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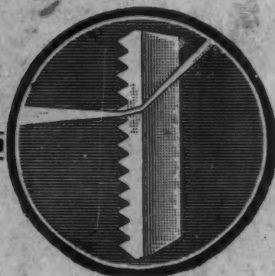
THIS ISSUE CONTAINS

ARTICLES ON MALINES (MECHLIN), BELGIUM, BY
G. A. T. MIDDLETON, A. R. I. B. A., AND THE EFFECT
OF COMPETITION ON DESIGN, BY J. MILTON DYER,
F. A. I. A. ♦ THE ILLUSTRATIONS ARE OF SOME
RECENT WORK BY MESSRS. MYRON HUNT AND
ELMER GREY, MR. THOMAS NASH AND MESSRS.
HOWELLS & STOKES ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

VOLUME CI

JANUARY 3, 1912

NUMBER 1880



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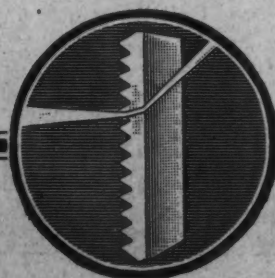
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FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

December 12, 13 and 14

SUMMARY OF THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

GRATIFIED by the complete harmony which prevailed at all of the sessions and the disposition generally manifested to have the work of the organization conducted on a broad basis, delegates who attended the convention of the Institute are unanimous in the opinion that in tangible results the present convention is among the most successful ever held.

The third day's session was conducted along the lines laid down in the program.

The election for officers resulted as follows:

Walter Cook, of New York, president; R. Clipston Sturgis, of Boston, first vice-president; Frank C. Baldwin, of Detroit, second vice-president; Glenn Brown, of Washington, secretary-treasurer. Directors, Irving K. Pond, John M. Donaldson, Edward A. Crane.

Approval of a resolution inviting the International Congress of Architects to hold its 1917 meeting in Washington was given by the convention. The congress has been called to meet in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1914, and it was decided by the Institute to send an exhibit of American architecture to St. Petersburg.

The bill now pending in Congress to establish a forest reserve in Virginia and Maryland co-ordinate with the park system of the District of Columbia, which carries an appropriation of \$2,000,000, was referred to a committee with power to act as to its endorsement by the Institute.

The report of the Committee on Reports of Special Committees was presented by Mr. D. Everett Waid. The importance of town planning and the conservation of natural resources, as elaborated in the committee reports, were endorsed.

While no resolutions were presented at this session with reference to the Lincoln Memorial, the report of the Committee on the Report of the Board of Directors contained reference to this subject.

The establishment of a Committee on Public Information is an important result of the convention.

Designed to bring about co-ordination in city planning, the convention adopted a resolution, presented by Carl F. Gould, of Seattle, Wash., directing the committee on town planning of the Institute to make a study of the plans for municipal improvement which are under consideration by various cities in the United States. It will be the duty of the committee to report from time to time to the Board of Directors so that the board may recommend or

discourage the adoption of any of the plans and cooperate as it sees fit with the various municipalities having them under consideration.

The convention also showed its approval of the Institute's competition code as it stands by refusing to authorize the Board of Directors to consider a proposal made by the New York Chapter which would give local subcommittees more latitude in the provisions of the code in competitions dealing with work that is purely of a commercial character.

Resolutions were adopted conveying the appreciation of the Institute to President Taft, Ambassador Jusserand and Dr. Charles D. Walcott for their participation in the ceremonies at which a gold medal was conferred upon George B. Post, of New York.

The convention passed a resolution expressing regret over the death of Honore Daumet, of Paris, France, who was an honorary member of the Institute.

The papers of H. B. Wheelock on "Licensing Architects," and Lloyd Warren on "Phases of Architectural Education," were read.

THE RECEPTION AND BANQUET

At the banquet held in the New Willard Hotel on the evening of the 14th of December, Mr. Irving K. Pond, the retiring president, officiated as toastmaster.

Among the speakers were Senator George E. Chamberlain, of Oregon, and Representative Slayden, of Texas; Kent, of California, and George B. Post, of New York.

Mr. Post described the development of architecture in this country in the past fifty years, and received almost as much of an ovation as upon the occasion of the presentation to him of the Institute's gold medal.

The movement for a greater Washington, Senator Chamberlain said, had its origin, in large part, in the American Institute of Architects.

Congress should not be negligent, he declared, in condemning the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, in accordance with the recommendation of the Institute and the original plan for the development of the national capital, as drawn by Major L'Enfant. To improve the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue in the manner contemplated, Congress should expend millions of dollars, if necessary, he said, and let no opportunity escape to make

Washington beyond doubt the most beautiful city of the world.

Representative Slayden made it plain that, in his opinion, the Lincoln Memorial should be located in Washington, and suggested that he might not object to the building of a bridge or a fountain as a fitting memorial. He stated that he was opposed to the proposition to expend the appropriation for

a memorial in the construction of a highway to Gettysburg. The question of the waste of capital is one of the heaviest responsibilities resting upon the American Institute of Architects, declared Representative Kent, of California. Mr. Kent jocularly referred to the Institute's schedule of charges, and said that he hoped the members would consider it with respect to the Sherman anti-trust law.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE Board reports that the Institute has now 1,096 members, composed as follows: Fellows, 302; Members, 648; Hon. Members, 63; Hon. Cor. Members, 83.

Since the last report of the Board there have been advanced to Fellows, elected Members, or reinstated: Advanced to Fellows, 16; elected Members, 75; reinstated (Fellow), 1. One member has resigned.

There have been dropped from the rolls: Fellows, 4; Members, 4.

There have died: Fellows, 6; Members, 3; Honorary Members, 3; Hon. Corresponding Members, 1.

Following is a list of the Members who have died during the year: Honorary Members: Edwin A. Abbey, Mrs. S. P. Avery, Halsey C. Ives. Honorary Corresponding Members: F. Collingwood. Fellows: John M. Carrere, Franklin J. Sawtelle, A. G. Thomson, C. W. Clark, W. A. Holbrook, J. R. Lizius. Members: Joseph T. Greene, F. E. Rutan, Charles H. Israels.

The Board recommends for advancement to Fellows the following Members: Dyer, J. Milton; Rankin, John Hall; Rantoul, Augustus N.; Warren, Lloyd; Wheelock, H. B.; Zantainger, C. C.

CHAPTERS

Two new Chapters have been organized during the past year: One in the State of Oregon and the other in the State of Wisconsin.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The International Congress of Architects was held in Rome, Italy. Messrs. Irving K. Pond and Frank C. Baldwin were appointed members of the permanent committee of this country. Messrs. Wm. S. Eames, Francis R. Allen, D. H. Burnham, Geo. R. Post, Glenn Brown and Geo. O. Totten, Jr., were elected delegates. Your president and Mr. Frank C. Baldwin also represented the American Institute of Architects. The discussions were very interesting to the architects all over the world. The president was called on to speak on various occasions.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL

The location of the Lincoln Memorial, according to the Park Commission Plan, is still unsettled.

The Congressional Committee, of which President Taft is chairman, referred the matter to the Fine Arts Commission and they studied the various sites and unanimously decided to recommend placing the memorial according to the Park Commission Plan, considering this the only suitable site in the District of Columbia. Upon the recommendation of the Fine Arts Commission, Mr. Henry Bacon was directed to make preliminary drawings for the Lincoln Memorial on the Park Commission site, subject to the approval of the Fine Arts Commission, Congressional Committee, and Congress. Mr. Bacon's draw-

ings and models have been completed and have been placed and hung in the New National Museum, where it is hoped they will be on view during the reception on the night of the 13th of December.

The campaign for a roadway has become very active and much pressure has been brought upon Congressmen to change the form of the bill and appropriate money for a roadway to Gettysburg or a roadway to Richmond.

Your secretary was authorized to send circulars to about six hundred art societies and to all prominent newspapers in the country, giving a brief history and data concerning the cost of roadways and urging the societies to send protests to their Congressmen and urge them to approve the Park Commission site.

L'ENFANT MEMORIAL

On May 22, 1911, the monument to l'Enfant, designed by W. W. Bosworth, subject to the approval of the officers of the Institute, was unveiled at Arlington with imposing ceremonies. This monument is in front of the Arlington Mansion, overlooking the city which l'Enfant designed.

The President of the United States, the Ambassador of France, and Elihu Root, Senator from New York, delivered addresses on this occasion. Seats were reserved for about four hundred distinguished guests and the hillside surrounding the monument was open to the public. Your secretary represented the American Institute of Architects as chairman of the Committee on Arrangements. Dr. James Dudley Morgan represented the Historical Society as chairman of the Committee on Invitations.

These ceremonies added notably to the general interest in the future development of the plan of Washington.

TOWN PLANNING

Since the Institute's convention of 1900, when this subject was first publicly discussed, a very general interest in town planning has developed throughout the country. Three conferences have been held in this country and an International Town Planning Conference was held in London. These are described in the report of the Committee on Town Planning.

THE OCTAGON PROPERTY

There have been made during the year a considerable number of repairs and improvements, and the Octagon is now in a distinctly better condition than at any time since its acquisition by the Institute. It is contemplated that other improvements will be made during the ensuing year.

The two lots adjoining on the north have been acquired. By this purchase the property owned by the Institute is now bounded on all sides by streets or alleys.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

The amendment to the by-laws proposed by the Cincinnati Chapter has been considered by the Board, which does not recommend its adoption.

The Board has to record with deep sorrow its sense of the loss it has sustained in the death of its fellow member, John M. Carrere. His unfailing devotion and his wise counsel were always given without a thought of personal sacrifice, whenever the interests of the Institute were in question.

During the last year the Board has had submitted to it by the Judiciary Committee for its decision several cases of alleged unprofessional conduct on the part of members of the Institute.

THE COMPETITION CODE

The Board believes that the Competition Code should be so modified that no such uncertainty can be possible, and especially that the paragraph which reads:

"The definition of a competition given in Article I of the Circular of Advice does not include those cases in which the owner employs several architects to make preliminary sketches, paying to each the rate named in the Schedule of Charges for such service, nor does it include those cases in which the owner employs several architects to make a preliminary report upon the development of the property, paying to each an adequate consultation fee."

It should be made entirely definite, which it believes is not the case at present.

It would also urge upon all the Chapters of the Insti-

tute which have not already done so the adoption of the Code of Competition as a law of the Chapter as well as of the Institute. It seems entirely illogical that certain members of a Chapter should have actions which are not sanctioned by the Institute legalized by the Chapter.

In view of these conditions the Board believes it wise to take no further action in regard to the members named, as it is convinced that either offenses resulted, at least in some cases, from ignorance of the existing conditions or from a want of familiarity with the requirements of the Code.

The Board has received information from many sources and from many parts of the country as to the effect of the Competition Code, and is very thoroughly convinced that it has resulted in a greatly improved attitude on the part of those instituting competitions on the one hand and on the other a much better understanding of their duties to the profession on the part of the architects. It has been surprised and gratified by the very general recognition that the public has given of the justice of the provisions contained in it, and its general acceptance as a standard for the conduct of competitions.

The Board recognizes that certain modifications may from time to time be found advisable, but it hopes that no modification or change may be made which shall depart from the general underlying principles of the Code, and it believes that difficulties which have been encountered in certain parts of the country will rapidly disappear when the conditions surrounding architectural competitions are fully understood.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIÉTÉ DES ARCHITECTES DIPLOMÉS PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT

THE annual meeting of the "Groupe Americain" of the "Société des Architectes Diplômés par le Gouvernement Français," held at Martin's Restaurant on December 14, was largely attended.

After reports of officers and special committees had been accepted, the following officers for the year 1912 were unanimously elected:

President.....J. H. Freedlander
Vice-President.....E. V. Meeks
Secretary.....Francis A. Nelson
Treasurer.....Francis Y. Joannes
Executive Committee...J. H. Freedlander, ex officio; E. V. Meeks, ex officio; Francis A. Nelson, ex officio; Francis Y. Joannes, ex officio; Duncan Candler, George B. Ford, C. C. Zantzinger.

The secretary reported that copies of the resolutions adopted by the "Groupe," favoring the placing of the Lincoln Memorial at Washington on the Potomac Park Site, had been forwarded to the New York Senators and Representatives in Congress.

The Committee on Year Book reported that this publication would be ready to issue January 1.

It was moved and carried that the by-laws, as prepared by this committee, be adopted and printed.

Moved and carried that a committee be appointed

to report at the next meeting on the matter of incorporating the "Groupe."

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

In submitting to you herewith my annual report it is a pleasure to note the increasing membership of the American Group and the wider field of its activities during the past year. We number at present seventy, of whom forty-two are resident in New York and twenty-eight resident throughout the country, and as far west as San Francisco.

In the course of the past year we have had the opportunity of witnessing the continuous development in strength and importance of the Parent Society, culminating in a celebration last winter on the occasion of attaining a membership of one thousand, and showing the leading position which the Society occupies to-day in matters relating to the architectural profession.

As ocular evidence of the satisfactory condition of our financial affairs I am very glad to announce that we have completed our year book and have incorporated therein our own by-laws and adapted to our needs such chapters of the constitution of the Parent Society applicable to this group. For the efforts put forth in the preparation of this work I desire to express our appreciation to the com-

mittee in charge, whose long and earnest efforts have terminated so successfully.

The project of holding an international architectural exhibition is at present being discussed in a preliminary way by your committee and we have been promised the valuable co-operation of some of the leading French architects, who will join with us and assist us in securing the most interesting exhibits obtainable, having at their command in Paris a very large and efficient organization in which the Ministry of Fine Arts, through its under-secretary, is directly represented. It is intended to hold this exhibition either in the spring or fall of next year, as the time at our disposal warrants. The committee will shortly lay before the Society a preliminary plan of ways and means.

In respect to competitions we have worked along lines similar to those in force in the Institute, with a view particularly of attempting to regulate such programmes of compositions not taken up by the

various chapter committees. We have even dipped into some emanating from our colonial possessions and our neighboring republic of Cuba—but we found so very different an interpretation of the code of ethics that we thought it best not to attempt any offer of our services.

In concluding this report, gentlemen, I wish to thank you for your support during the year and I want to record our appreciation of the important work done by the various committees of the Society.

Our monthly luncheons furnish a means of keeping alive and fostering the traditions of the School and of perpetuating that "esprit de corps" which lies at the foundation of the great and successful architectural movement which is to-day sweeping over the country, and whose increasing strength is due to the unwavering devotion, on the part of the men returning home, to those principles for which we stand. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. FREEDLANDER.

CURRENT NEWS AND COMMENT

Washington State Chapter, A.I.A.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Washington State Chapter, A. I. A., was held December 6, 1911. The special subject was Height of Buildings, their Limitations by Municipal Ordinance. Mr. John L. Hall, chairman of the Building Ordinance Revision Commission, city of Seattle; Mr. A. H. Albertson, a member of the same commission and chairman of the Chapter Committee on Ordinances, addressed the meeting. Mr. Hall in his remarks stated that with buildings of unusual height the consideration of beauty and utility were the main concern of the architect, the provision for necessary strength lying more particularly in the province of the engineer. He considered the building laws should be restrictive rather than constructive, and his commission was inclined to recommend restriction in heights to meet a general demand based on practical considerations. Mr. Albertson called attention to the conflicting demands of the property and the public, illustrating by statistics and diagrams the specific nature of these demands, with their effect on the problem.

It was believed the subject called for more thorough study by the Chapter. A special meeting was ordered for its further consideration.

Resolutions advocating for the Lincoln Memorial at Washington, D. C., the site recommended by the Park Commission as opposed to a possible diversion of the fund for the construction of a highway, were presented by the Legislative Committee and unanimously adopted.

The Exhibition Committee reported that the re-

cent exhibition of the Capitol Competition drawings was eminently successful, and that another exhibition had been arranged with the co-operation of the library management to exhibit the maps and drawings prepared by the Municipal Plans Commission for the future development of Seattle.

Oregon State Chapter Endorses Conduct of Portland Auditorium Competition

The recent quite unwarranted criticism in certain quarters as to the conduct of the competition for the Portland, Ore., public auditorium, has led the Oregon State Chapter to adopt the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that the Oregon State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects herewith expresses its approval of the conduct of the recent Portland Public Auditorium Competition."

While it is gratifying to note the stamp of approval placed on this competition by the highest ruling power in the immediate neighborhood the unimpeachable character of the professional adviser and the gentlemen that constituted the jury is sufficient evidence that this competition had been throughout conducted with due regard to the ethics of architectural practice.

American Civic Association

The Seventh Annual Convention of the American Civic Association was held in Washington, D. C., coincident with that of the Institute. For

this reason doubtless many architects who would otherwise have availed of the opportunity to attend the sessions of the association convention were prevented from doing so.

The keynote of the convention was announced, "A more beautiful America." We regret that owing to the lack of space we are prevented from giving at greater length a description of the results that were accomplished.

The influence of the Association has been materially extended and the efforts towards the up-building of our artistic national growth so very well directed that they will doubtless be far reaching.

Brooklyn Chapter Protests Against Letting Contract for Architectural Services

The Brooklyn Chapter of the Institute at a recent session took formal action protesting that a contract about to be signed for architectural services for the Municipal Building in the Borough of Brooklyn upon a basis of payment not in accord with professional custom of the Institute is detrimental to the public welfare and the profession of architecture. The proposed contract was strongly condemned and a request forwarded to the authorities to reconsider their contemplated action.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Receives Substantial Offer of Gifts

Gifts aggregating nearly \$2,750,000 have been offered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for use in the near future under certain conditions, according to the announcement by President Richard R. Maclaurin in his annual report presented to the corporation of the school.

PERSONAL

Mr. P. Thornton Marye, of Atlanta, Ga., was the successful competitor in the recent competition for a Court House for Tampa, Fla. There were twenty-three competitors.

Minneapolis Art Museum Competition

Messrs. McKim, Mead & White were the successful competitors in the recently held Minneapolis Art Museum competition.

Frank C. Baldwin to Make His Home in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Frank C. Baldwin, second vice-president of the American Institute of Architects, and who for the past eighteen years has practiced his profession in Detroit, Mich., has moved to Washington, D. C.

It is stated that Mr. Baldwin will retire from active practice and will devote considerable time to the administrative duties of his office, in connection with the headquarters of the Institute at the Octagon.

It is subject for congratulation that Mr. Baldwin should have the time and the inclination to take active part in the administration of Institute matters, and we foresee far-reaching and valuable results as a consequence.

A Correction

W. I. Grau and O. B. Raser, of the Atelier Bosworth, were incorrectly reported in the issue of December 6 as being placed H. C. in the students' competition, Society of Beaux Arts Architects.

Mr. Laurence F. Peck, architect, announces that he has opened offices at 331 Madison avenue, New York, where he will practise his profession.

Messrs. Harding & Upman, architects, have moved to their new offices in the Woodward Building, 15th and H streets, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Paul F. Mann, architect, advises us that he has opened offices in the Mutual Life Building, Buffalo, N. Y., where he will practise his profession. He desires to receive manufacturers' catalogues and samples.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

IN order to secure adequate space for the transaction of its increasing business THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT will move its offices on or about January 10th to 50 Union Square. The new location, the N. E. cor. of Fourth Avenue and 17th Street, will be found unusually accessible.

INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION

IN this section will be found information concerning late catalogues issued by manufacturers of building materials, fixtures or equipment. Also under this head will be printed, from time to time, certain data relative to new devices or methods of construction considered to be of interest to architects. Architects are invited to make use of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT'S Catalogue Files and Information Department whenever they can do so to advantage. Any assistance we can render or information we can furnish in this connection will be freely given.

Roebing Expanded Metal Lath

What is said to be the only expanded metal lath furnished in rolls has recently been placed upon the market. The advantages claimed are greater strength, increased durability, small mesh, can be applied parallel with the furring, saving of labor and material, and consequent low cost.

This lath is made from full United States standard gauge soft steel in gauges No. 24 and No. 26. It is furnished either galvanized or heavily coated with rust-proof paint. The widths are 25 inches and 33 inches. A 25-inch lath is used on furring spaced 12-inch centers and 33-inch on furring spaced 16-inch centers.

It is readily seen that one of the great objections to expanded metal lath in sheets (viz.: laps occurring between furring strips because of the fact that lath in sheets must be applied across the furring) is thus obviated. Roebing Expanded Metal Lath is furnished in rolls of 150 lineal feet. Galvanized expanded metal lath in rolls is especially intended for exterior stucco finish work.

It would seem that this new product supplies a want which has long been realized. Its low cost and ease of application, combined with its many other desirable features will undoubtedly lead to its extended use.

For further and more detailed information address the Roebing Construction Company, Department E, Metropolitan Tower, New York.

Ball Bearing Hinges

Many a good door has been marred by the imperfect manner of its hanging, and many good workmen have been censured where the fault was really in the hinges employed.

It would seem that no detail entering into the composite whole of the modern structure is too insignificant to receive the thoughtful consideration of the manufacturer and designer. Door hinges, that as a rule vary but little to-day from their forms of a half century ago, are now made with ball bearing non-rising pins and so accurately constructed as to prevent the door from sagging or binding or the hinge from uttering those creaking noises that are the bane of nervous people.

A hinge of this description is illustrated and described in a pamphlet recently issued by The Stanley Works, New Britain, Conn., with offices at 100

Lafayette street, New York, and 73 East Lake street, Chicago.

In this pamphlet, which may be had on application, details as to specifications for doors of different weights and locations are given. Information of this nature is valuable.

Insulation

An interesting book of 70 pages, recently issued by the Armstrong Cork Company, Insulation Department, Pittsburgh, Pa., has been prepared to acquaint the professional man and users of insulating material with the many merits claimed for Nonpareil High Pressure Coverings for high pressure and superheated steam lines, boilers, breechings and all heated surfaces.

The Nonpareil coverings are said to be made up of a combination of diatomaceous earth and asbestos fibre. This method, it is claimed, produces an insulating material of very high efficiency.

In the pamphlet referred to are printed the records of tests made to determine the value of this form of insulating.

The book may be had on application.

Outlet Boxes

The Steel City Electric Company, of Pittsburgh, Pa., are large manufacturers of electric drawn steel outlet boxes, which in their new form they claim represent the only new idea in outlet boxes that has been conceived and put in practice in 15 years.

They are anxious to acquaint architects with the merits of these outlets and will send a series of illustrated pamphlets, suitable for filing, on application.

Building Progress

Building Progress for December, issued by the National Fireproofing Company, is a most attractive number.

An illustrated article entitled "Making the Men Work," by Mr. Charles E. White, Jr., is an interesting discussion as to means of securing the maximum results from a day's labor.

Other articles are by Mr. Montgomery Schuyler and Mr. W. R. Safford on topics of interest to architects.

This issue also continues the premiated designs in the recent *Brickbuilder* competition.

INDEX TO CURRENT ARCHITECTURAL LITERATURE AND ILLUSTRATIONS

TEXT.

- ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ART AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM. One page. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 29, 1911.
- APARTMENT HOUSE, THE PRESENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE. By C. W. Buckham, Architect. Four pages, illustrated. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 29, 1911.
- ARCHITECTURAL CRITICISM. Two pages, illustrated. *Architecture*, November, 1911.
- ARCHITECTURAL TERRA COTTA CONSTRUCTION. Part I. By Edward H. Putnam. Five pages, illustrated. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 15, 1911.
- ARCHITECTURAL TERRA COTTA CONSTRUCTION. Part II. By Edward H. Putnam. Six pages, illustrated. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 22, 1911.
- ARCHITECTURE OF AMERICAN COLLEGES. Part IX. By Montgomery Schuyler. Twenty-three pages, illustrated. *The Architectural Record*, December, 1911.
- BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AS A FEATURE OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION. By Beresford Pite, F.R.I.B.A. Two pages. *Architecture*, November, 1911.
- CHILDE HASSAM—A PURITAN. By Israel L. White. Five pages, illustrated. *The International Studio*, December, 1911.
- CHURCHES, EARLY AMERICAN. By Aymar Embury II. Five pages, illustrated. *The Architectural Record*, December, 1911.
- CITY NATIONAL BANK OF MASON CITY, IOWA. Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect. One page, illustrated. *The Western Architect*, December, 1911.
- CITY PLANNING IN THE UNITED STATES. Extracts from an address by Willis Polk, Architect. Two pages. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 29, 1911.
- COMPARATIVE COST OF VARIOUS TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION FOR THREE HOUSES. By George Hunt Ingraham. Two pages, illustrated. *The Brickbuilder*, November, 1911.
- CONSTRUCTION TO ARCHITECTURE, THE RELATION OF. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 29, 1911.
- CURRENT WORK. SOME, OF Harry Allan Jacobs, Architect. Four pages, illustrated. *The International Studio*, December, 1911.
- DISSYMMETRY IN A CITY HOUSE ON A TWENTY FOOT LOT. OVERCOMING THE DIFFICULTY OF. One page. *The Architectural Record*, December, 1911.
- GLASS IN BUILDING OPERATIONS. Part I. Clear Glazing. By E. H. Bostock. Seven pages, illustrated. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 8, 1911.
- GOLD CROSS OF THE KREMLIN, THE LOST. One page. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 1, 1911.
- GROOTE SCHUUR, THE RESIDENCE OF THE LATE CECIL RHODES. Two pages, illustrated. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 15, 1911.
- HOSPITAL PLANNING, CO-OPERATION IN. By M. E. McCalmont, R. N. Three pages. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 22, 1911.
- ISRAELS, JOSEF, THE LEADER OF THE MODERN DUTCH SCHOOL. Thirteen pages. *The International Studio*, December, 1911.
- JAPANESE FOLDING SCREENS, OLD. By Prof. Jiro Harada. Eleven pages, illustrated. *The International Studio*, December, 1911.
- LEAD RAINWATER HEADS AT HADDON HALL. One page, illustrated. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 1, 1911.
- LEGAL HINTS FOR ARCHITECTS. Part V. By William L. Bowman. Three pages. *The Brickbuilder*, November, 1911.
- MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, THE PASSING OF. Illustrations by Vernon Howe Bailey. Three pages, illustrated. *The Architectural Record*, December, 1911.
- PALACE OF THE POPES AT AVIGNON, THE. By Frederic Lees, Officier De L'Instruction Publique. Thirteen pages, illustrated. *The Architectural Record*, December, 1911.
- PARK WALL OF MASSIVE GRANITE ROCKS WITH ROCK PLANTS, A. By Montgomery Schuyler. Two pages, illustrated. *The International Studio*, December, 1911.
- PLANNING OF FIREPROOF APARTMENT HOUSES IN NEW YORK, THE. By H. W. Frohne. Ten pages, illustrated. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 29, 1911.
- REBUILDING OF ST. MARK'S CAMPANILE, THE. *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, November 15, 1911.
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NOTRE DAME, MALINES

From the original sketch by G. A. T. Middleton, A.R.I.B.A.

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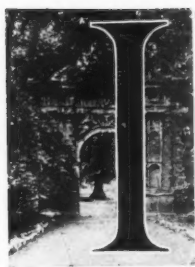
THE CLOTH HALL, MALINES

EUROPEAN SKETCHING CENTRES

By G. A. T. MIDDLETON, A.R.I.B.A., Past Vice-President of The Society of Architects, (England)

Illustrated by Sketches by the Author

(MALINES)



IT often happens that when a town of minor importance lies on a main railway line between two great cities nobody ever takes the trouble to alight. Thus it comes about that to the travelling public in general Malines (or Mechlin, as it is called in Flemish) is practically unknown. Passengers land from the boats at Antwerp and go straight through to Brussels, scarcely recognizing that midway between these places there is an old-world town of great artistic interest, which at one time was as important as either of the others, and ecclesiastically is so still, while it contains

a great amount of quiet beauty and many a quaint building. This perhaps is not entirely to be wondered at, considering how the place has been entirely left behind in the march of progress; for Malines is a sleepy place, and at first sight uninviting.

When one emerges from the railway station, disproportionate in its great size, one enters long streets of white houses, where scarcely a person is to be seen and the glare is so intense on a summer's day as to be blinding. The generally followed route to the centre of the town lies along one of these streets, which gradually descends in its monotony until a bridge over the river is reached, when all of a sudden views open out on right and left which give some idea of the strange beauty of the

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place. On the right there are the trees of the Botanical Garden, with a dome in the distance, that of Notre Dame d'Hanswyck, built in 1663-78 by Faid'herbe, of no great importance but some picturesqueness; while on the left the houses group up above one another in a tangled jumble, culminating in the great church of Notre Dame au deta de la Dyle, which when the accompanying sketch was made was in a greatly dilapidated state (though it has since been well restored) forming a powerful mass above the red roofs and white walls. Though possessing but little beauty of its own it is worth entering, for it contains one of the finest of Rubens's pictures, his great triptych of "The Miraculous Draught of Fishes," which was painted for the Fishmongers' Guild in 1618, and is now placed in the eastern chapel, behind the high altar.

After the river has been crossed the street resumes its monotony until a sudden turn to the left opens out the Grande Place. There are few more startling transformation scenes to be met with in Europe than this. One moment everything is monotonous and modern; the next, all is varied picturesqueness and mediæval. The Place is large, and it is surrounded by old gabled houses of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, varied in their outline, always well designed and each one worthy of individual study. On the right is the old Cloth Hall. A few years ago this was more picturesque than it promises to become in the near future, for the restorers are at work both upon it and upon the

Hall of the Great Council, which is shown just beyond it, in a dilapidated condition. This was erected to accommodate the supreme tribunal of The Netherlands, of which Malines became seat in 1473. The building is being converted into the post and telegraph office, with vaulting internally and with the exterior enriched with intricate carving of the type common in the Hotels de Ville of Belgium which were built at the end of the fifteenth and during the early years of the sixteenth century. The Cloth Hall itself is now the Museum. It is of crumbling stone and of several dates, with a history which is not easy to decipher. It is said to

have been rebuilt between 1311 and 1326 on the site of an older structure, and much on the plan of the Belfry at Bruges; but the belfry tower was never completed, and its place, as the central fixture of the structure, has been taken by a square hipped roof having a grotesque twisted gable of the sixteenth century in the centre and octagonal turrets at the corners. The gateway, to judge from its outline and its mouldings, looks to belong to the fifteenth century, but it may be earlier and contemporary with the corbel table which runs across the front, which is undoubtedly part of the original work.

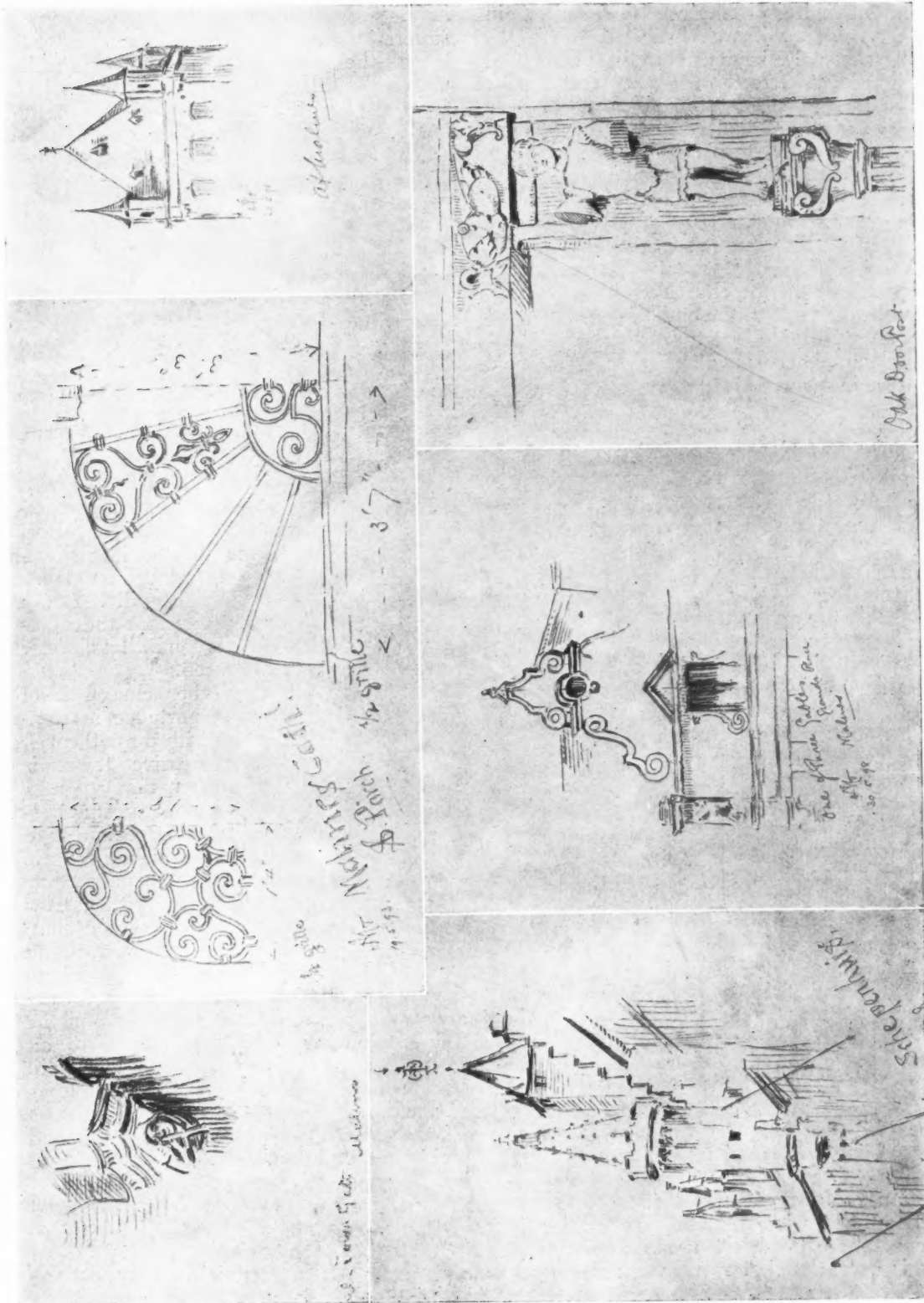
As more often happens than not in European cities, the principal building at Malines is the Cathedral. This has been the seat of the Archbishopric of The Netherlands since 1560. Its tower, begun in 1452 and never finished, dominates the Grande Place, and even dwarfs the cathedral itself, for as it now stands, 318 feet high, it is the tallest tower



MALINES CATHEDRAL FROM THE SOUTHEAST



LE GRAND PONT, MALINES



SKETCHES AT MALINES, BY G. A. T. MIDDLETON

without spire or lantern termination in the world, as it was intended to be the tallest steeple in its entirety, of a total height of 550 feet, or twenty feet higher than that at Ulm. Its design would have been somewhat similar to that of the finished Antwerp steeple, and a scheme for continuing and completing it as nearly as possible according to the original conception was promulgated by Canon Von Caster, the architect-priest who still has charge of the fabric, about twenty-five years ago.

The body of the church was begun toward the end of the fifteenth century and completed in 1312, but a fire occurred in 1342, and most of what now exists belongs to the subsequent rebuilding, except, possibly, the cylindrical shafts of the nave arcade and the transept walls. Evidently the clustered shafts at the crossing are of the later period, and probably the apse chapels. Including these, the choir practically is of the same length as the nave, and like the nave has side aisles, but if the chapels which occupy the spaces between the buttresses on its north and south be included, it is wider, extending almost as far as the transepts. The similar chapels on the north side of the nave are obviously later additions, belonging to the end of the fourteenth century in a style which begins to suggest the wiry flamboyant work of the period when the tower was built. These have been enriched by marble altars in the more florid days of the Renaissance, having in one instance a remarkably fine reredos consisting of a great oil painting framed in marble, black, grey and white, with a carved spiral wreath on the Corinthian shafts on either side.

The aisle windows and the gables in which they occur are traceried; other tracery is exceptional, for the work was done

at a period when most of Europe was suffering from the effects of war and pestilence—the great English raids of France under the Black Prince, and the “Black Death” of 1349, which stopped all building wherever it ravaged. Besides the chapel altar just mentioned, and the high altar of the same character, there is Renaissance work of a plain description in the north and south porches, attached to the transepts. The only interesting point about them is the ironwork in the semi-elliptical grilles

over the doorways and the elliptical windows on either side, the former being typical of Belgian work of the early part of the eighteenth century, while the latter suggest the twisted-wire style of Italy at the same or a slightly earlier period, though this is executed in metal of heavy rectangular section, whereas the Italians employed rod iron generally. It will be noticed that the fleur-de-lys is somewhat cleverly introduced.

No other church is of great importance in comparison with the cathedral, whose massive tower is visible from many points, forming a picturesque termination to street and river views, of which there are many. Octagonal turrets in red brick, with narrow bands and quoins of buff stone, are common, as on the Sebelpenhuis, where

they are further enriched with cusped tracery work on the faces and crockets on the finials, showing that they belong to an earlier period than those on the Cloth Hall. This building was used for the meetings of the Great Council of The Netherlands from 1474 to 1618, the more ornate and ambitious building, now being converted into the post office, never having been carried far enough to be occupied, for want of funds.

A similar turret, even more beautified on account of a Renaissance appendage



TURRET (MAISON DE LA GRANDE ARBALÈTE)

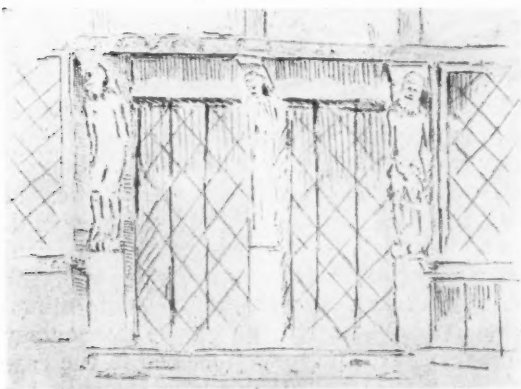
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INTERIOR, MALINES CATHEDRAL

to it, added in the sixteenth century, rises in front of the open space known as the Corn Market, this having formed at one time part of the Maison de la Grande Arbatete, or Guild House of the Cross-bowmen, but a private yard has to be trespassed upon if it is to be seen to advantage.

Another similar turret is to be found on



DETAIL OF A HOUSE, MALINES

the beautiful little Convent des Carolites (now the Cercle Militaire) better known as the Refuge de St. Trond, where it abuts upon one of the many branches of the river. This was formerly a branch house under the Abbey of St. Truds, which gave its name to the modern railway junction of St. Trond, some 40 miles to the northeast of Malines.

On the various quays along the river side there are several quaint stone and timber houses of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, enriched with grotesque carvings, generally of clumsy human figures serving as door posts, while more or less conventional foliage appears upon the lin-



MALINES

tels. In one instance it looks as if the designer had wished to introduce a pseudo-Ionic column, but had lacked the necessary skill to attain correct proportions, and so had filled up the excess of space between the capital and the lintel with a wooden doll. Considering the awkwardness of the expedient, the result is satisfactory.

At one point the river is crossed by an exceedingly old bridge, known as the Grand Pont, which was built in the thirteenth century, and restored in 1594 so truly upon the old lines that it still retains the heavy

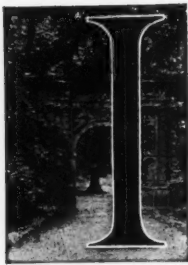
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roll moulding belonging to the earlier period. Over it there still passes the principal street of the town, leading uphill from the Grande Place to the old town gate, or Porti de Bruxelles, the only relic of twelve similar gates which existed in the mediæval town walls. Even this one is not in its original condition, for only one tiny detail, a corbel carved as a man's head surmounted by a flamboyant moulding,

remains of the old structure, which was rebuilt in the seventeenth century; and would only be worth sketching now by an impressionist who dealt in broad effects alone. Yet there is sufficient here, and in the boulevards which surround the town on the site of the old walls, to indicate that those who lived in Malines in former times were fighters, and well prepared to defend themselves.

THE EFFECT OF COMPETITION UPON DESIGN*

By J. MILTON DYER, F.A.I.A.



IN attempting to deal with this subject, it has been extremely difficult to confine myself to the actual effect of competition upon design, rather than to revert to a discussion as to the propriety of competition in itself, and more or less to a discussion of the ethics governing competitions.

For the purposes of this paper it is assumed that by the term "competition," is meant—competition taken under the most ideal conditions, guided by rules laid down and approved, in so far as they have been approved, by the American Institute of Architects, that is:—1st, Competition limited to a certain number of architects; 2d, Open to all architects; 3d, Mixed; certain architects being invited, but other architects being at liberty to take part.

The Institute, by recommending that except in cases in which competition is unavoidable, an architect be employed upon the sole basis of his fitness for the work, tacitly, at least, takes the stand that the effect of competition upon the practice of architecture and upon architecture itself, is not for the best.

The New York Chapter, however, admits that for public and semi-public buildings, competitions may be desirable; other chapters name the minimum amount a building should cost in order to warrant a competition.

Now, as a matter of fact, notwithstanding

the view of the Institute as a whole and the individual views of the several chapters, possibly every man in this body has participated, to a greater or less extent in competitions, and each one has been guilty very closely in the ratio to his prominence in the profession, in spite of the great economic loss to the profession, and of its being a "game of chance."

To properly describe the effect of competition upon architecture would require an analytical comparison of the works of representative architects, won in competition, with other of their works executed after direct selection, and taking all the attendant conditions into account.

Much has been said upon the ethics of the competition, but very little upon the actual influence of competition upon architecture, and I have to admit that it is a very broad subject and that perhaps, in the future, an adequate paper on this subject may be written.

Upon receiving a paper to enter a competition, and upon receipt of the program and requirements, one realizes that he is taking up a new and strange problem, and is dealing with an unknown owner, or committee; the personnel of the jury may or may not be known to him.

In either case, the economical idea of the plan may often be worked out independently, that is, the disposition of space and relation of departments the one with the other, circulation, etc., may be determined irrespective of any supposed idiosyncrasy on the part of the jury, but even in the case of the plan this independence is only too often influenced by a vague mistrust as

* An address delivered before the Forty-fifth Annual Convention of the American Institute of Architects, Washington, D. C.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



THE DIX MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN, TRINITY CHURCHYARD, NEW YORK

MR. THOMAS NASH, ARCHITECT

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

to the personal likes or dislikes of the jury, concerning some particular arrangement, thus preventing an individual and heartfelt expression of the solution.

After the plan has been developed to an advanced stage, one may surround it with four walls punctured with holes, or attempt to give these walls architectural expression, and a character which denotes the intended uses of the building. Here again one's thoughts turn to the approval of the owner and his expert advisers, rather than to a courageous, independent, impulsive study of the problem. You are afraid to be impulsive, to play with the motives, to do the thing you, yourself, feel; you may not win; you may not have the favored "parti."

While it is true that the most important element which is lacking in a competition and which must therefore affect the final result is the inability to get in touch with one's client, and thus develop a solution, nevertheless the viewpoint of the expert adviser and jury itself, affecting design, is greatly responsible for the prevailing desire to sell one's soul to win; and it is possible that we should have a code for the Conduct of Jurors, as well as for the Conduct of Competitions and Competitors. Must we, in competitions, be eternally condemned to the use of an order? Is there no value in wall space?

The late John M. Carrère has said that one argument advanced in favor of competition has been the desire to discover new talent, and added, "If a man has talent, his day will come, and it should not come until he is prepared to make use of it."

"A man who has genius to express original ideas on paper is nevertheless not to be entrusted with the execution of the work until he has acquired the requisite experience, for when it comes to the serious work of actual building he requires not only the experience of the practical side of things, but the practical artistic experience; the experience that knows that a thing that looks well on paper represents a thing that is going to look well in execution; and *that* refers to every detail of the work, the very texture of the material. It requires experience which cannot be acquired by any man, no matter what his genius may be, without practice."

Now I believe that the safe, dignified,

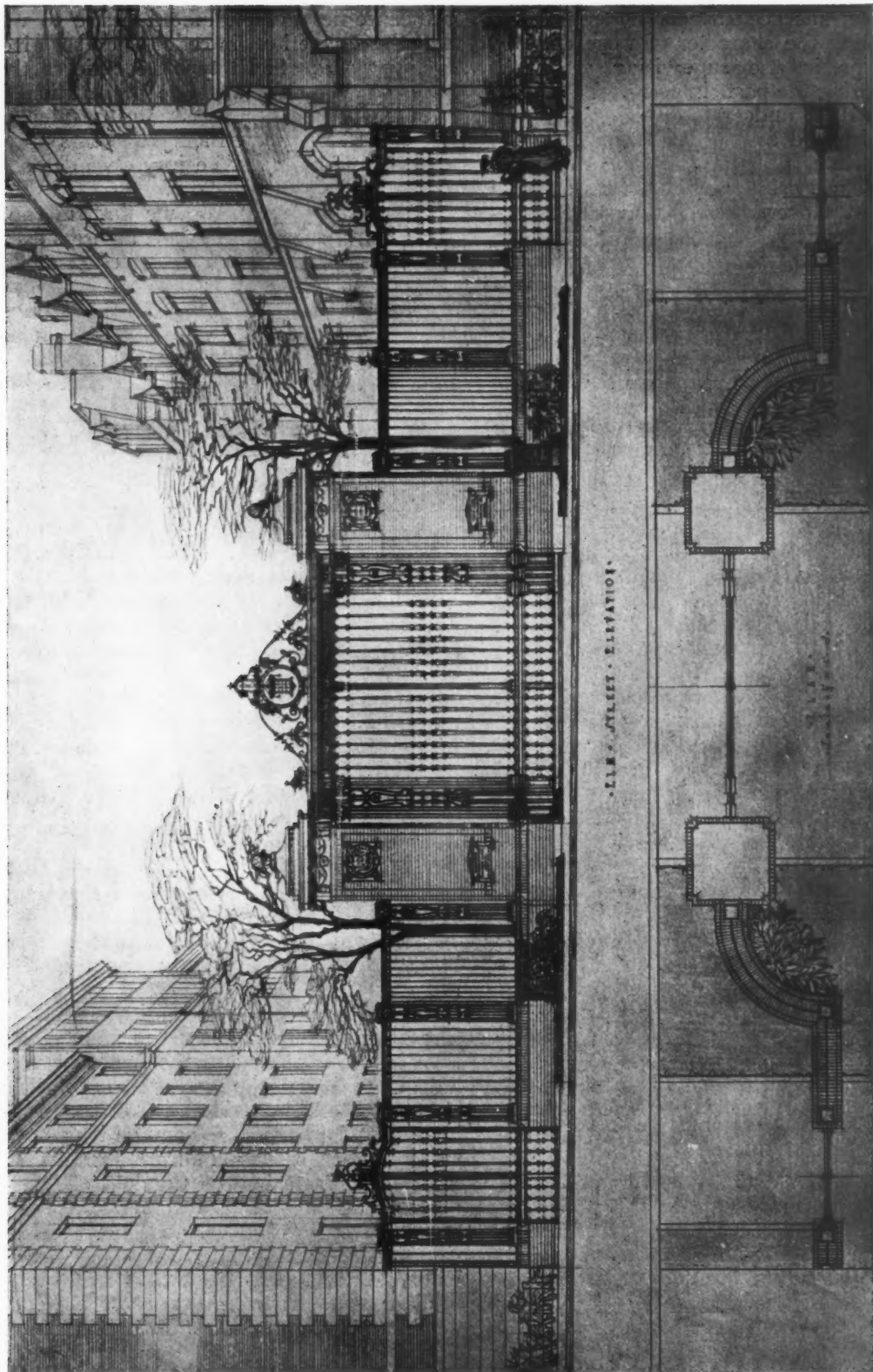
substantial way in which to obtain recognition in the profession is to gain your clientèle through the excellence of your executed work, the importance and value of which will grow as rapidly as it deserves; nevertheless it has been my experience that the presence of a serious competition in the office does develop men, from the head to the office boy, improving draughtsmanship, knowledge of the principles of design, and the faculty of quickly expressing one's thoughts on paper. An esprit de corps is created in the office, for here is a real competition, something more than a school problem, and naturally all take a keener interest in the result. Great good is accomplished in the ateliers of our larger cities and the competitions instituted by the Beaux-Arts Society, and by several magazines, but the efforts of all in collaboration, working in an office upon a serious competition, develop not only draughtsmanship, but a real conception of architecture in its higher meaning, such as many months of routine work may not accomplish.

A great number of competitions, even in some of our best known offices, have been won by clever young designers, developed under these conditions of training.

While this should not necessarily warrant these men being selected as architects, it nevertheless demonstrates that the system of conducting competitions does not stand for training in design. It is equally true that a number of these young men have, through the medium of competitions, developed into some of the prominent architects of the country, and have shown, by their subsequent work, that they were prepared to make use of their talents.

The Tarsney Act, approved February 20th, 1893, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to obtain plans and specifications for public buildings, paved the way for a better architecture in our federal buildings, and has in turn, since its adoption, reacted upon the work of this Department of the Secretary of the Treasury, until as Mr. Glenn Brown, in his review of 1906, states:—

"Under the Tarsney Act it must be conceded that the work is immeasurable superior to any building done by the Government from 1860 to 1896, and it, together with the merit system which now rules in



COMPETITION FOR THE PORTER MEMORIAL GATEWAYS FOR YALE UNIVERSITY

ACCEPTED DESIGN—MESSRS. HOWELLS & STOKES, ARCHITECTS

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

the office, has been a very material factor in uplifting the character of work done by the corps in the supervising architect's office during the past six years.

Since 1897, under the direction and with the advice and assistance of the officers of the Institute, programs have been drawn by the supervising architect for scores of important Government buildings throughout the country, and the result has been public buildings of an excellence of design and execution heretofore unknown in the United States.

These competitions, however, have affected design to an enormous extent. The type of architecture in our Government buildings, as well as other municipal and semi-public buildings, has for the most part become circumscribed. Before the drawings are sent in, it is almost possible to foretell, within small limitations, the general character of the design of the contestants. It is always the base story of a superimposed order, enclosing two or more stories, with perhaps an attic, or the order will extend from the ground through all the stories. In any case it is almost sure to be an order, and, as before stated, the value of plain wall space in design seems to be overlooked.

This use of the order as the main feature of a building, with several stories enclosed in its height, is seldom successful, and probably never when more than two stories are included.

Why does competition insist upon a Government type requiring our architects to crowd these many stories within the order, thus making corridors of the rooms within, by reason of the usual depths, or rooms too large for an economical arrangement of space, when the logical expression of an economical plan demands that the window openings be made subservient to this plan? In other words, while the character of architecture should proclaim the dignity and purpose of the building why should the arrangement and lighting of the interior be sacrificed to the everlasting order?

Does the fact of the order in competitive design spring from the belief that this form of architecture is really the established form for public buildings in the United States, or is it to be laid to the door of our system of conducting competitions?

If the latter be true, I again affirm that

the cause lies in that inborn desire to win and the competitor, in order to do so, gives the jury that official type he believes the jury wants, to the absolute prostitution of personal expression, and the results of practically all competition judgments prove that he is correct. The jury does demand the recognized official type.

It therefore appears to me that, in competitions, the jury and expert advisers exert fully as much influence upon design as the competitor himself.

The official type of public buildings, whether for the Government or a municipality, is the offspring of the competition as at present conducted, and, in turn, influences and very often determines the type for many buildings forming part of a grouping plan, such as is being developed in many of our larger cities, thus condemning the whole group to a type which most surely will not be the last word in the architectural expression of public buildings.

Much that has been herein stated may also be said concerning competitions for buildings of a commercial character.

With a possible exception, as in the case of those problems of great monuments which are purely artistic in their character, and which may require the collaboration of the sculptor or decorator, taking into consideration the present status of the competition, I believe the best method of securing an artistic as well as a practical result is by the direct selection of an architect. But the fact that competitions have been conducted in Europe, and especially in France, for many years with undoubted success, exerting a marked and beneficial influence upon architecture; also the willingness on the part of most of our ablest architects to enter competitions with, as a result, hundreds of successful monuments attesting their skill, and the fact that perhaps more time of the Institute Conventions is devoted to the consideration of the problems pertaining to the competitions than to any other subject indicate that, while the perfect Code for the Conduct of Competitions, Competitors, Jurors and Clients has not yet been developed, nevertheless we may, through a progressive process of education, evolve a system which will eventually enable competition to exert a beneficial effect upon design in architecture.

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FRONTISPIECE:—

NOTRE DAME, MALINES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION, A.I.A.

WHILE there is no intention of questioning the wisdom or importance of other work accomplished by the Forty-fifth Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects, it is respectfully submitted that none of it will have more far-reaching and beneficial results than the action taken, looking toward the creation of a Special Committee on Public Information. A resolution calling upon the Board of Directors to appoint such a Committee was adopted during the second day's proceedings. It reads as follows:—

"RESOLVED:—

That the Board of Directors be requested to appoint a Special Committee on Public Information, the duties of which shall include the following:

To keep a record of such published matter as may be of interest to the profession and to send to such publica-

tions likely to be interested, information concerning the work of the Institute and of the profession.

To request monthly reports on matters of interest to the profession from committees on public information of the several Chapters, which Chapter Committees shall be sub-committees for their respective territories of the Institute Committee.

To inform the press of the country in regard to annual Conventions of the Institute and the work which the Institute is undertaking and has actually performed. To correct through the press, popular misconceptions with regard to the practice of architecture and to rectify erroneous printed statements affecting the profession.

To keep constantly before the public the aims, aspirations and accomplishments of the profession through its organized body, the Institute."

This is in complete harmony with the course advocated by The American Architect, and it is to be hoped that the Board of Directors will promptly comply with the request and appoint a Committee, the members of which should be selected on account of known qualifications particularly fitting them for this work. We shall expect the profession of architecture to take a much higher place in the public mind by reason of a better understanding, that will indubitably follow the work of this Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, A.I.A.

AMONG the valuable reports submitted to the recent Convention by various Committees, we desire to direct particular attention to that of the Committee on Education, Mr. R. A. Cram, Chairman, printed in full in our issue of December 27th. In it is shown such keen appreciation of present deficiencies and the dangers that threaten the future of architecture through lack of proper education, that it deserves thoughtful study by every member of the profession. Indeed the report forms a document that might with profit be read by those outside of the profession as well, for it contains much that should interest members of allied callings. For example, the following concerning the attitude of many engineers toward aesthetic considerations as effecting the design of structures, will well bear repeating here:

"This Committee has been deeply and unfavorably impressed for many years by the lack of knowledge of the most rudimentary architectural ideas, and a corresponding contempt and disregard therefor, exhibited by many

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engineers of eminence and international reputation as well as those of more modest attainments. In some instances this ignorance and contempt are apparently complete and have resulted (in cases that have come under the observation of members of the committee) in mutilated architecture and, in the end, actual loss of efficiency in certain structures, and a very real financial loss."

While the truth of this statement will probably be acknowledged by every architect of experience, there are certain encouraging indications of an early change for the better. The unfortunate condition complained of is the result of narrowness of mind and purpose. The remedy as pointed out by Mr. Cram lies in a broader education, which brings with it broader vision, and an understanding of considerations of no less importance than a knowledge of the theory of stresses and the strength

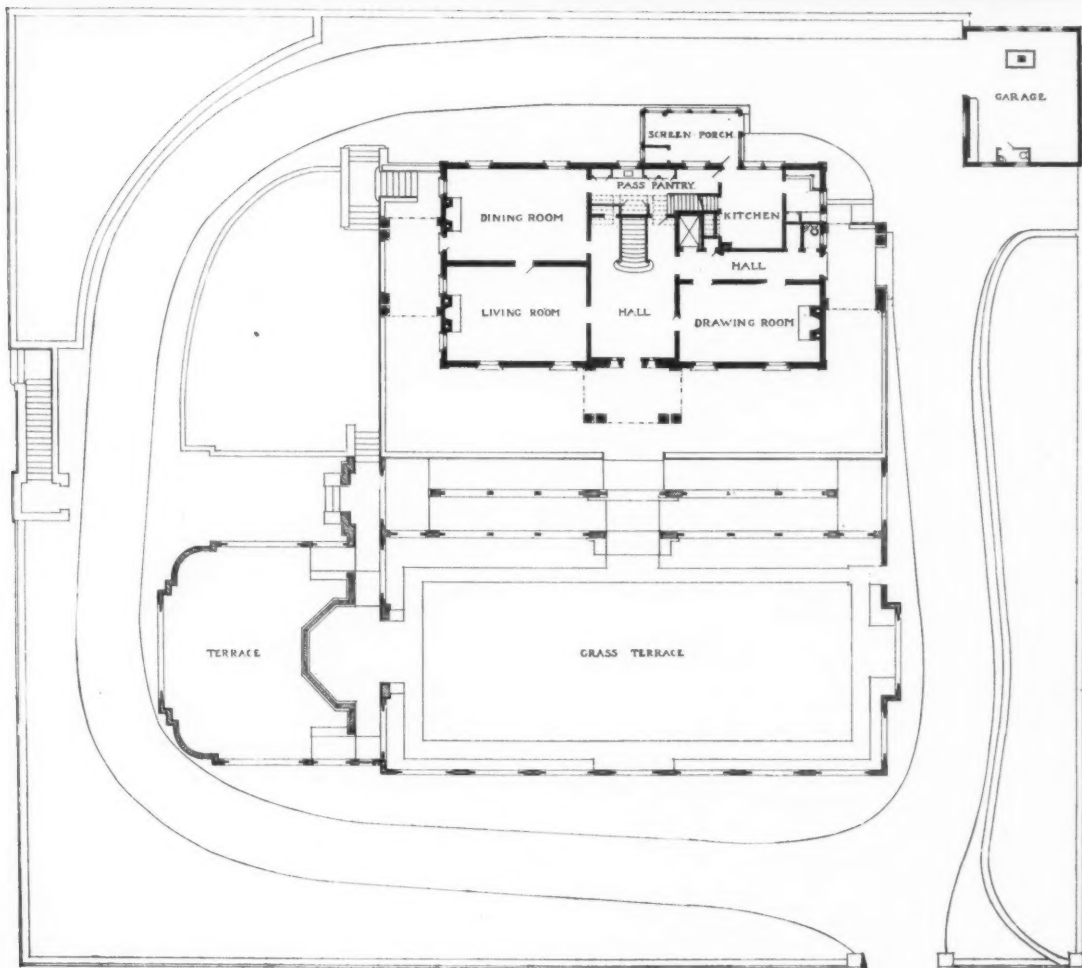
of materials. As to the method by which the desired result could be accomplished, the adoption of the suggestion that joint problems should be submitted to both engineering and architectural students of technical schools with such reciprocal instruction as would make such joint work possible, would undoubtedly lead to a mutual understanding and appreciation of both the engineering and architectural viewpoints. We are firmly of opinion that the time is not far distant when the faults and shortcomings of our present technical educational system as indicated in this report will be generally realized by our leading universities, and a change in their curricula in line with the recommendations herein made will then follow as a natural consequence.





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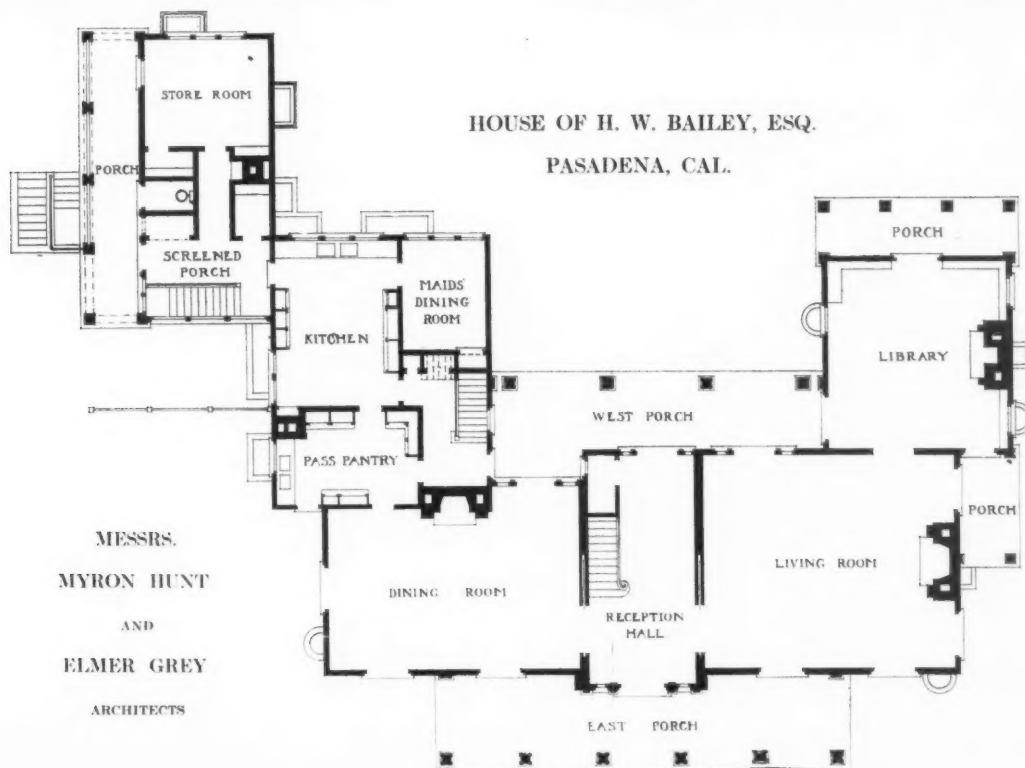


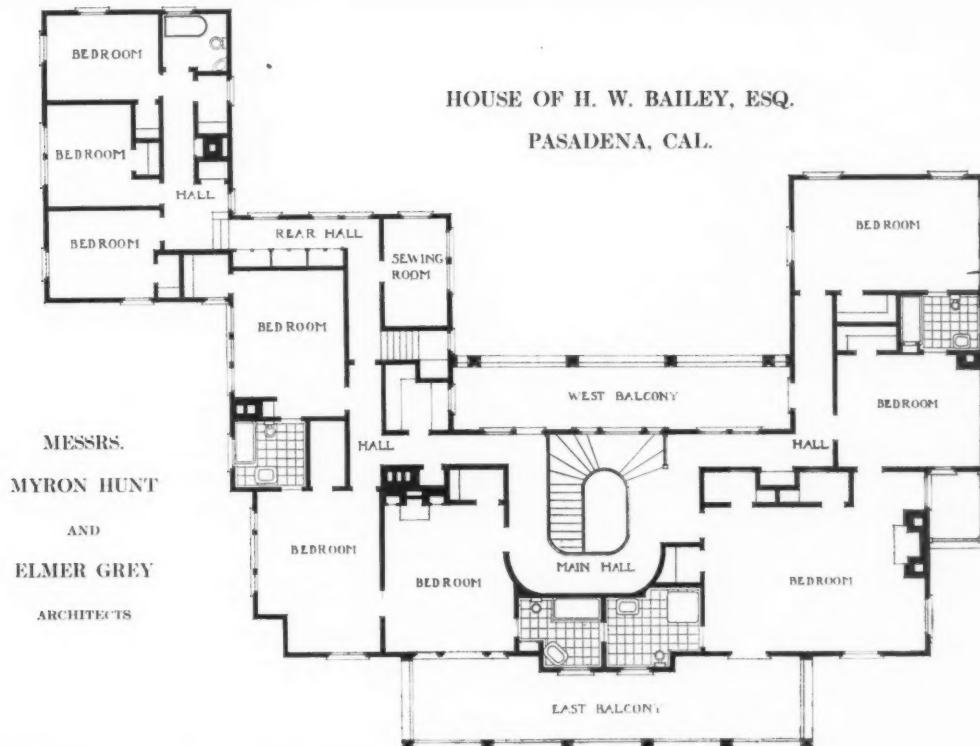
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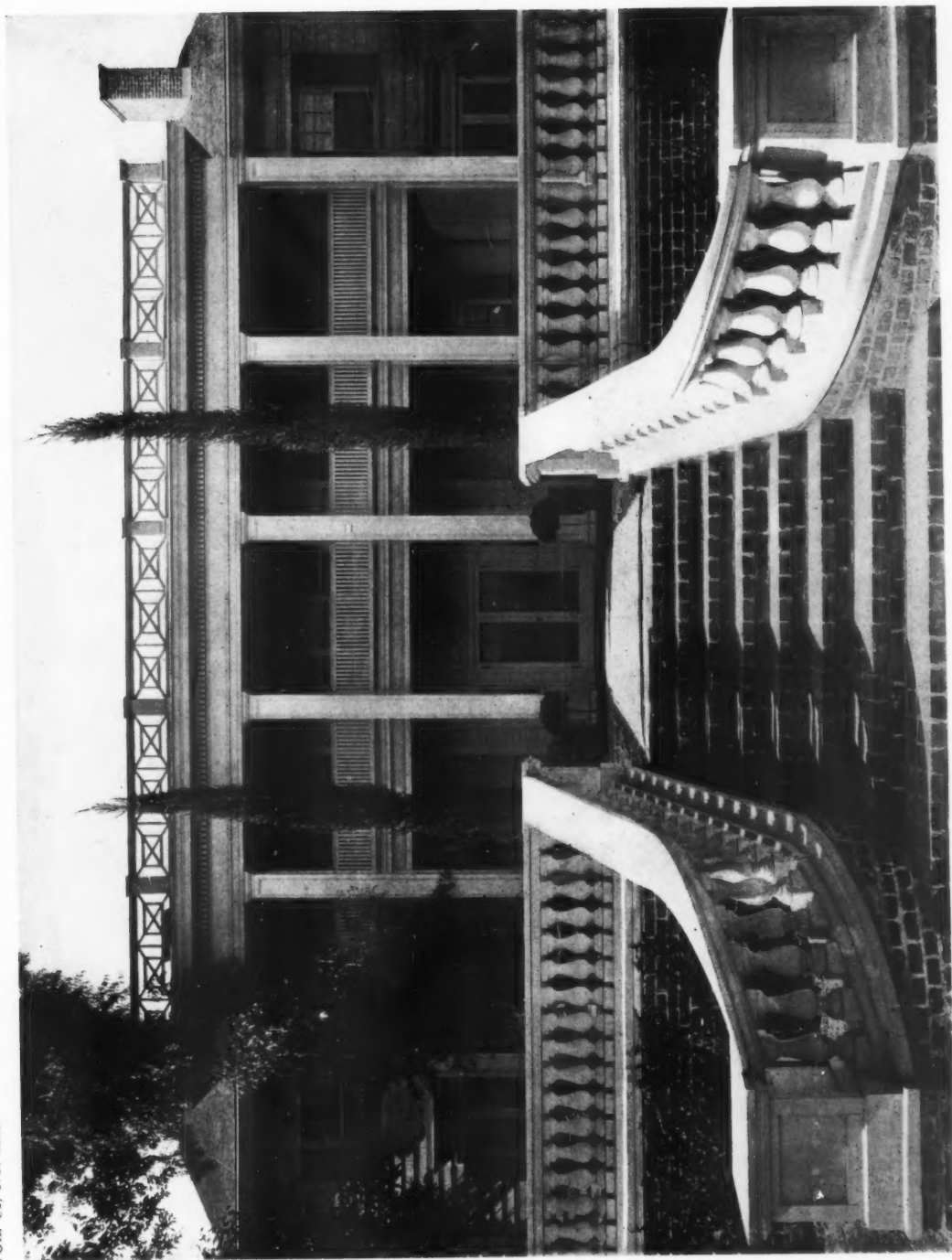
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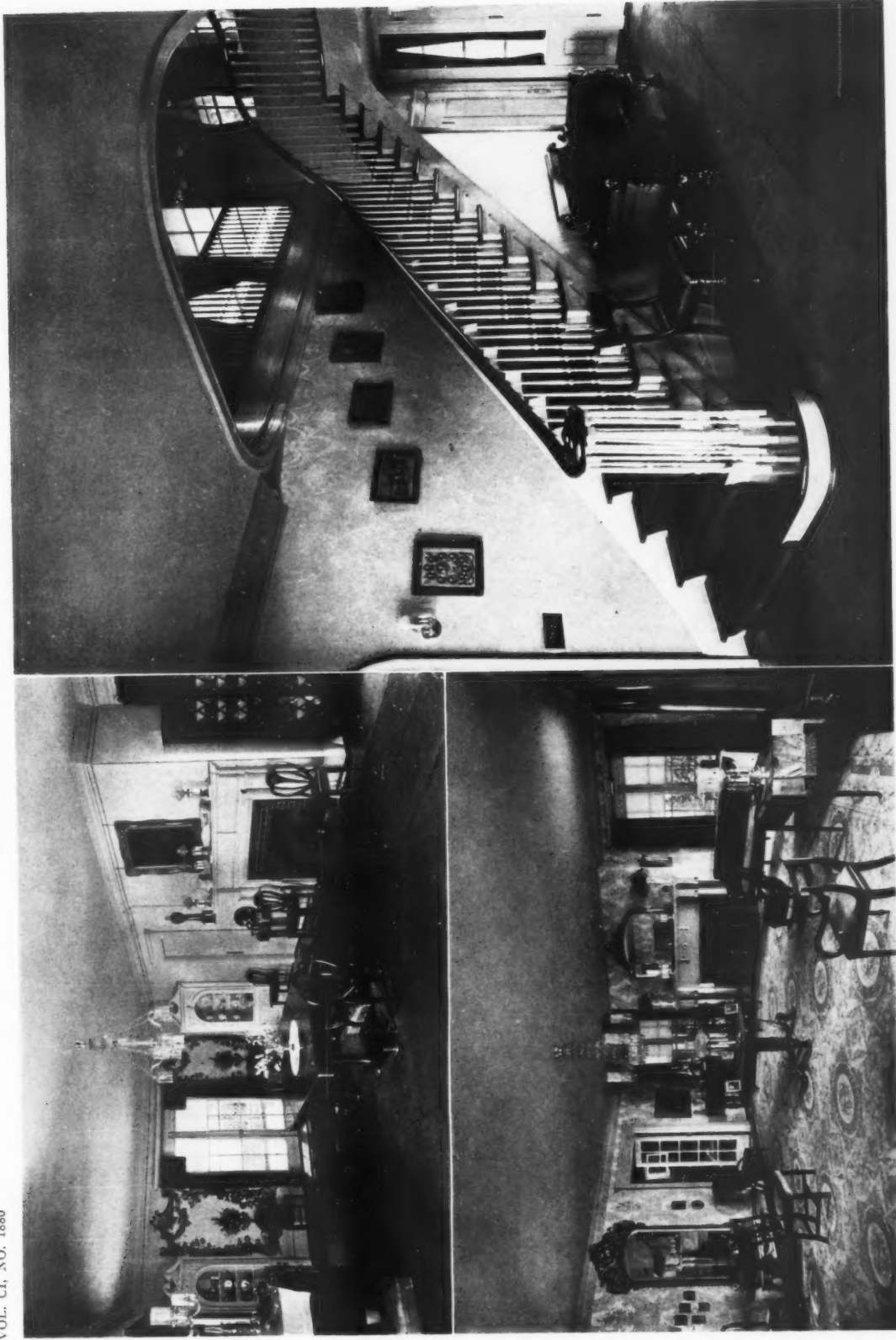


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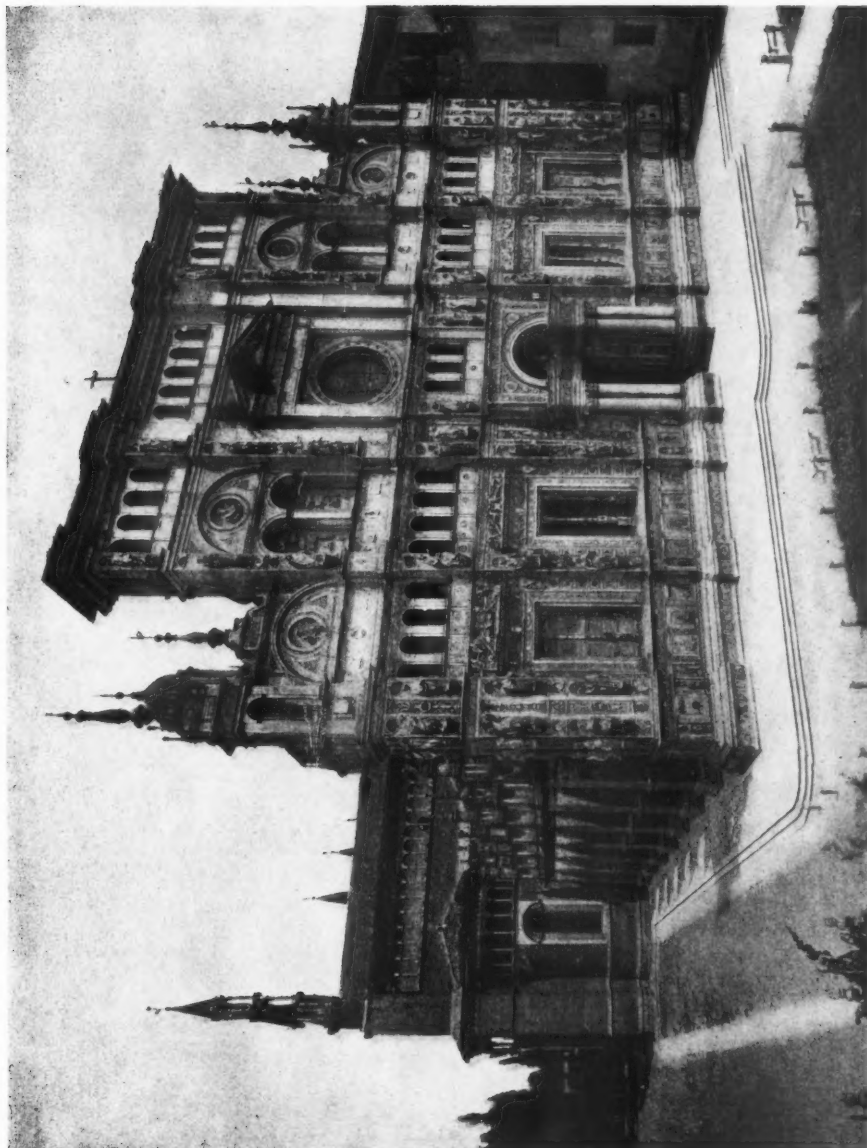
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THE GARDEN

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CHURCH OF THE CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY, PAVIA, ITALY

Facade begun 1491 by Giov. Ant. Anadeo; upper part by Dolcebuono and Cristofano Solari. Details by thirty Lombard masters (XVth to XVIIIth centuries) Cristofano and Antonio Montegazza, Giov. Ant. Anadeo, and Andr. Fusina (XVth century), Giacomo della Porta, Agostino Busti, surnamed D. Bambi, and Cristofano Solari, surnamed D. Gobbo (XVIIth century) Early Renaissance. The plinth is decorated with portrait medallions of Roman emperors, etc. By far the most important Renaissance church facade; the only completed great facade of the Early Renaissance. Even in much smaller dimensions, the only approximation for the Renaissance is the facade of the Church of S. Bernardino at Perugia.