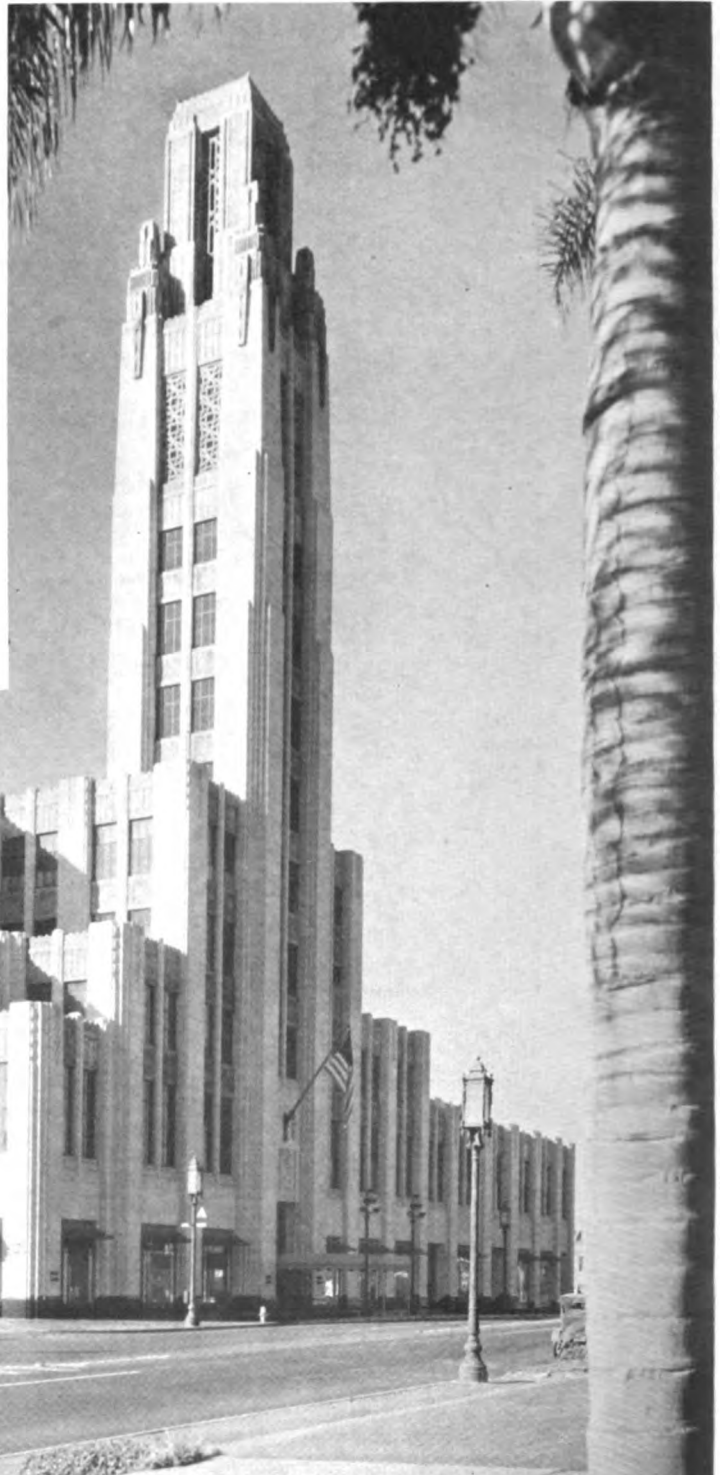
THE Bullock's-Wilshire Building, Los Angeles, is an interesting example of the modern trend in building design and construction. Copper used on vertical surfaces makes for unusual effects at lower construction costs.

John Parkinson and Donald B. Parkinson, Architects, comment as follows: "In designing Bullock's-Wilshire Building it was our desire to use metal in plastic form for the ornamental portions, and for the tower, in combination with masonry, in order to accent the vertical lines of the building, and to add interest to the facade, which might otherwise become quite monotonous on account of its extent.

"On account of the beautiful color, the natural variation in tone, together with its permanence and workability, we adopted copper without hesitation.

"The verde antique finish was developed by the use of acids, so that when the building was finished the final color effect was established. The color tones, we believe, will improve with natural weathering."

**COPPER & BRASS**  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION  
25 Broadway, New York



*The Bullock's-Wilshire Building, Los Angeles, is the work of John and Donald B. Parkinson, architects. Sheet metal installed by the Fordner Cornice Works, San Francisco. Builders—P. J. Walker Company.*

**CENTURIES OF SERVICE PROVE THE DURABILITY OF COPPER AND ITS ALLOYS**