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AN EXTRACT FROM A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT NO. 1029

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE

THE TARSNEY ACT

AN act known as the Tarsney Act, passed in 1893, permitted the Secretary of the Treasury to advertise for and receive proposals to submit plans and specifications for public buildings from outside architects—those not employed in the Government service. The act gives the Secretary of the Treasury discretion as to what buildings he would include in submitting propositions for plans and specifications. At least five architects must compete on submitted propositions. The bill known as the Tarsney Act was urged through Congress by the association of American Institute of Architects, for the sole "benevolent" purpose of raising the standard of Government architecture. Lest there might be some question about the last statement, we quote from Mr. Taylor's testimony, the late Supervising Architect, and a member of the American Institute of Architects, given before the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department in the first session of the Sixty-second Congress (p. 39 in the hearings):

The CHAIRMAN. Why did they (American Institute of Architects) insist on the act being passed? Were they not the father of the Tarsney Act?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes; the American Institute of Architects was the father of that act, because they felt that the Government work needed improvement.

The CHAIRMAN. Oh, that was the ground they put it on, was it?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Is this not true—that this act was passed in 1893 while Mr. Carlisle was Secretary of the Treasury and he refused to enforce it, and did not the same Institute of Architects heap abuse after abuse upon his shoulders because he would not enforce it?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. That is true, is it not?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes.

With the self-sacrificing and unselfish purpose of elevating the standard of architecture in passing this act the general public assumed that all architects would be impartially treated in inviting competition for plans and specifications for public buildings. There is no partiality or favoritism shown in inviting the architects to bid, but the committee is of the opinion that this work should be done by the Supervising Architect's Office.

We quote from page 68 of the hearings before the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department:

The CHAIRMAN. As I gather from your evidence, mighty few men have had any hand in them at all unless they are members of the American Institute of Architects?

Mr. TAYLOR. I will tell you what I will do. I will take a list of competitors that were asked in these department competitions and I will go over them and I think I will find that a percentage of them at least were not members of the institute.

Mr. GOEKE. How about the fellow that finally got the job?

Mr. TAYLOR. He was an American Institute of Architects man.

The CHAIRMAN. That is what I wanted. That is the main point.

So far as the record discloses, in all the testimony of Mr. Taylor taken before any committee, few if any bidders but members of the American Institute of Architects have been able to get a part of the Government work.

As to the ability of the Government to do the designing for expensive buildings as any outside architects, we quote from the testimony of the Supervising Architect on page 58 of the hearings:

Mr. BATHRICK. Would you not think an investment of a million dollars would ordinarily call for the best talent, if you were making the investment?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes. Therefore I say it is wise on the part of the Government, for anything from a million up, including a million, to secure the best talent the country can afford.

Mr. BATHRICK. But you have constructed million-dollar buildings and think they are as good as anybody's?

Mr. TAYLOR. I do.

Mr. BATHRICK. It seems to me it is a very unimportant distinction between a million-dollar building and a two-million-dollar building, on the assumption that when you pass the million-dollar mark you have to have better talent. You have made million-dollar buildings as good as can be made outside?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes.

Mr. BATHRICK. These men who assisted you in designing these million-dollar buildings have been in your office some time, have they not?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes.

Mr. BATHRICK. Is there any architectural office in this country where they would have more experience in designing buildings than in your office?

Mr. TAYLOR. None that I know of.

Secretary Carlisle refused to put the law into effect and Secretary Gage, under President McKinley, was the first Secretary of the Treasury to carry it into effect.

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The American Institute of Architects fixes its own rates for drafting models and specifications for construction. At the time the law was passed, their rates were five per cent. of the cost of construction for drawings and specifications. After the institute had properly installed the operation of the law by resolution in its January meeting, 1908, the association raised the rate to six per cent. The rate is paid by the Government apparently without any protest, although by special act when Congress sees fit to limit the rate, as it did in the new post office in Washington, to four per cent., to cover all architects' fees for plans and specifications, there was no dearth of bidders for the job. Regardless of the parentage of the Tarsney Act or what has been done under it, the committee believes the act ought to be repealed and the Government do its own work, thereby saving enormous fees for services that are inferior in many respects to that done by the Government itself. The late Supervising Architect testified that the San Francisco post office, costing \$2,600,000; the Philadelphia Mint, costing \$1,800,000; the Atlanta, Ga., post office and courthouse, costing \$1,000,000, were as perfect pieces of work from the viewpoint of architecture and construction as was possible to make, and that work was done by the Government itself. So well was the building at San Francisco constructed that it was one of the very few buildings in that city that was not materially affected by the earthquake of 1906. The fees paid to outside architects are enormous.

The following statement shows the location, type of building, name of architect, and the amount paid to outside architects since the Tarsney Act went into effect. We quote from the testimony of James Knox Taylor, former Supervising Architect, before the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department May 31, 1911, pages 7 and 8 of the hearing. The Tarsney Act went into operation in 1897, and the amounts named represent what has been paid out in about twelve years.

The architect's fees for the Cleveland (Ohio) post office, costing \$4,000,000, were practically \$150,000. That we may have some understanding of this enormous expenditure, we may state, in comparison, the architect's fees paid for that post office equaled nearly the amount paid to maintain the Supervising Architect's office, that is erecting ten public buildings per month, for the entire year. In other words, the fees for the Cleveland (Ohio) post office paid for the plans and specifications and superintendence exceeds the salaries of the nine members of the Supreme Court of the United States for one year. It is not conceivable why, if the Government can construct the San Francisco post office, costing \$2,600,000, that it would be unable to construct a building like the new post office in Washington, supposed to cost originally \$2,187,000. Very recently the Secretary of the Treasury submitted to competition from outside architects proposals for plans and specifications for a post office at Brownsville, Mo., costing \$50,000; a post office at Waukegan, Ill., costing \$75,000; a post office at Orange, N. J., costing \$100,000, for the purpose, it is said, of getting new types of buildings or models for standardizing. When the judges passed upon the drawings and plans submitted for their inspection, the plans and specifications for all three of these propositions were rejected because they were inferior to the work now done in the Supervising

Architect's Office. With the capable work now being done in the Office of the Supervising Architect, in comparison with outside work offered, it is not easy to understand why the Government persists in taking large fees from the Treasury to fee this institution known as the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Taylor testifies, on his own motion, that the Government is able to do, and does do, superior work up to a price of \$2,500,000 to any work that it can obtain from foreign bidders.

CYRUS CLINE, *Chairman*, THOMAS F. KONOP, FRED L. BLACKMON, E. R. BATHRICK, JOHN J. ESCH, JAMES C. McLAUGHLIN.

Location	Type of Building	Architects	Amount Paid
San Francisco..	Customhouse..	Eames & Young....	\$62,307.02
Denver.....	Post office.....	Tracy, Swarthout & Litchfield	49,491.66
Washington....	Treasury Building (repairs)*	York & Sawyer.....	5,000.00
Honolulu.....	Post office, etc..	York & Sawyer.....	7,680.00
Honolulu.....	Quarantine station*	O. G. Traphagen....	1,304.72
Kankakee.....	Post office.....	Pond & Pond.....	2,911.24
Hammond.....	Post office, etc..	J. T. Hutton.....	5,473.58
Indianapolis...	Courthouse, etc.	Rankin & Kellogg...	92,775.97
Vincennes.....	Post office.....	Vonnegut & Bohm...	2,592.33
New Orleans...	Post office.....	Hale & Rogers.....	35,504.91
Marblehead...	Post office.....	Arthur Wallace Rice	2,287.61
Battle Creek...	Post office.....	Albert Kahn.....	3,919.95
Nashua.....	Post office.....	F. Manton Wakefield	3,123.39
Atlantic City..	Post office.....	Davis & Davis.....	4,269.60
New York.....	Post office.....	McKim, Mead & White	101,791.32
Zanesville....	Post office.....	Geo. F. Hammond...	4,134.85
Allentown, Pa.	Post office.....	George B. Page.....	3,999.72
Providence....	Post office, etc..	Clark & Howe.....	46,315.38
Huntington....	Post office.....	Parker & Thomas...	5,949.70
Wheeling.....	Post office, etc..	Marsh & Peters.....	14,427.44
Green Bay....	Post office.....	German & Lingall...	9,042.48
Superior.....	Post office.....	Barber & Barber...	10,812.60
Baltimore....	Customhouse...	Hornblower & Marshall	76,205.92
Camden.....	Post office.....	Rankin & Kellogg...	8,417.17
Cleveland.....	Post office.....	Arnold W. Brunner...	146,069.92
New York.....	Customhouse...	Cass Gilbert.....	227,991.80
New York.....	Ellis Island Immigration Station	Boring & Tilton...	48,169.90
Norfolk.....	Post office, etc..	Wyatt & Nolting...	8,946.75
Washington....	Post office.....	D. H. Burnham & Co.	28,000.00

*Not selected under Tarsney Act, but paid outside architects

Fees paid outside architect under Tarsney Act:		
Completed work, 26 buildings...	\$984,612.21	
Estimated amount now due on contracts now in force.....	190,165.63	
Contemplated work.....	574,470.00	
		\$1,749,247.84

Fees paid outside architects not under Tarsney Act:		
Completed buildings (6).....	59,228.69	
Due on contracts now in force...	224,981.69	
		284,210.38

Total fees paid outside architects completed work, contracts in force, and contemplated work.....	\$2,033,458.22
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THE following is a copy of a signed communication from Mr. John Hall Rankin, Chairman of a special Committee, addressed to Hon. Cyrus Cline, Chairman, Committee on Expenditures of Public Buildings, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., refuting the misconceptions and misstatements contained in the Report of the Committee of Congress and with special reference to the part thereof contained in the foregoing extract.

August 5, 1912.

HON. CYRUS CLINE,

Chairman, Committee on Expenditures of Public Buildings, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

My attention, as chairman of a committee of architects interested in legislation affecting the practice of architecture has been called to a report of your committee (H. R. Report No. 1029, Sixty-second Congress, Second Session). I refer particularly to that portion of the report relating to the Tarsney Act, pages 17, 18, 19 and 20, wherein the American Institute of Architects, the new Washington Post Office, the customary fees of architects, and the cost of architectural service for the Cleveland Post Office as compared with the cost of service provided by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, are referred to in terms which indicate that your Committee has received erroneous information on certain points, and I respectfully ask your attention to the following statements:—

The American Institute of Architects was founded in 1857 for the declared purpose of promoting the artistic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession of architecture, and it has earnestly striven to follow those aims. It has been for many years the representative society of the profession and it includes in its membership a large majority of the competent and reputable architects in the country. It is not surprising therefore that a large number of the architects chosen by the Treasury Department to compete under the Tarsney Act, have been members of this society; it would be remarkable were its members not in the majority in these contests, but there has never been any effort on the part of the organization to have such competitions confined to its

members, nor has it ever advocated or suggested discrimination against any architect on the ground of non-membership. The statement of the late Supervising Architect to your Committee, to the effect that winners of Tarsney Act competitions have been members of the Institute in each case, must have been made inadvertently, as it is not in accordance with the records of his office. During the nineteen years since the Tarsney Act has been a law, thirty-one buildings have been placed under its operation. Of this number seven, or nearly twenty-five per cent., have been awarded to architects not members of the Institute. It is also worthy of note in this connection that during the nineteen years the law has been on the statute books there has been erected or authorized by the Government for erection under the Treasury Department not less than 1,000 buildings (your Committee gives 721 as the number during the last ten years), and of all this number only thirty-one have been done under the Tarsney Act. The impression conveyed by your report is that the law is very generally applied to Government buildings, whereas the above figures show that the leaven furnished by buildings done under the Tarsney Act and which has caused such a remarkable improvement in Government architecture in nineteen years, amounted to only about three per cent. of the work done.

The compensation of four per cent. paid to the architect of the new Washington Post Office is at the rate of six per cent., and not at a lesser rate, as assumed in your report. The architect of this building is performing only partial service and is being paid only part of the usual fee. The Government provides at its own expense local supervision of construction in this case and also certain other portions

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of the service ordinarily performed by an architect employed for a building. Where the entire six per cent. fee is paid, the architect furnishes full service, including the local supervision.

Your reference to their being "no dearth of bidders for the job" in connection with this building is not clear. Architects in regular practice do not bid for jobs. If the allusion is intended to convey the idea that the architect for the work was selected by means of a competition in which there was no lack of competitors, it is not justified by the facts and tends to give a false impression. The building is being erected under a special authorization by Congress and an architect was employed by direct selection without competition. This was done for the expressed purpose, and apparently with the full knowledge and approval of Congress, of having the building designed by the architects of the Union Station. The wisdom of this selection is generally conceded.

The fee of six per cent., which is recognized as the usual and proper compensation for full services of an architect, came into use in 1908, as correctly stated in your report; prior to that time the usual fee was five per cent. The increase became a virtual necessity on account of the steady advance in the cost of production, due to increased expenses incident to the architect's work, in order to enable the architect to have, over and above his actual expenses, a reasonable compensation in proportion to the responsibility of his work. The laborer is worthy of his hire, whether he be an architect or a lawyer, and it is a fact that a smaller proportion of the present fee of six per cent. is profit to the architect, than was the case forty-five years ago when the five per cent. rate came generally into use. An intelligent study of the figures in the reports of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury showing the items making up the cost of carrying on that office will give some idea of the expense under which an architect labors. Neither the American Institute of Architects nor any other organization could establish or produce general acceptance for any rate of compensation not founded upon equity. The public would not accept nor would the profession stand together on any rate that gives more

than a fair net return for the service rendered.

It is unfortunate that the question of comparative cost has been raised in the operation of the Tarsney Act, for the merits of the law should be considered in a broad way rather than from its commercial aspect, but as the matter has been brought up in connection with the Cleveland Post Office in such a way as to indicate that your Committee has not been furnished with correct data, it appears that to clear up misconceptions a comparison of figures is unavoidable. The fee of \$150,000.00 paid to the architect of the Cleveland Post Office does not "nearly equal the amount paid to maintain the Supervising Architect's office for the entire year," as stated in your report. Such a sum would not pay the cost of maintaining the Supervising Architect's office for two months, as that office entails an expense to the Government of nearly \$1,000,000 dollars a year. The cost of maintaining that office from 1905 to 1910 inclusive was approximately:—

For salaries of persons employed <i>exclusively</i> in the office of the Supervising Architect.....	\$2,306,400.00
For supplies.....	100,000.00
For salaries of superintendents of construction and other expenses incidental to field supervision.....	1,802,502.00
Making a total of.....	\$4,208,902.00

Allowing that \$600,000.00 of this amount was paid out for clerical assistance not purely architectural, such as the looking after repairs, and the expenses incidental to the purchase of sites, etc., and deducting that sum, leaves \$3,608,902.00 as the amount expended by the Supervising Architect's office for purely architectural work during the six years given. The contracts for building construction on drawings prepared by that office during the same six years amounted approximately to \$32,796,000.00. This shows that the average cost of architectural service performed by the Supervising Architect's office was about eleven per cent. on the cost of buildings erected. On this basis the cost to the Government of architectural service on the Cleveland

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Post Office, which cost approximately \$3,000,000.00, exclusive of site, and not \$4,000,000.00 as stated in your report, would have been \$330,000.00 if the building had been done in the Government's office, or more than double the amount actually paid to the architect who performed the service. It seems proper here to call your attention to the fact that the fees paid to the private architect are paid in installments over a term of years while the building is being constructed (in the Cleveland building the service of the architect extended over about seven years), and for which fee he not only pays all salaries incident to the preparation of the drawings and specifications, but out of which he must pay all those other expenses which of necessity enter into the conduct of any business office, and some special expenses in addition; such, for instance, as office rent, lighting, heating, stationery, ice, carpets and rugs, awnings, postage, architectural books and magazines, printing and binding, janitor's service, charwomen, etc. Nothing of this kind is included in the expense account of the Supervising Architect's office, as such items are paid from appropriations other than those relating to public buildings. If they were included in the above expense tables, the percentage of cost in the Supervising Architects' office would be increased. The recommendation of your Committee that all buildings under the Treasury De-

partment be designed by the Government in order to save the fees paid to outside architects, which are described as enormous, was doubtless made without the Committee having been in possession of correct figures. It is difficult to see the economic side of a proposition to save six per cent. in fees paid to outside architects by having work done through another medium at a cost of eleven per cent.

Aside from the question of the cost of service, the policy of having all Treasury Department buildings designed in the office of the Supervising Architect must necessarily depend somewhat upon the number of buildings to be designed. In 1908, Congress provided for 209 new buildings, and in 1910, 231 were added. To expect one man to direct the designing and construction of this number of buildings is an absurdity that would not be contemplated in any other civilized country in the world.

As a public official, you of course do not desire to have any misstatements in a public document that is to go forth signed by you, and these variations from the facts are called to your attention in the belief that you will at once investigate them and make such corrections in the report of your Committee as may be necessary to make it accord with the facts.

Respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN HALL RANKIN,
Chairman, Special Committee.



THE ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES OF EFFICIENCY IN HOSPITALS

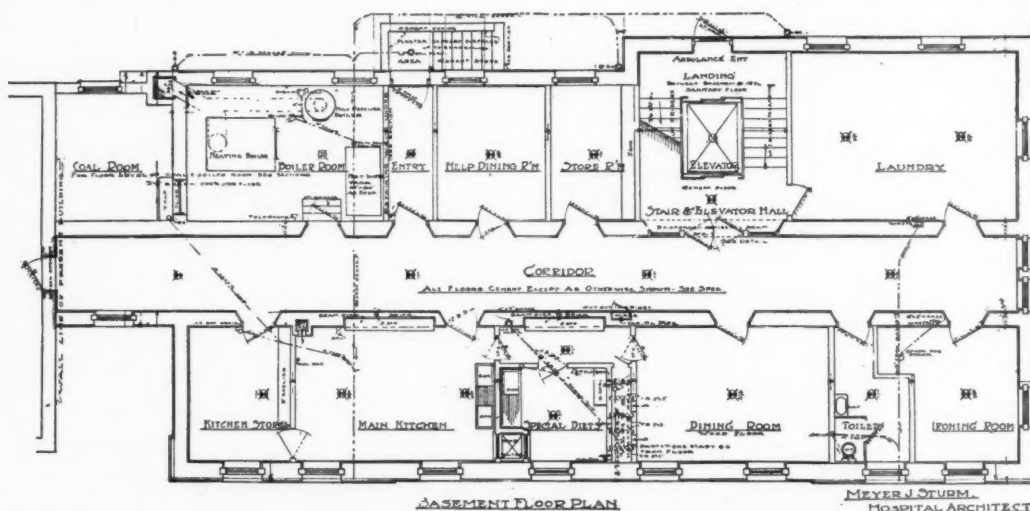
By MEYER J. STURM, ARCHITECT



WHEN an individual or a corporation contemplates erecting a building for the purpose of transacting business, the initial thought is to have the plan made so that the arrangement when the building is complete will result in the maximum efficiency in the handling of merchandise with the least expenditure of energy and at the lowest cost of maintenance consistent with the conducting of such an enterprise.

is the interest on \$7,200.00 per year at five per cent., so that a mental calculation can be made of the possibilities in reducing this maintenance cost by five or ten cents per day per patient which is readily done in a properly planned hospital.

The second consideration in planning a hospital is the necessity of making provision for future enlargement. This is also an efficiency consideration. Few hospitals, if any, but have found it necessary within a short time after completion to enlarge, and have learned that unless a comprehen-



In all probabilities, this idea is more adaptable to the planning of a hospital than to any other class of building extant. The reasons for this are so obvious that it is hardly necessary to go into the details except to say that where every convenience is provided for the conduct of such an institution at the lowest possible maintenance cost, the cost of such maintenance below what it might be in some other plan which is not made with this essential attribute, amounts to the interest in most cases on practically the cost of the hospital.

As an example, the saving of one cent per patient per day in a 100-bed hospital

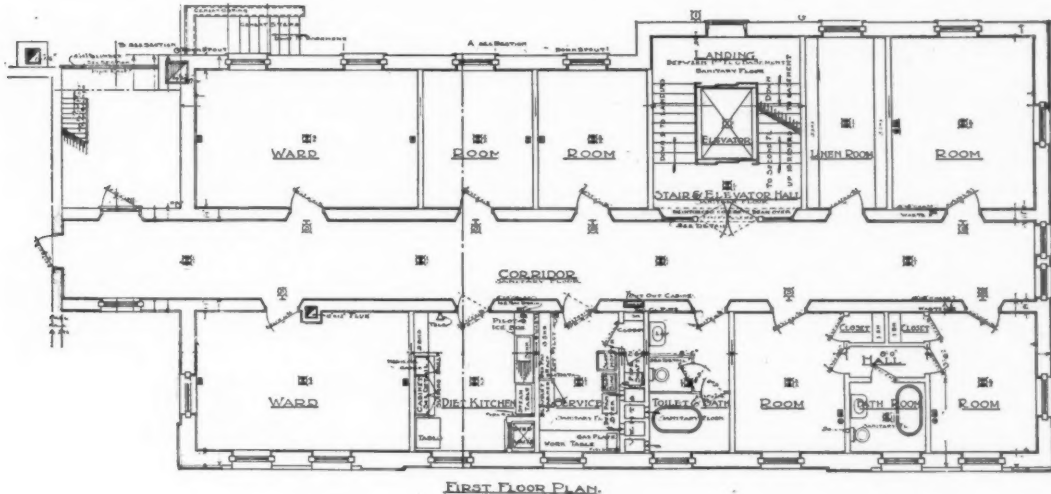
sive plan for the ultimate hospital has been previously made, it is a difficult matter to make such an enlargement.

Herewith is presented a plan of a small hospital which has all of the attributes and essentials of the larger institutions in which is shown both of the requirements mentioned provided for fully. There is shown the basement plan, first floor plan, and third floor plan which is identical with the second floor plan. The main axis of the building is taken on a central corridor and the first unit of future wings of this building will be built at right angles wherein the linen room on the first and second floors

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and the anaesthetizing room on the third floor become an initial point for the corridor of the building. Also to the left, when the present non-fireproof building is taken down, as will be the case undoubtedly,

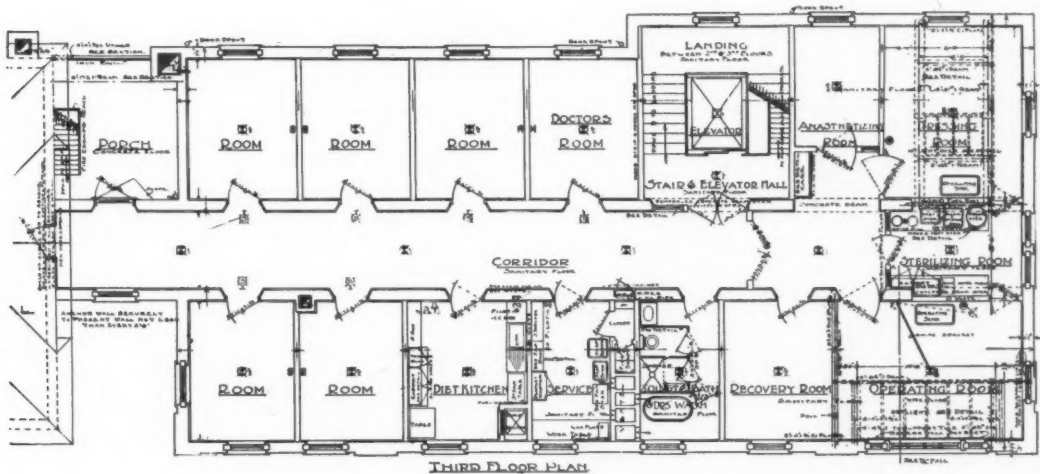
where the dressing room becomes another operating room, the sterilizing room being placed between these two, and dressing rooms and accessory rooms for this department being placed in the new wing at



the building will be enlarged along the main corridor.

In this hospital there are shown the service and toilet rooms, with the vent stacks between centrally located in such manner

right angles to the present building. Under these circumstances it will only be necessary to place a service stairs in this wing, and if required, such bath-rooms as will be needed between private rooms or in con-



that the future additions will be adequately served by this department without the repetition of these costly appurtenances to this class of buildings.

Every provision has been made for such enlargement, especially on the third floor,

junction with larger wards if it is decided to make these wards larger than the present wards.

It will be seen from the plan that the main corridor and special diets connect directly with the dumbwaiter which in turn

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serve the diet kitchens on each floor, so that there is an economy not only in the handling of the food, but there is an economy in the construction, due to the fact that this department, being superposed, necessitates simple runs of plumbing, steam and heating stacks.

This is also true of the service and toilet rooms, inasmuch as one principal stack takes care, in this instance, of all three floors, and this can as readily be done in a larger as in a smaller hospital.

In this building is used a signal system for calling nurses which does not necessitate the nurse going from any room back to a central point or such places as an annunciator may be placed, but all signals are made by an electric light over the doors which can only be extinguished at the bedside of the patient by the nurse, and which are operated direct from the 110-volt circuit, the cost of installation and maintenance of such a system being exceedingly small; in fact, less than for the old-fashioned annunciator, being positive, quiet and necessitating the nurse going to the bedside of the patient to extinguish the light.

If, as an example, a nurse is in a room and a call directly across the hall is made, it is only necessary for her to step from one room to the other and ascertain the wishes of the patient without the necessity of going to the central station, only to find that she is compelled to go back practically to the point from which she had started. Especially in larger hospitals is this an economy, and it may be safely said that miles of travel are saved every day in this manner and in consequence better nursing conditions, a higher efficiency, and a reduced maintenance cost are obtained.

In the construction of such hospitals, which should under all circumstances be fireproof, it has been found that exterior walls built of brick with whatever facing in a decorative manner may be required, and the supporting structure of the central corridor either of steel or reinforced concrete or of brick walls, as shown on this plan, and to use a flat slab construction in reinforced concrete, has been found not only the most economical, but has been found to fulfill every requirement of absolutely fireproof construction. It is advisable also that story heights be practically

uniform so that staging for the placing of the reinforced concrete work can be used from floor to floor so that in a basement and three-story building two sets of complete forms, simple as they are, may be used alternately.

As little woodwork as possible should be used. The floor, if possible, should be of a sanitary material brought to a cove and the plaster brought flush to this cove on its top edge; a metal bead, which is now made for this purpose, being used as a ground between the two materials does away with the necessity of patching and a line of demarkation between the cove and the plaster upon the walls.

Hard plaster for all plastered surfaces is advocated. Panel-less doors should be used throughout and only on double action doors should glass panels be used and these about twelve inches high, to prevent collisions, except the doors in the corridors, stairs and elevator halls and such places where long paneled doors are required for light and for appearance.

At the windows the plaster can be brought practically to the window box and a facing put on this with a small bead at the angle which obviates all woodwork practically so far as it can be omitted.

In the partitions, which are recommended to be one of the lighter materials made of gypsum, the simplest form of trim should be used of a minimum width consistent with the appearance of neatness and stability.

Doors between stairs, elevators and corridors and the entire partitions at these points should be of absolutely fireproof material, the object being to isolate each floor from every other floor so that every floor is a complete unit within itself and making it impossible for fire or even smoke or noise to travel from one floor to another. The doors to the dumbwaiter are necessarily of fireproof construction, also those to the clothes-chute, being either of the all-metal type or calaminated.

The objects to be attained, therefore, to sum them up, are first—efficiency; second—economy in construction; third—economy in maintenance; fourth—absolutely fireproof hospital wherein each floor is isolated from every other floor completely; a minimum of woodwork to expedite clean-

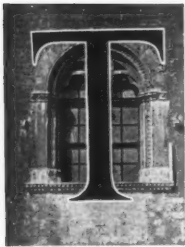
ing, and the consequent elimination of constant care of such woodwork, and incidentally to make the building fireproof.

With the installation of the proper electrical apparatus, vacuum cleaners and a silent signal system, with accessibility and

proper location of working departments, the hospital that is planned with these principles thoroughly studied out, is one which can readily be maintained and fulfills all of the requirements of a perfect unit working institution at maximum efficiency.

THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN APPROACH TO MANHATTAN BRIDGE No. 3, NEW YORK

MESSRS. CARRERE & HASTINGS, ARCHITECTS



HE Department of Bridges of the city of New York, in designing and building the Manhattan Bridge, had in mind the relief of the already badly congested traffic of the present "Brooklyn Bridge" and the accommodation of future traffic between

the downtown district of New York and the downtown district of Brooklyn, as it would continue to increase.

Realizing that this traffic would increase rapidly, and that this new bridge would ultimately become a very important traffic-bearing thoroughfare, the city, through its Department of Bridges, wisely acquired and set aside for the approaches to this bridge sufficiently large plots of land to enable a scheme to be adopted which would readily gather the lines of traffic and at the same time furnish space for monumental and dignified approaches, both at the Manhattan end and at the Brooklyn end.

With this in view, the plot of land bounded by Canal, Forsyth and Bayard Streets on the north, east and south, respectively, and by the Bowery on the west was acquired as a site for the Manhattan approach. Two double lines of subways have been constructed, or are in process of construction, leading up to, and crossing, the Manhattan Bridge, to connect with the proposed system of subway extension for the city of New York. A double line of tracks is to connect with the city's surface railway system, and it is further proposed that a double line of tracks

shall connect with the elevated railway system of the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn. There will thus be eight lines of tracks crossing the bridge. These have been arranged in two tiers—four subway tracks at a lower level and the two street railway and two elevated tracks at a higher level. These double tiers of tracks are divided in the middle by a roadway thirty-five feet broad, and on the extreme outer sides of the bridge, and beyond the railway tracks, are the footways.

It is apparent that the architectural problem here presented is primarily and essentially one of circulation. The scheme adopted by the Department of Bridges and Messrs. Carrere & Hastings, architects, for the arrangement of the lines of traffic, and by the latter for the decoration of this plaza with a suitable architectural treatment, is shown in the accompanying illustrations.

There is a large elliptical plaza as the principal feature of the approach. At the southeast or bridge end of this ellipse is to rise a masonry arch with flanking colonnades reaching out and around this end of the elliptical plaza.

The street railway tracks are carried around the east side of this ellipse, beyond and outside the colonnade. The elevated railway tracks are carried around the west side of the ellipse in like manner, and the subway tracks beneath it, not emerging from the ground until after they have passed beneath the arch and colonnades. The entire layout and construction follows the slope of the bridge roadway, so that the whole of the block surrounded by Canal, Forsyth and Bayard Streets and by the

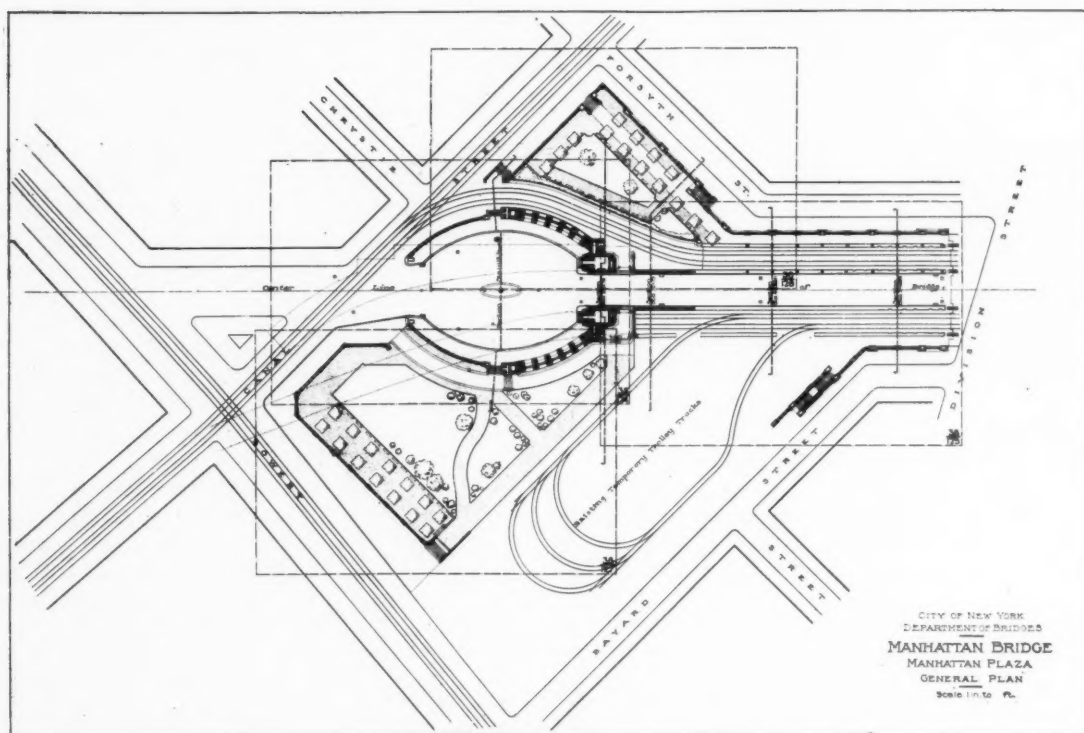
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Bowery is on a sloping plane. This plane, or platform, is held up by massive retaining walls, capped by a uniform balustrade completely surrounding it, except where the roadways, tracks and footpaths enter the elliptical plaza.

The principal architectural feature—the arch spanning the roadway—is thirty-seven

seats and balustrades and above the openings are sculptured panels, on the side of the colonnades facing the ellipse. The stonework is to be of a white, fine grained granite, treated with surfaces variously tooled to bring out the different elements of the design and to accentuate its different parts.

All the lighting standards, benches, metal



GENERAL PLAN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN APPROACH TO MANHATTAN BRIDGE
MESSRS. CARRERE & HASTINGS, ARCHITECTS

feet wide and forty feet high in the clear of the opening. Decorative sculpture will be applied to the piers on either side of this arch, and there will be a symbolic sculptured frieze above the crown of the arch. The Doric order of the colonnades is thirty-eight feet high, the columns themselves being thirty-one feet high. It will thus be seen that the architects have conceived the design of this portico in an essentially serious style and on a monumental scale. Between the columns are

work, in fact all the lesser details, as well as the large architectural features themselves, have been specially designed by the architects, Messrs. Carrere & Hastings, in a style appropriate to the rest of the work. The Department of Bridges have retained their assistance also in the supervision of the planting and gardening about this approach with the idea in view of presenting a complete, dignified and monumental ensemble, worthy of one of the principal gateways of a great modern city.

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VOL. CII AUGUST 14, 1912 No. 1912

THE TARSNEY ACT

IN another column will be found that portion of Report No. 1029, House of Representatives, 62nd Congress, 2nd Session, submitted July 19th by the Committee on Expenditures on Public Buildings, which relates to the Tarsney Act. With it is published a letter to the Chairman of this Committee by the chairman of a special Committee of architects interested in legislation affecting the practising of architecture.

When the Sundry Civil Bill was reported in the House of Representatives on June 3rd, it was found to contain a provision repealing the Tarsney Act, a law in which all architects and all persons concerned in the development of a high type of Government architecture are deeply interested. The provision had been inserted by the Appropriation Committee of the House, and it passed the House without opposition, and practically by default, an example of the pernicious custom of attaching legislation to appropriation bills. The Committee of architects immediately took the matter up and were met by those Members of Congress presumably responsible for the repealing provision, with most extraordinary statements concerning the operation and cost of the law. It was alleged that it was mainly for the purpose of stopping an enormous drain upon the Treasury that the repeal was

desired, the idea being that as the Government maintained an architectural bureau, the cost of supporting which was small, the work would be done there and a large saving effected. It was apparent that many Members really believed that there had been favoritism in the selection of competitors, collusion in the awards in the competitions, and gross extravagance in the fees paid to architects employed under this law. To architects familiar with conditions in the Supervising Architect's office during the last fifteen years, such beliefs were incomprehensible. They knew that competitors had been selected with care; that the awards had been accepted by the profession as absolutely honest decisions in every one of the 31 competitions held under the Act, and they knew that the successful architects were receiving, as compensation, the usual professional fees. They also knew the office of the Supervising Architect could perform architectural service under the conditions which must necessarily prevail in a large Government bureau, only at a cost greater than the fees paid to outside architects. Further inquiry developed the fact that for two years or more Congress had been receiving erroneous information and distorted figures. Assertions had been made to its Committees which gave an entirely false impression, with the result as above stated, and as may be seen in the Cline report. The architects Committee at once sought to correct these impressions. Evidence as to the true situation was gathered, and the Senate struck the repealing clause from the bill. The matter is now in conference between the two Houses.

At this juncture, it is gratifying to know that the Treasury Department in an official statement under date of August 3, 1912, gives the average cost over a period of years of preparing drawings and specifications in the office of the Supervising Architect to be 6.2%. This does not include any supervision of construction whatever. Upon this statement it is obvious that it costs the Government slightly more for architectural service performed by the Supervising Architect's office without supervision than it costs for full service by outside architects including supervision under the Tarsney law. The main charge against the law, therefore falls to the ground.

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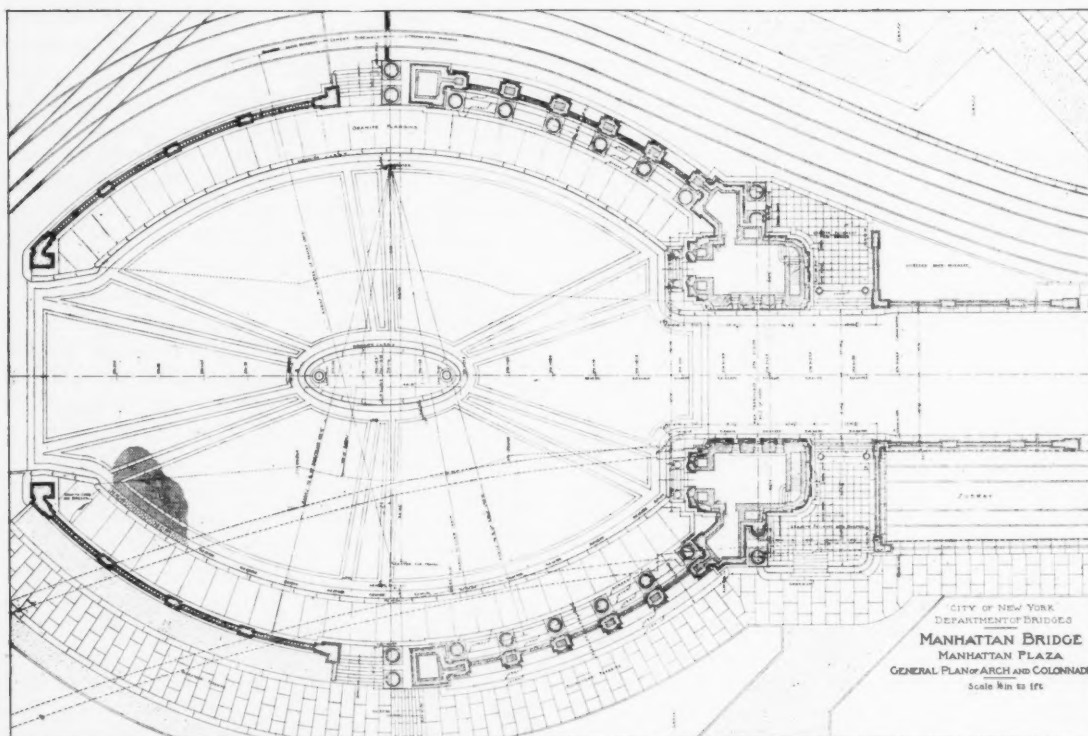
A RECENT LEGAL DECISION

CONTRACTOR'S DUTY AS TO EXAMINATION OF TENEMENT HOUSE RECORDS

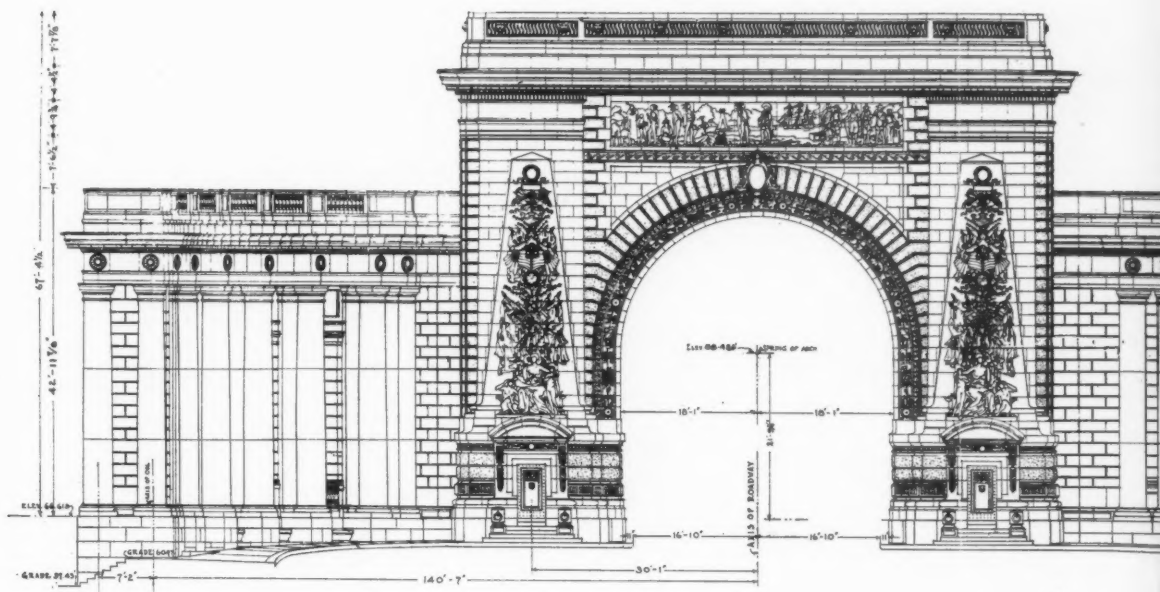
A building contract provided that the architect's decision as to the true construction and meaning of the drawings should be final. In a letter to the owner the architect stated that when the contractor figured on the work he estimated on incomplete plans, before they were presented to the tenement house department, and that several orders were received from the department on which the contractor did not figure and as to which he had been put to some expense. He added that the contract called for the furnishing of the approval of the department and that the owner was not bound to pay the contractor extra on this

work. This decision was held to be against the owner, for the architect distinctly said that the matters mentioned were not included in the drawings and that the contractor did not figure on them. The remaining portion of the letter dealt with a construction of the contract, which the architect was not authorized to make, and amounted to nothing more than the gratuitous opinion of a layman, having no force or effect whatever. It was not the contractor's duty to examine the records of the tenement house department to discover whether the owner contemplated doing other work. It was the owner's duty to have any work not originally within the contemplation of the parties inserted in the contract or made the subject of a new contract.

Fowler v. Bushby, 125 N. Y. Supp. 890.

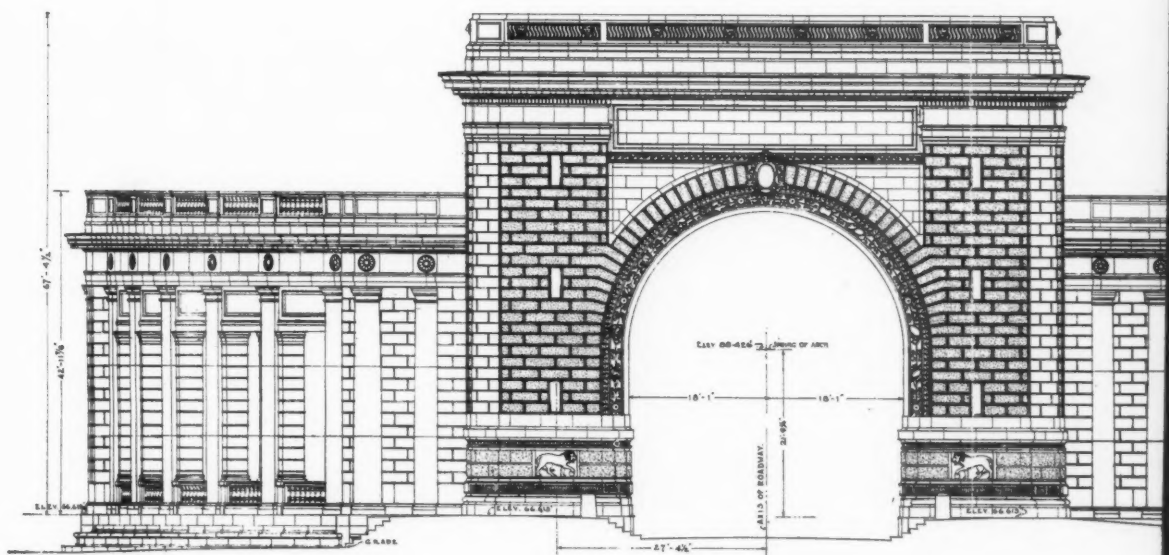


GENERAL PLAN OF ARCH AND COLONNADE
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN APPROACH TO MANHATTAN BRIDGE, NEW YORK
MESSRS. CARRERE & HASTINGS, NEW YORK



COLONNADE PROJECTED

FRONT ELEVATION OF ARCH & COLONNADE

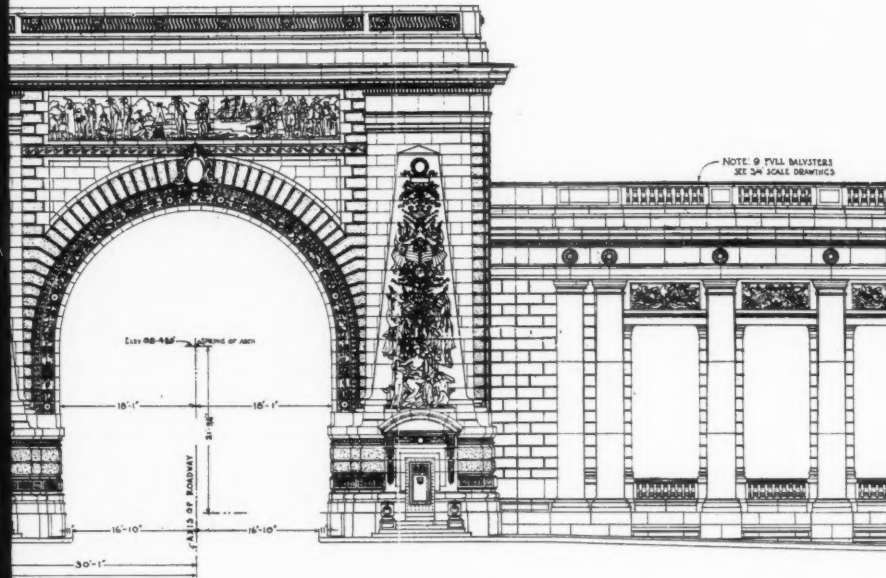


COLONNADE PROJECTED

REAR ELEVATION OF ARCH & COLONNADE

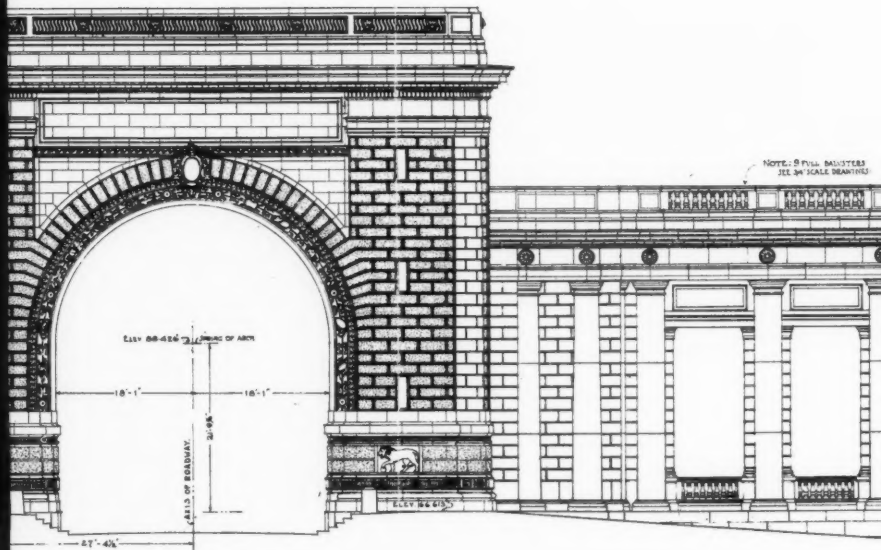
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN APPROACH, MANHATTAN
MESSRS. CARRERE & HASTINGS, ARCHT.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



ELEVATION OF ARCH & COLONNADE

COLONNADE D

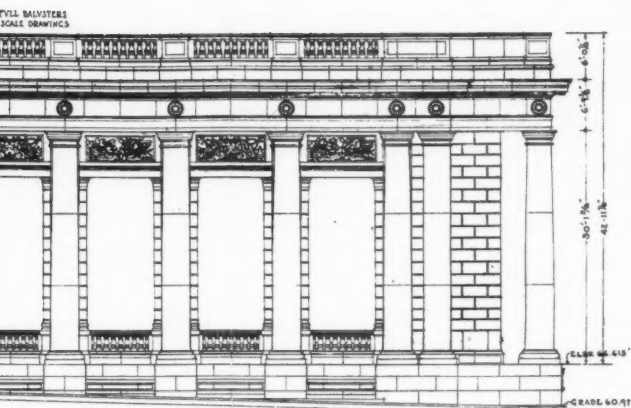


ELEVATION OF ARCH & COLONNADE

COLONNADE

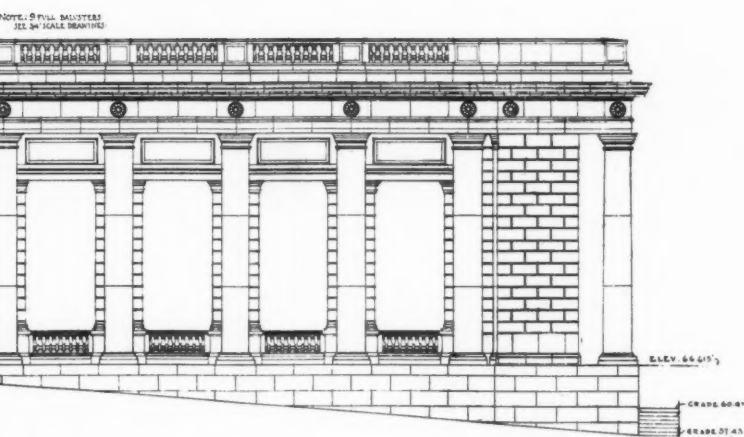
ROUGH OF MANHATTAN APPROACH, MANHATTAN BRIDGE, NEW YORK
MESSRS. CARRERE & HASTINGS, ARCHITECTS

AUGUST 14, 1912



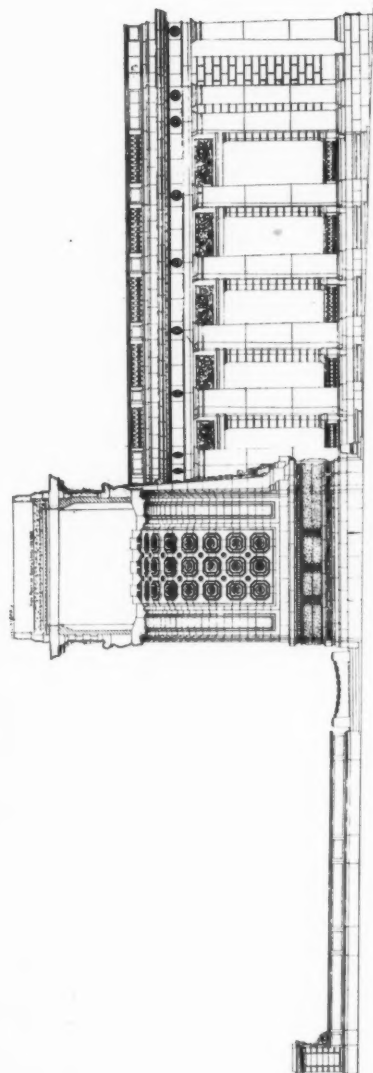
COLONNADE DEVELOPED

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGES
MANHATTAN BRIDGE
MANHATTAN PLAZA
ARCH AND COLONNADE
Scale in. to ft.

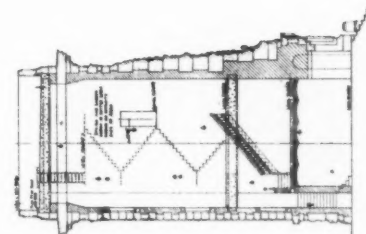


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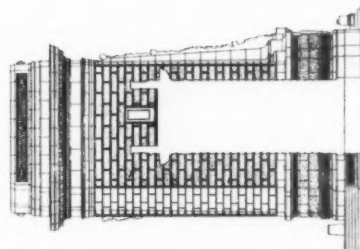
NEW YORK



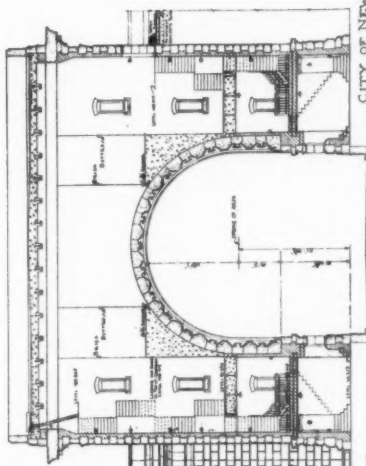
LONGITUDINAL SECTION OF ARCH AND ELEVATION OF COLONNADE



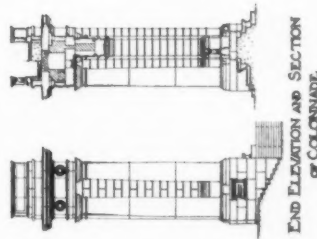
LONGITUDINAL SECTION THROUGH ARCH PIER



SIDE ELEVATION OF ARCH



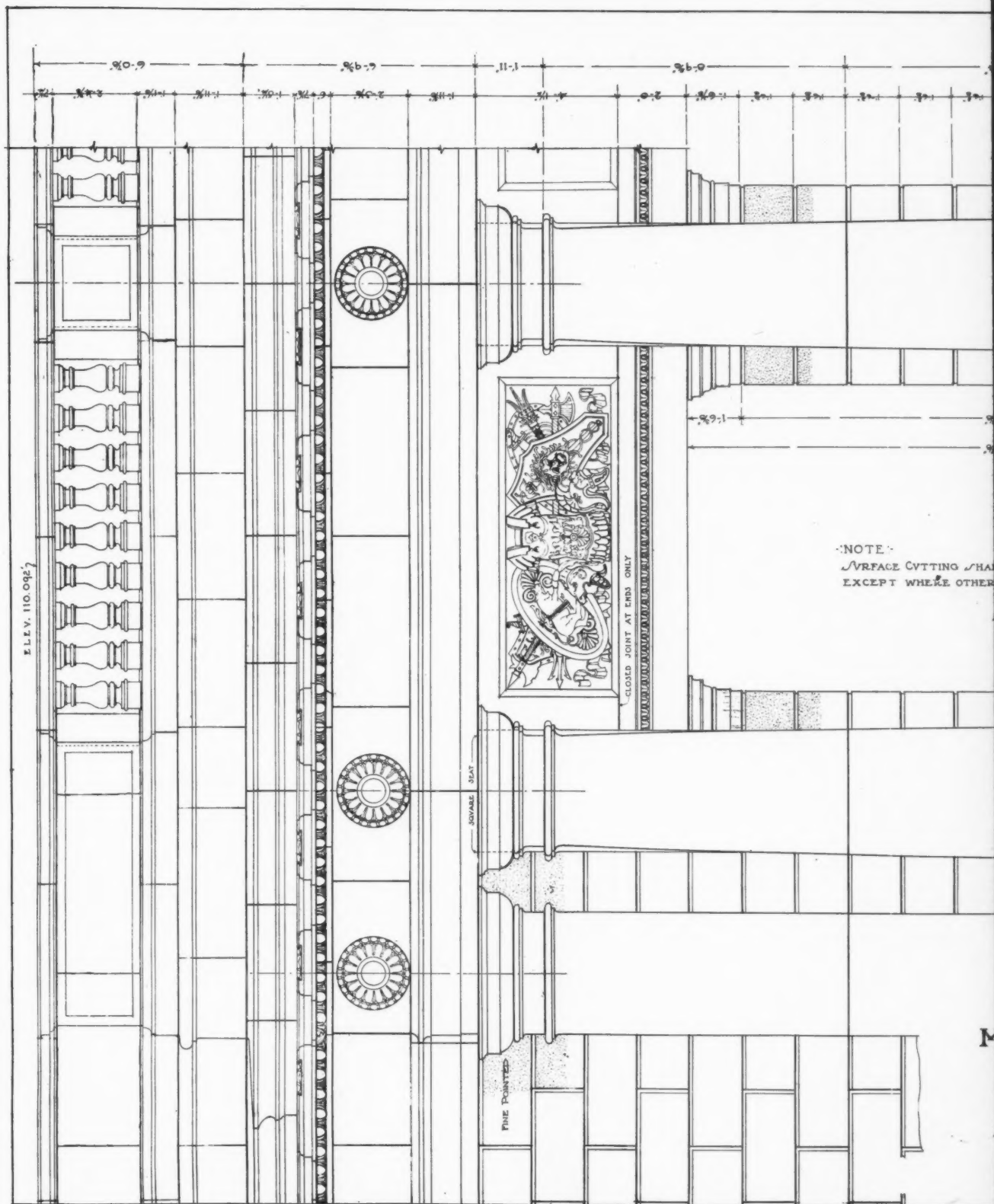
TRANSVERSE SECTION OF ARCH

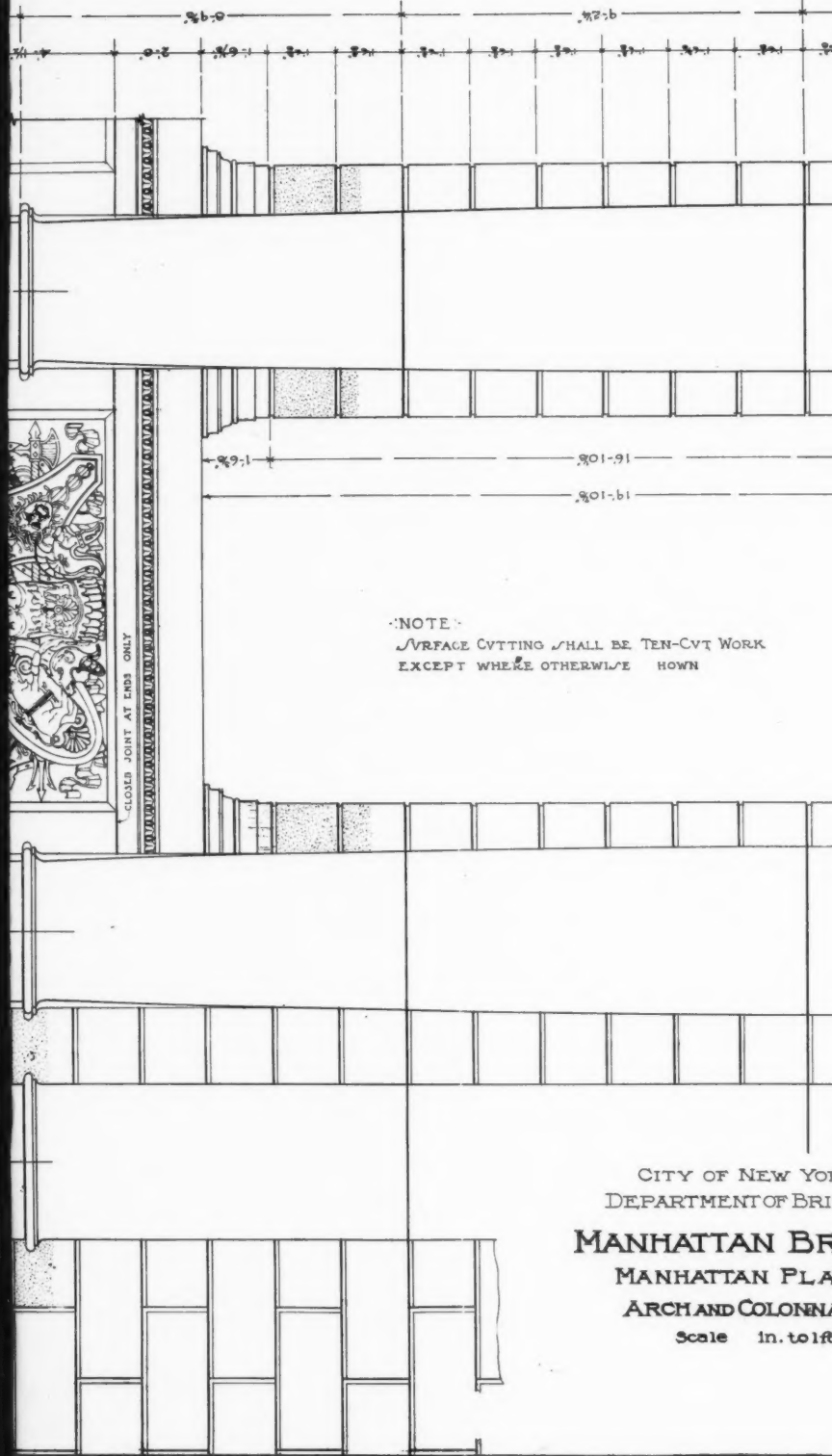


END ELEVATION AND SECTION OF COLONNADE

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE
MANHATTAN BRIDGE
MANHATTAN PLAZA
ARCH AND COLONNADE
Scale 1/4 in. to 1 ft.

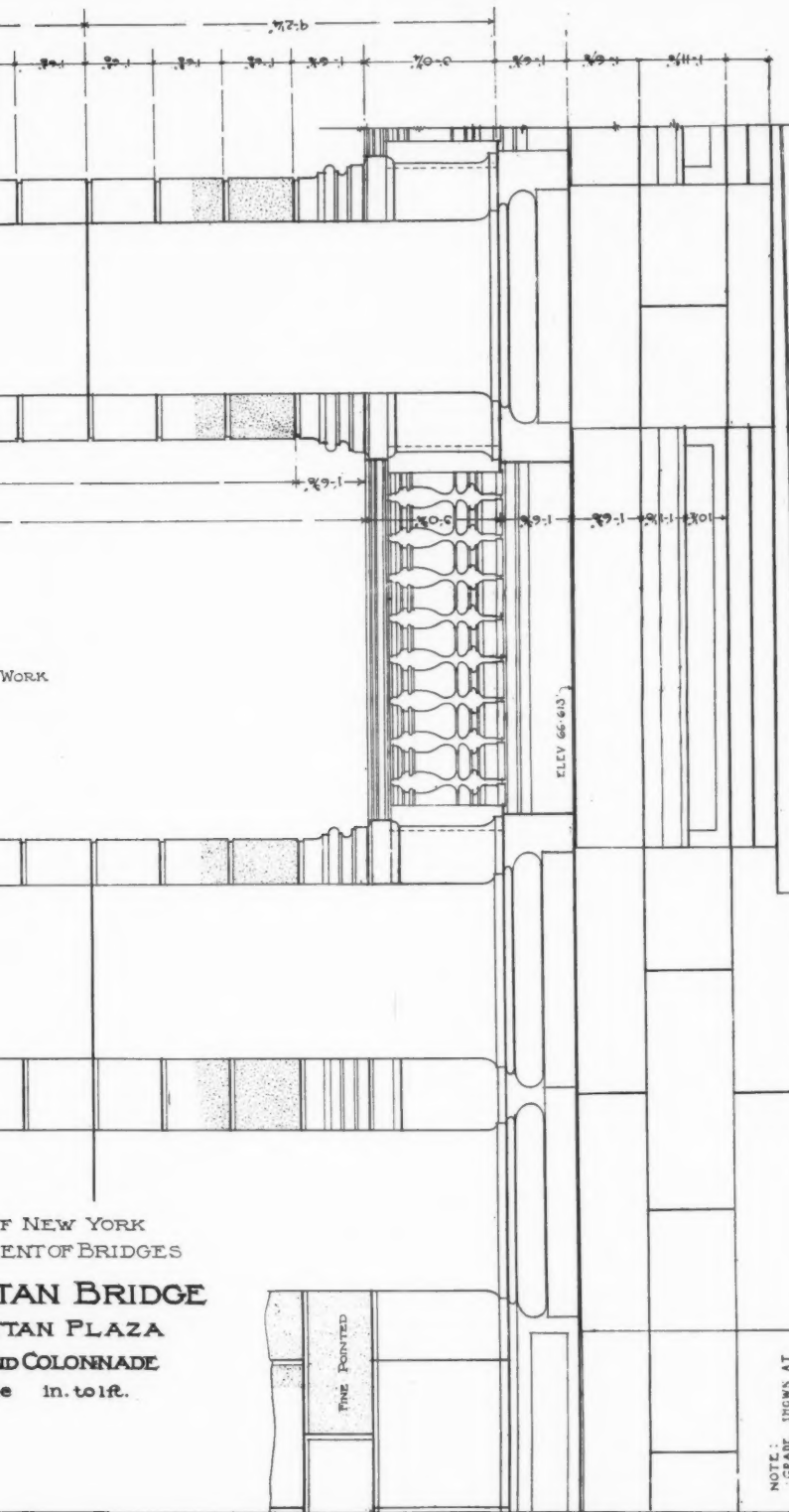
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN APPROACH, MANHATTAN BRIDGE, NEW YORK
MESSRS. CARRERE & HASTINGS ARCHITECTS





NOTE:
SURFACE CUTTING SHALL BE TEN-CVT WORK
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE SHOWN

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGES
MANHATTAN BRIDGE
MANHATTAN PLATE
ARCH AND COLUMN
Scale 1 in. to 1 ft



INSIDE ELEVATION OF COLONNADE

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN APPROACH, MANHATTAN BRIDGE, NEW YORK
 MESSRS. CARRERE & HASTINGS, ARCHITECTS

NEW YORK
 DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGES
 MANHATTAN BRIDGE
 MANHATTAN PLAZA
 AND COLONNADE
 in. to ft.

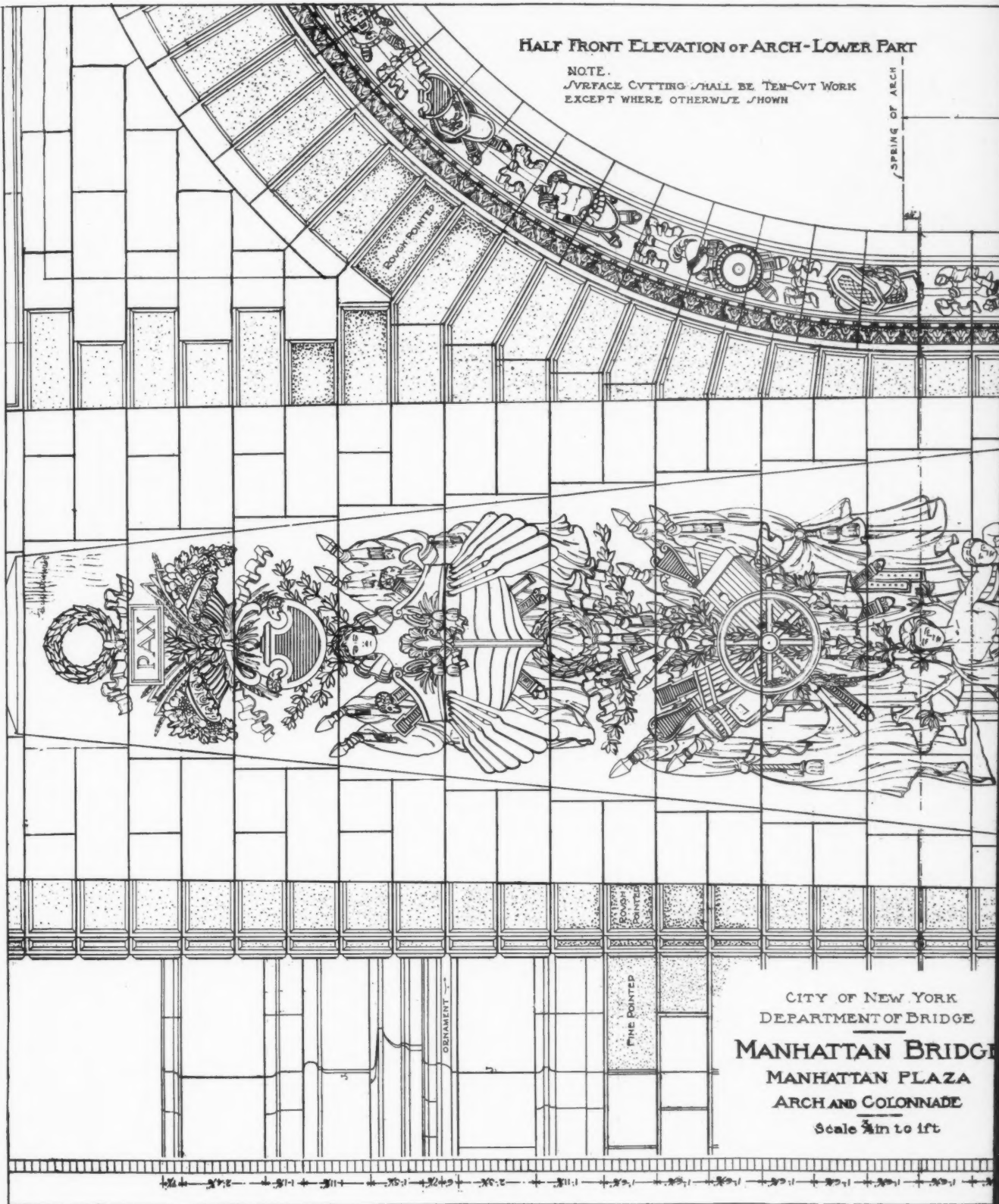
NOTE:
 SHOWN AT
 GRADE, SHOWN AT
 END OF COLONNADE

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN APPROACH, MANHATTAN BRIDGE, NEW YORK
MESSRS. CARRERE & HASTINGS, ARCHITECTS

HALF FRONT ELEVATION OF ARCH-LOWER PART

NOTE.
SURFACE CUTTING SHALL BE TEN-CUT WORK
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE SHOWN

(SPRING OF ARCH)



CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE
MANHATTAN BRIDGE
MANHATTAN PLAZA
ARCH AND COLONNADE
Scale 1/4" = 1 ft

HALF FRONT ELEVATION OF ARCH-LOWER PART

NOTE:
SURFACE CUTTING SHALL BE TEN-CUT WORK
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE SHOWN

(SPRING OF ARCH)

16'-1" TO AXIS OF ARCH

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE
MANHATTAN BRIDGE
MANHATTAN PLAZA
ARCH AND COLONNADE
Scale $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1 ft

FINE POINTED
ROUGH POINTED

NOTE.

NOTE.
SURFACE CUTTING SHALL BE TEN-CVT WORK
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE SHOWN

SPRING OF ARCH

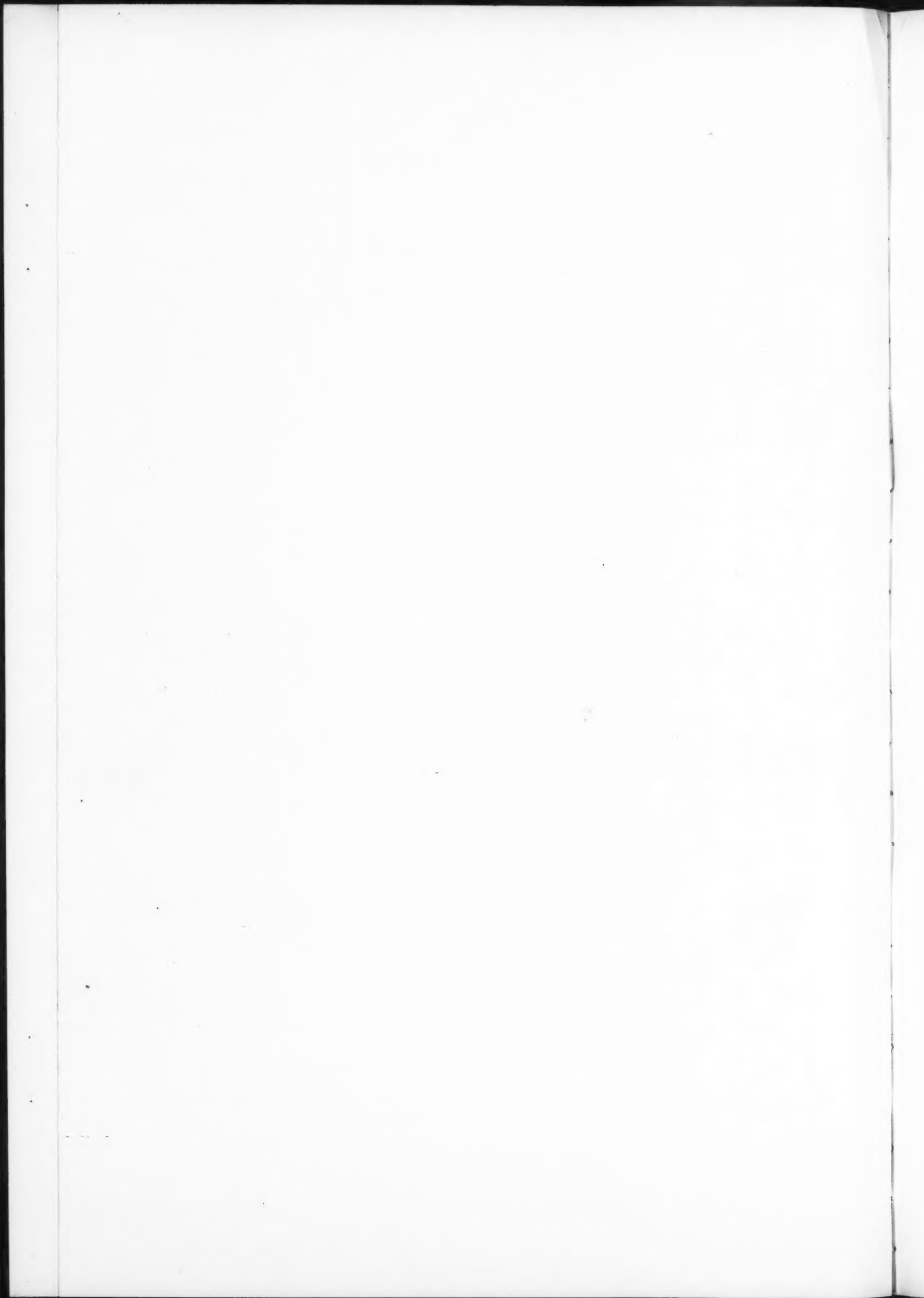
←---16'-1" TO AXIS OF ARCH

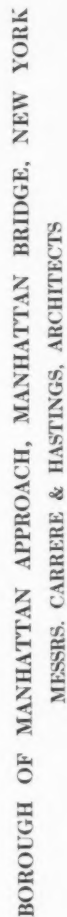
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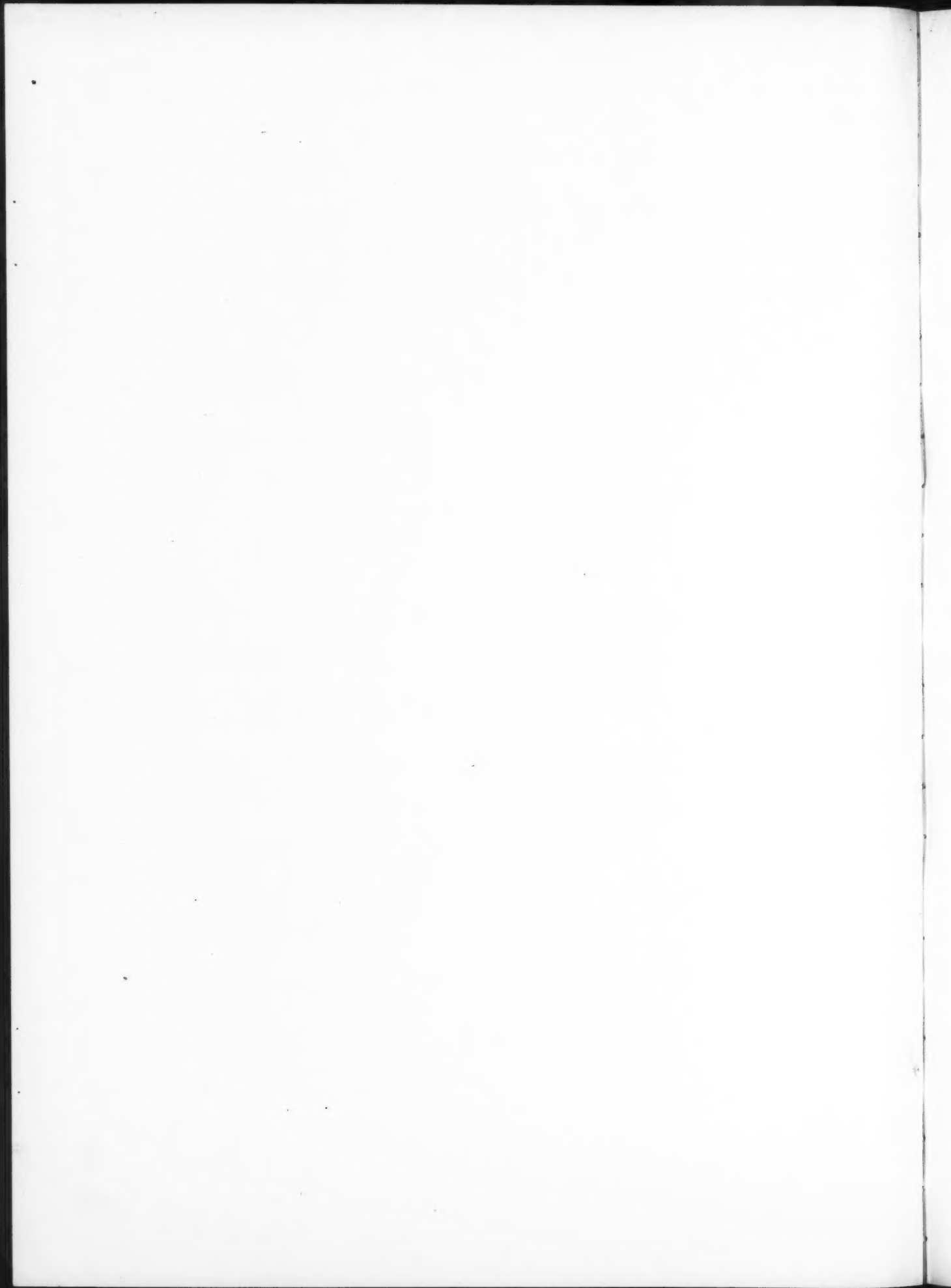
FINE POINTS

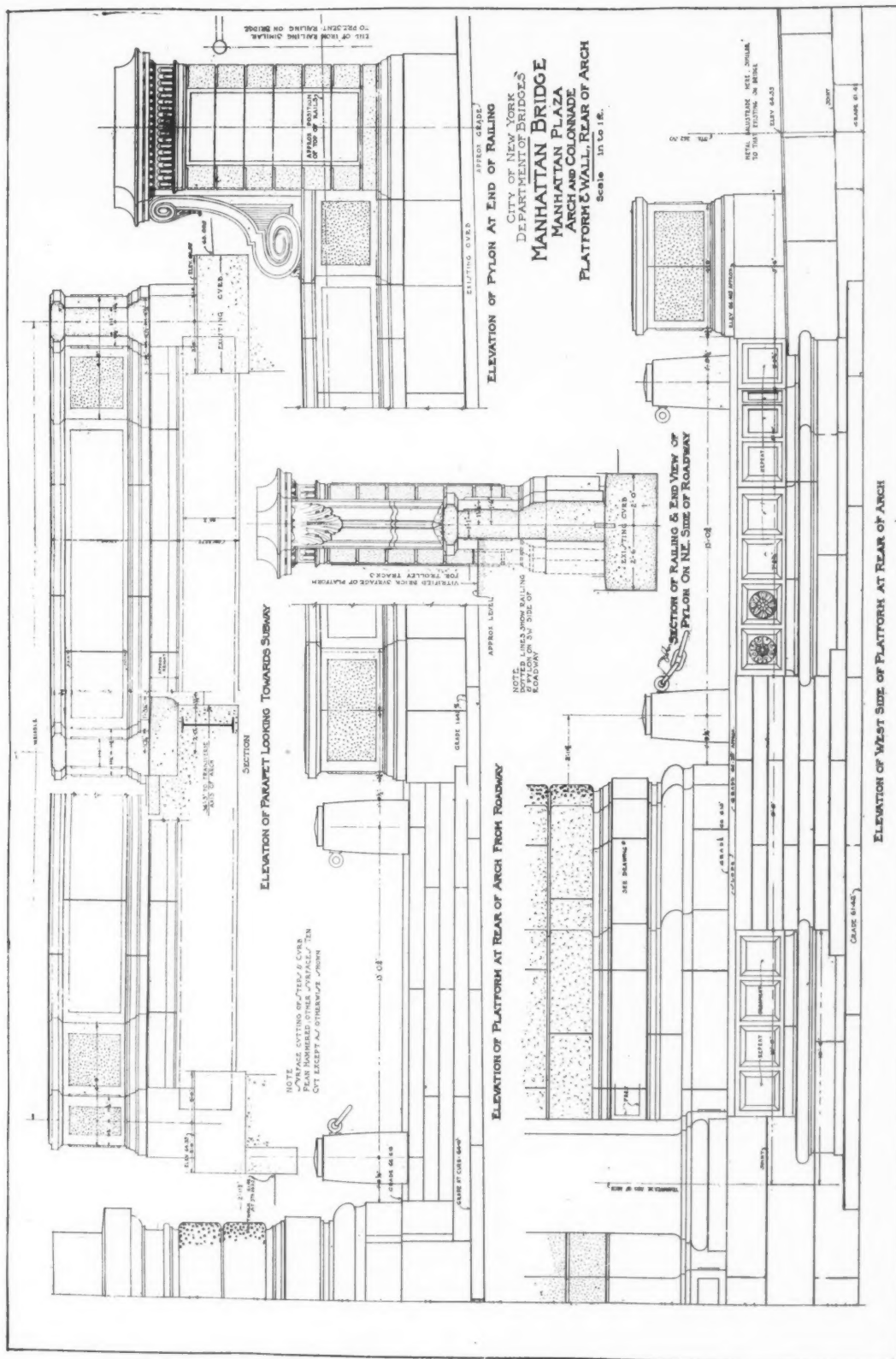
CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE
MANHATTAN BRIDGE
MANHATTAN PLAZA
ARCH AND COLONNADE
Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ in to 1 ft

Scale $\frac{3}{4}$ in to 1 ft

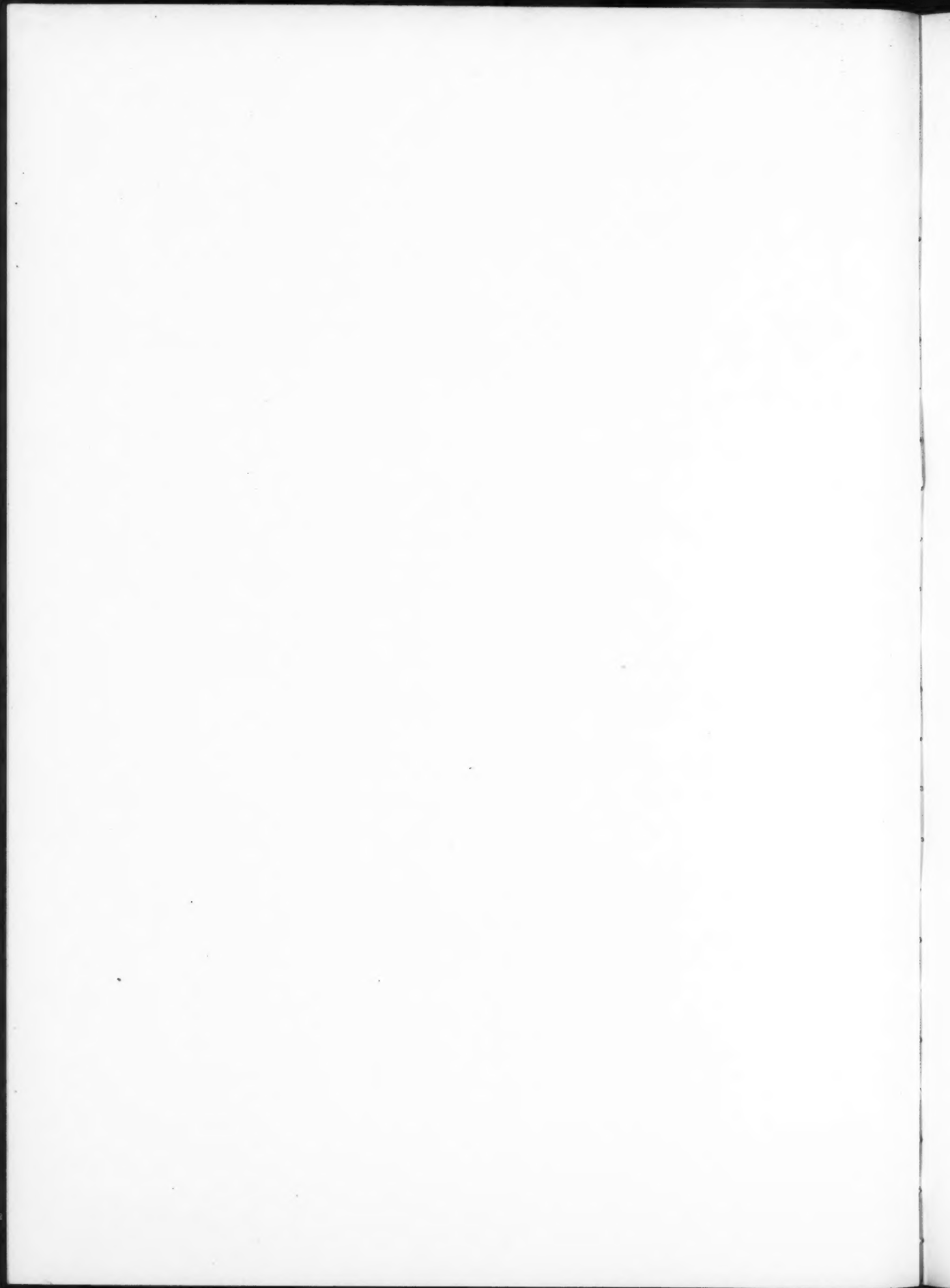


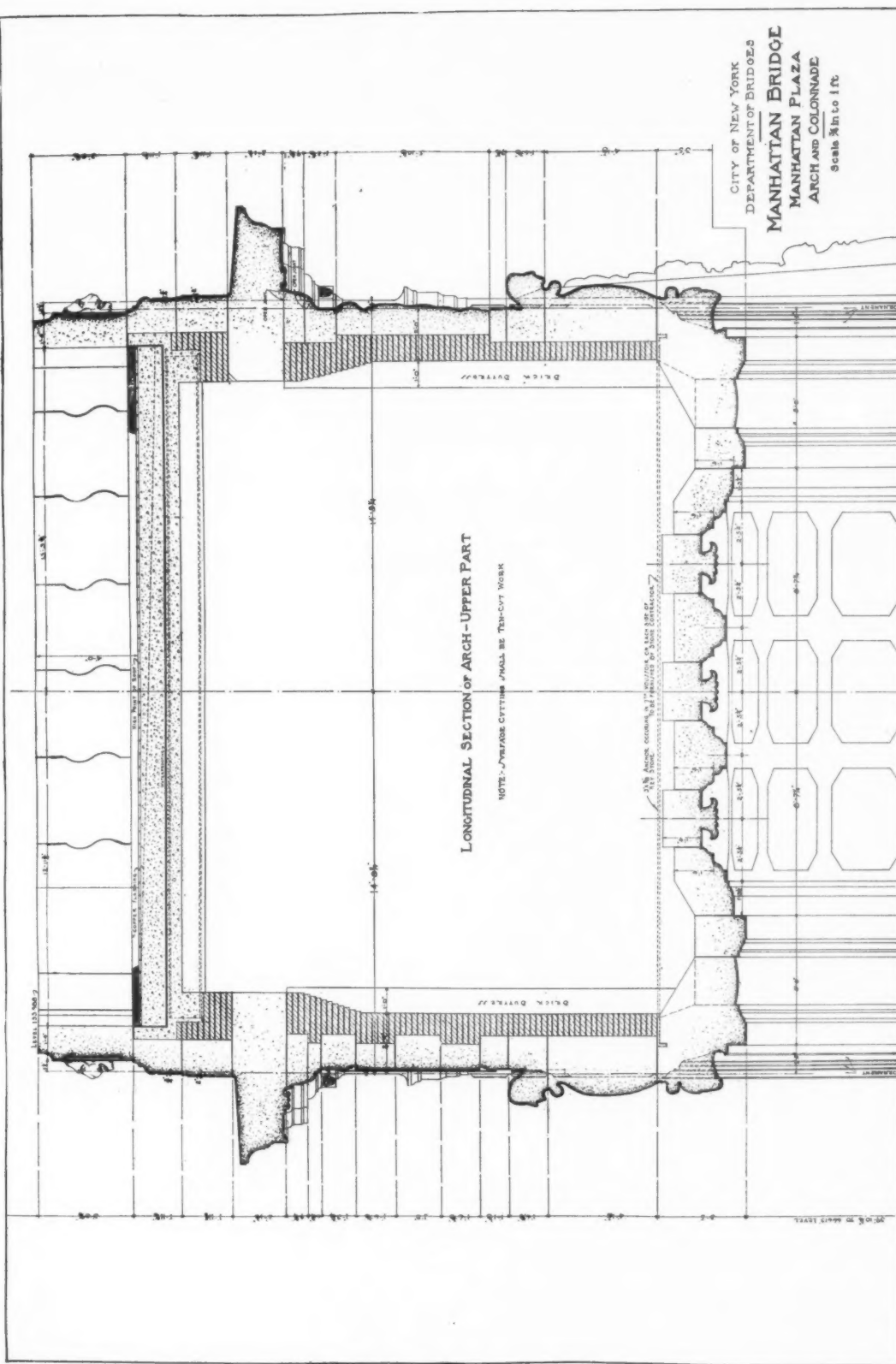




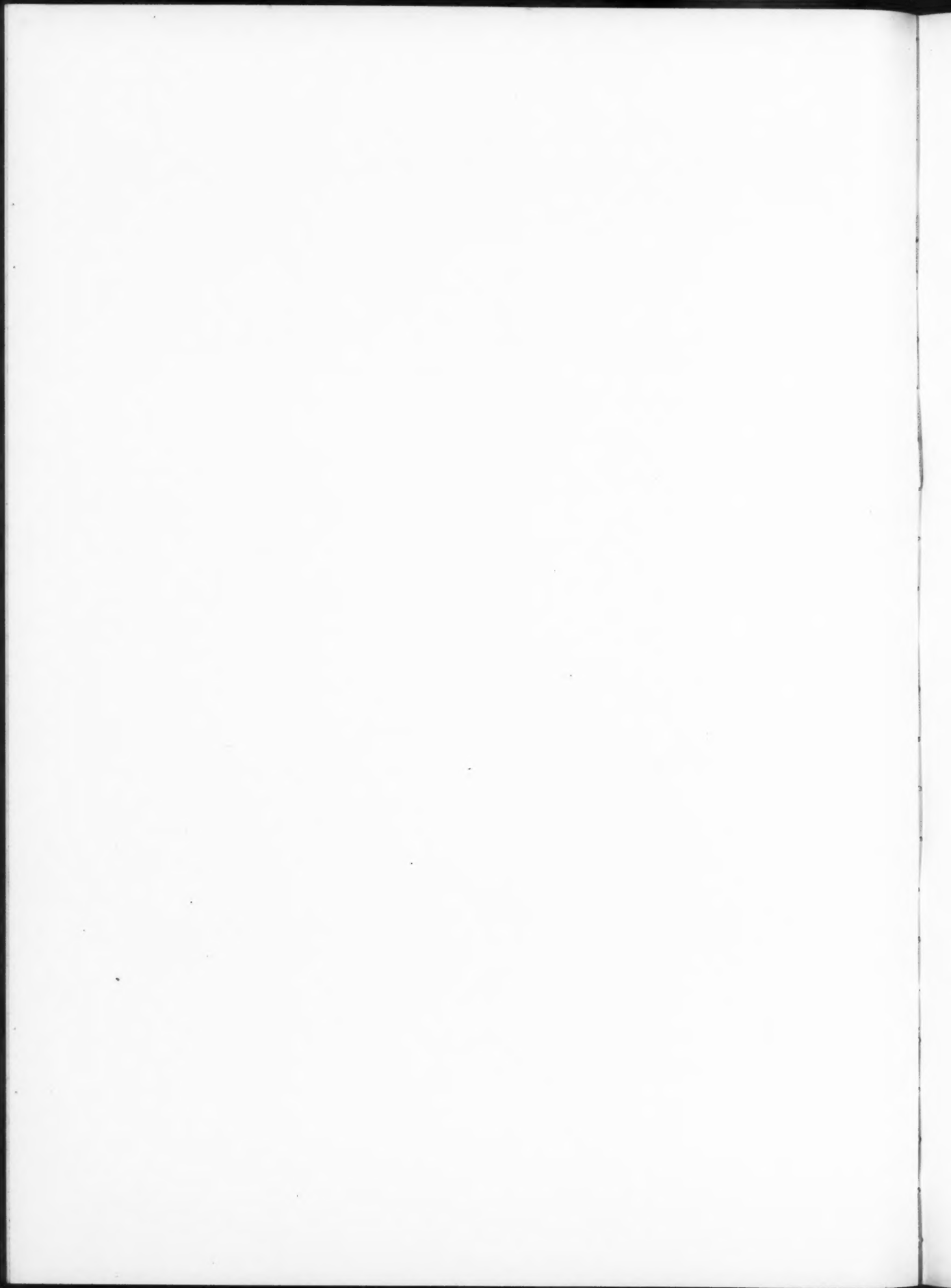


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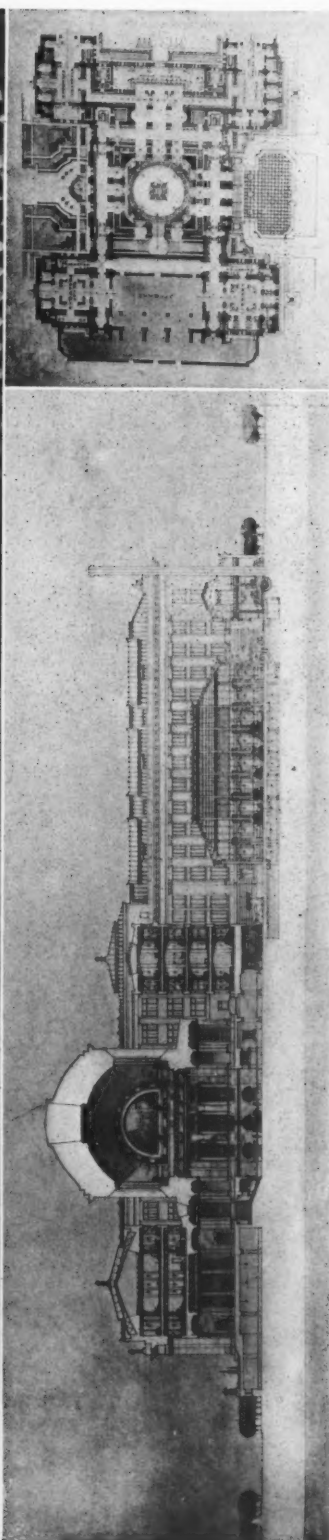
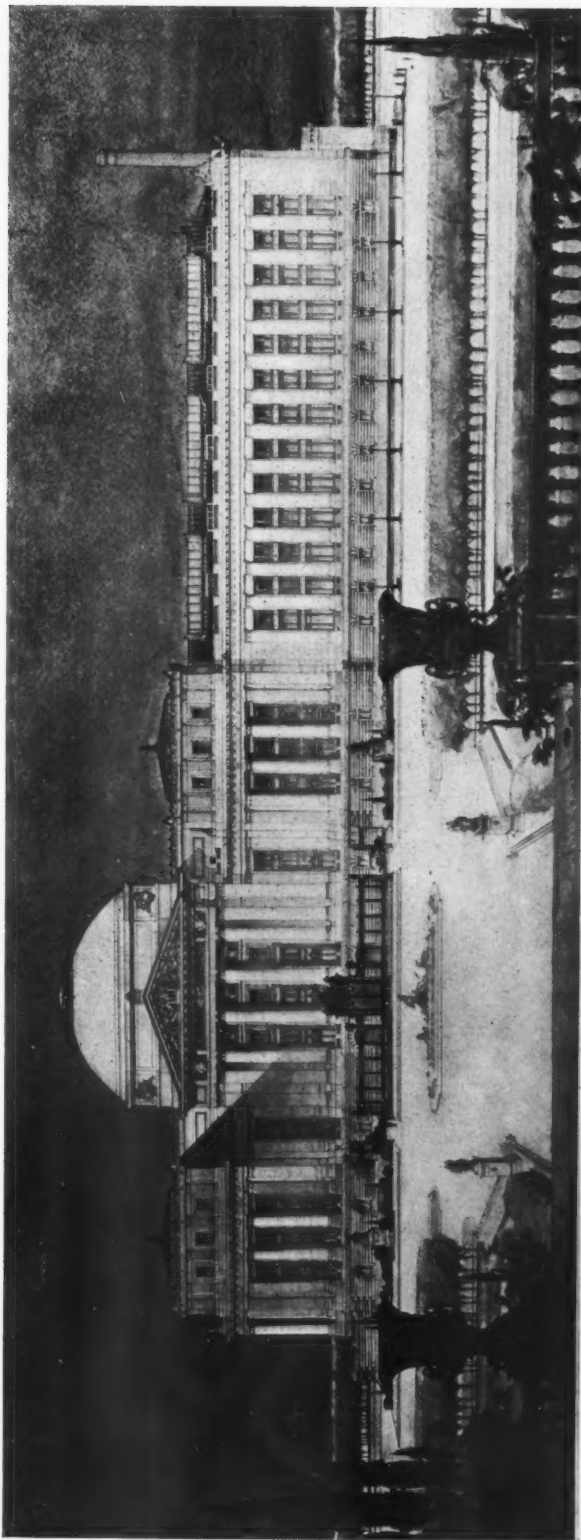
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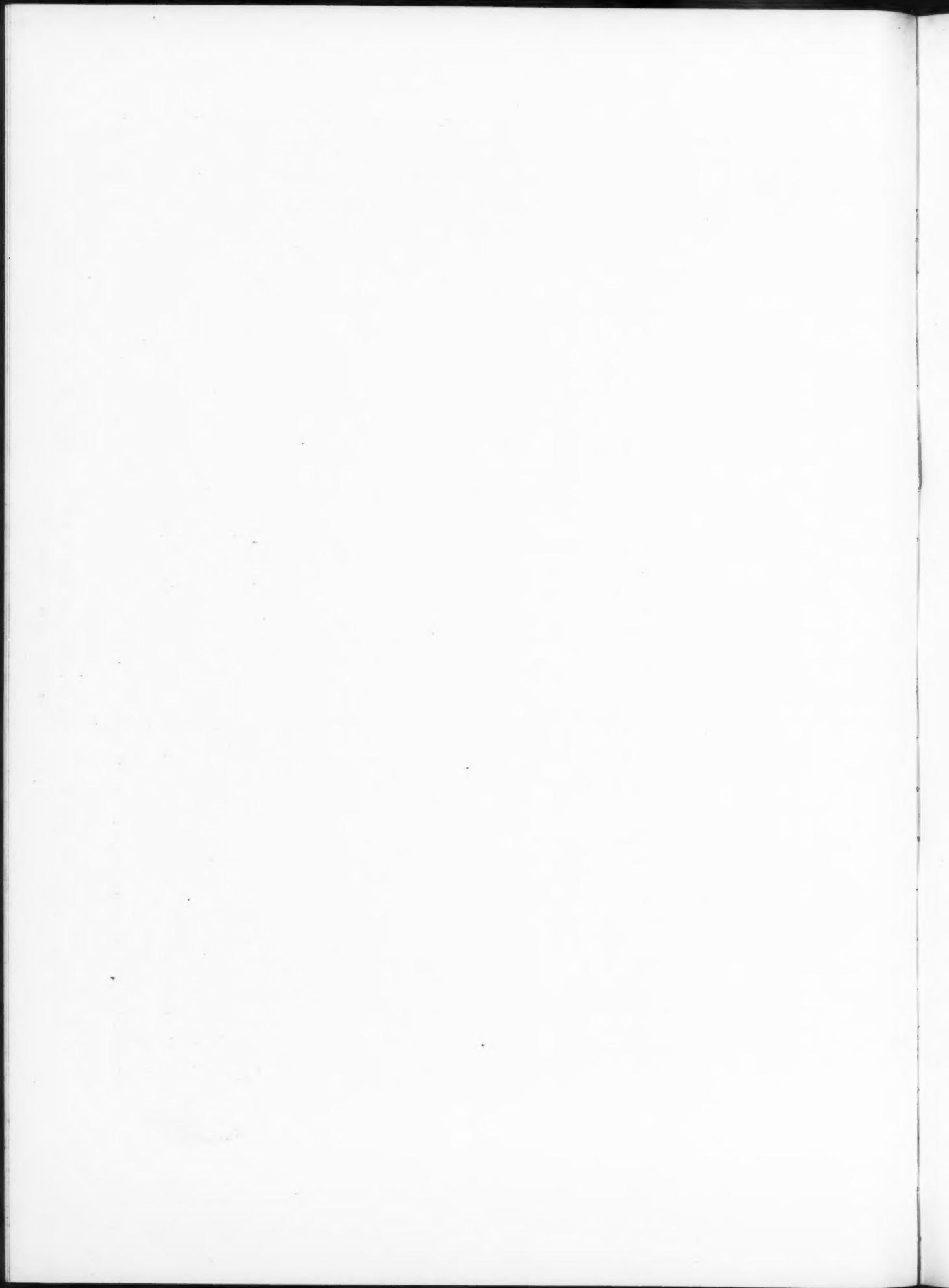


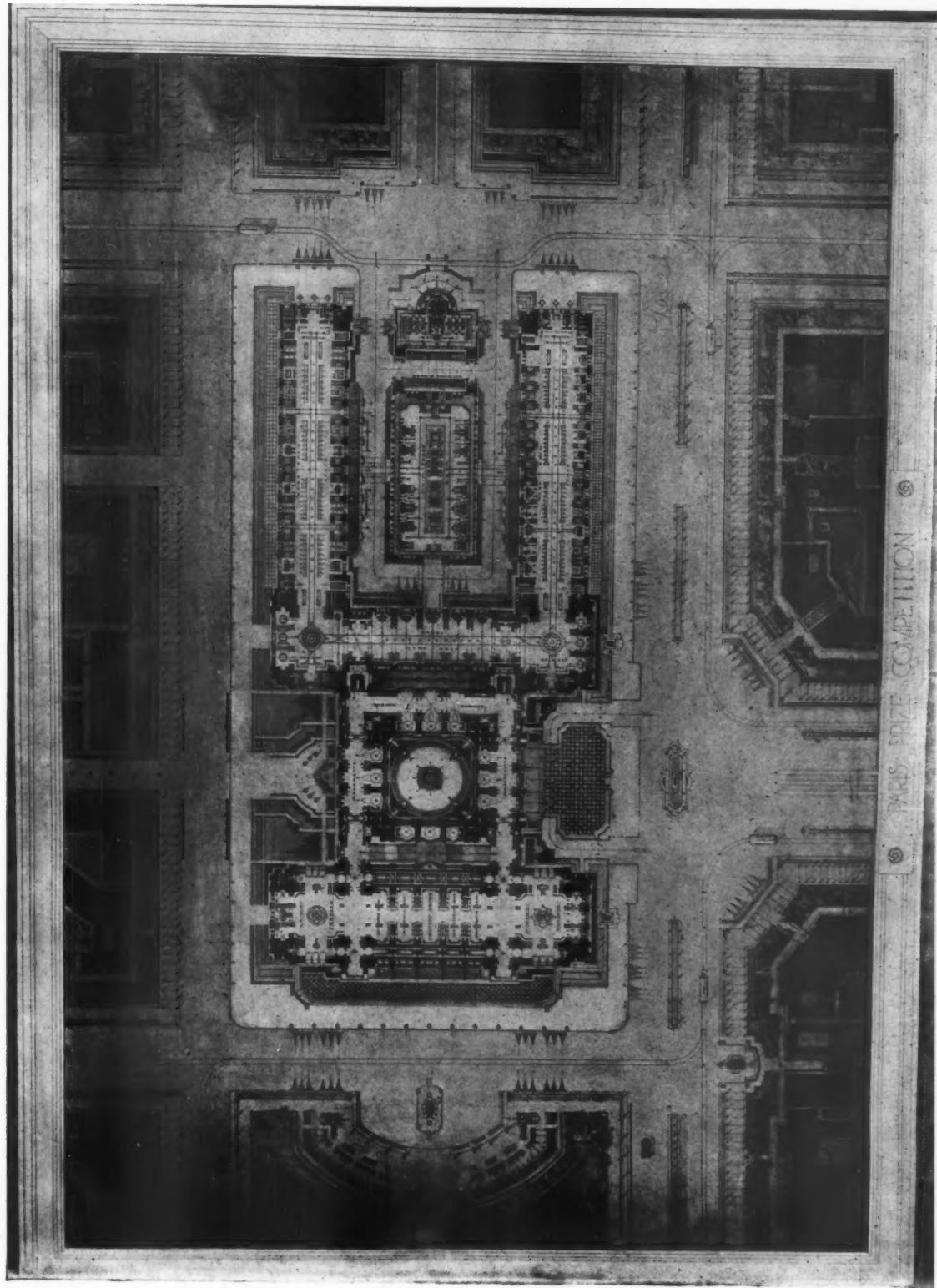
D. M. KIRKPATRICK

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STUDENT WORK—SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS
THE PARIS PRIZE COMPETITION

PHILADELPHIA ATELIER, U. OF PENNA.



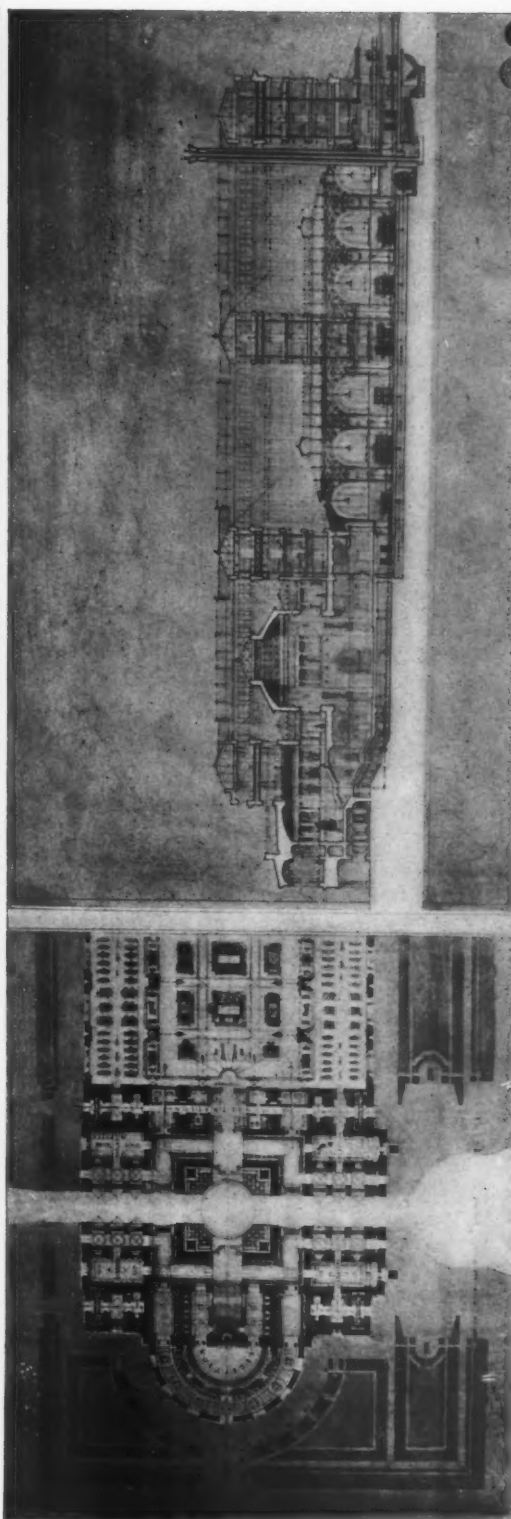
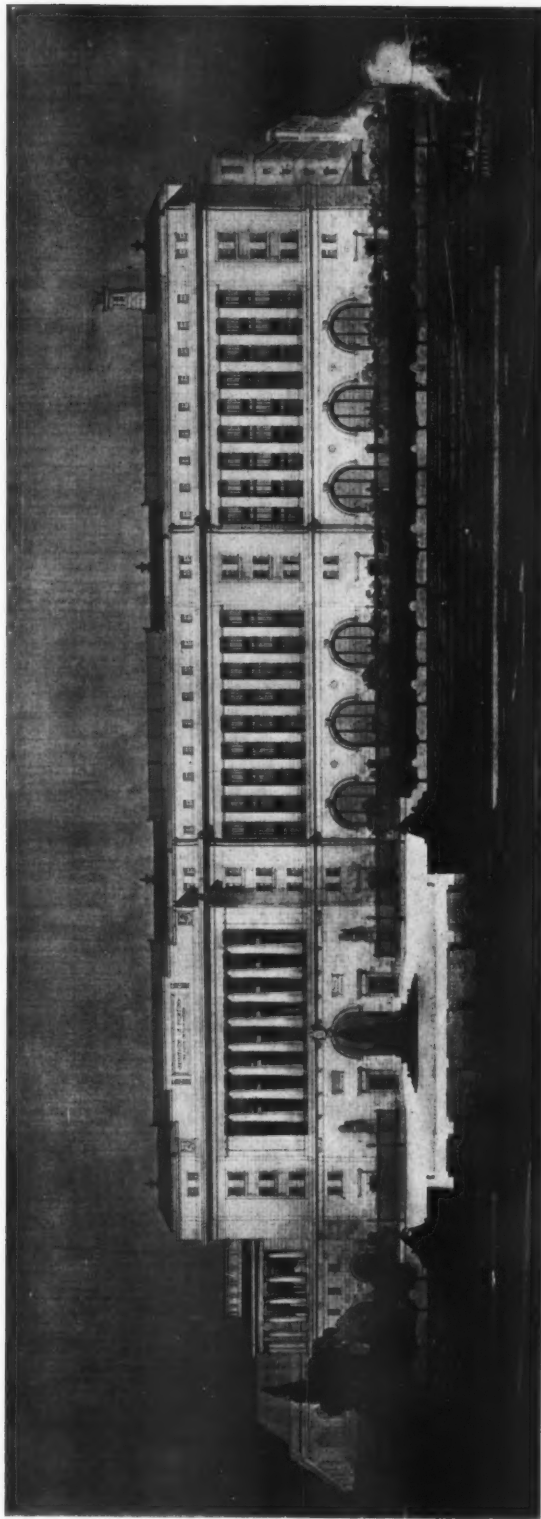


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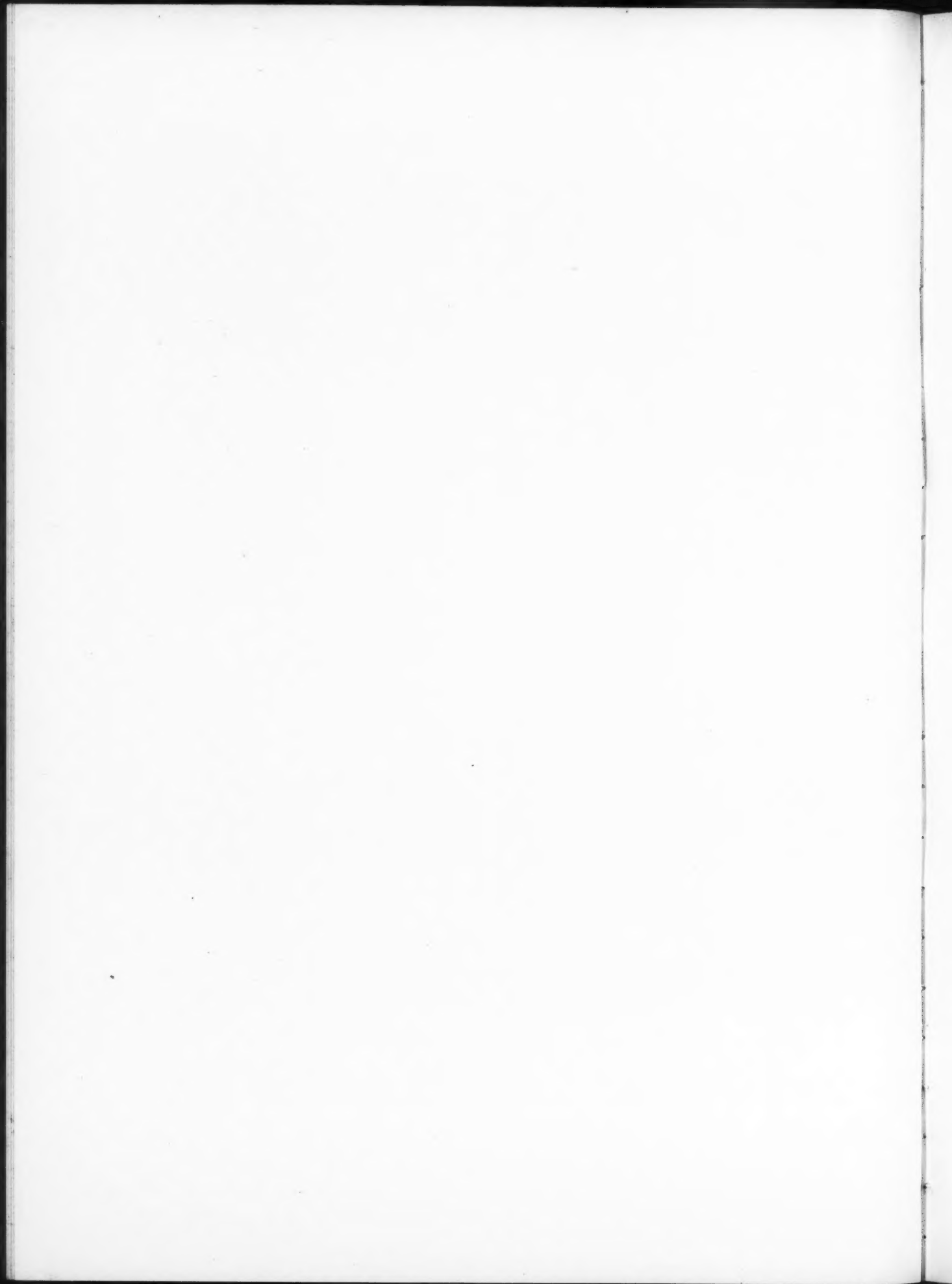


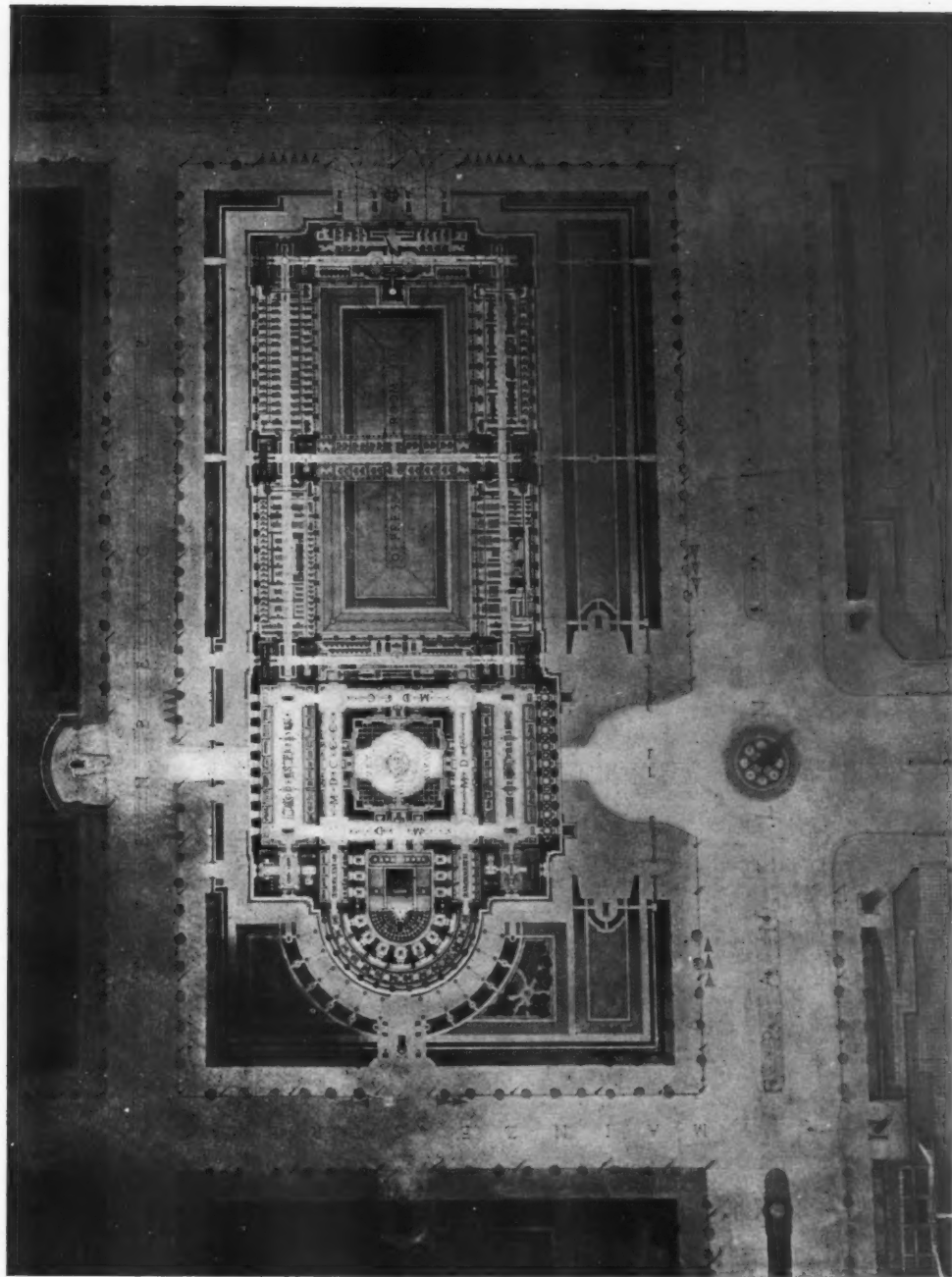
BURNHAM HOYT

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THE PARIS PRIZE COMPETITION



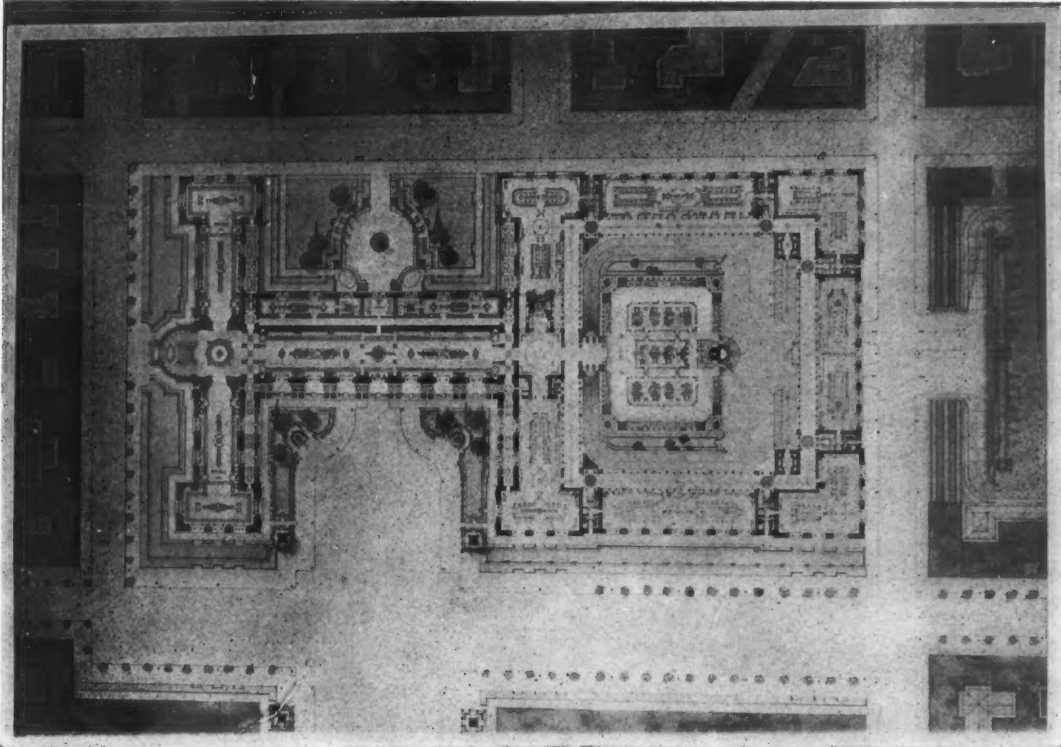


BURNHAM HOYT

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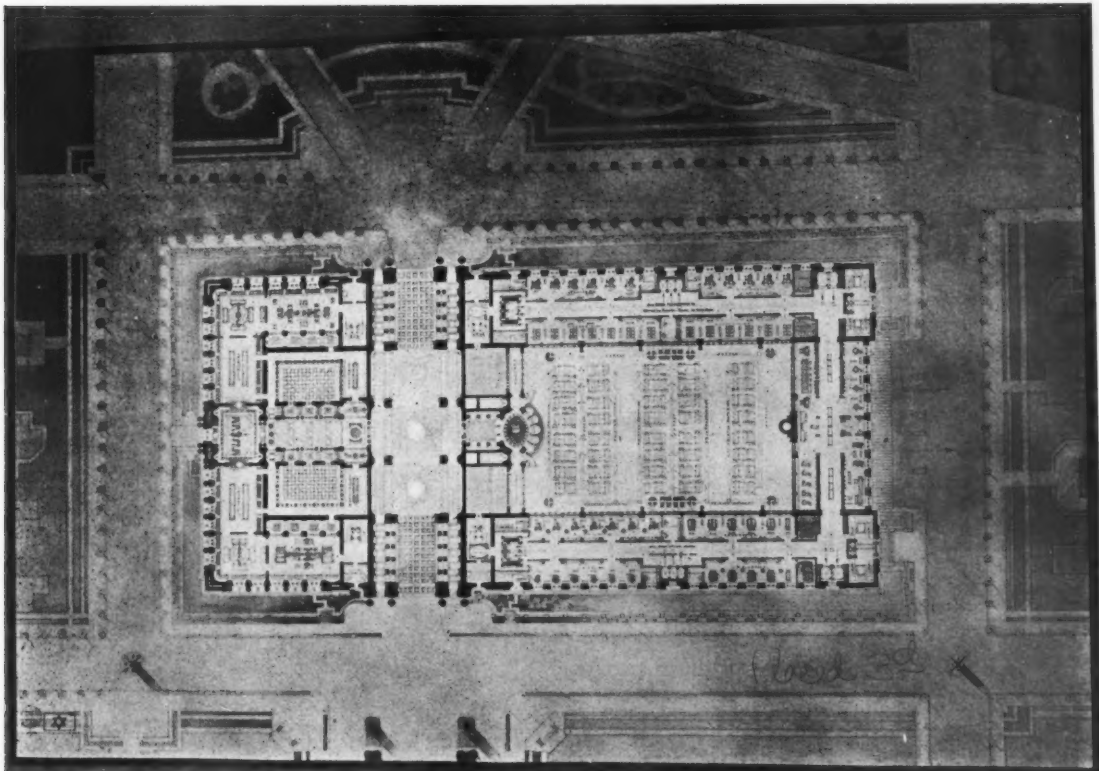
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E. R. CHRYSTIE

PLACED FOURTH

ATELIER HORNPOSTEL



J. MOSCOWITZ

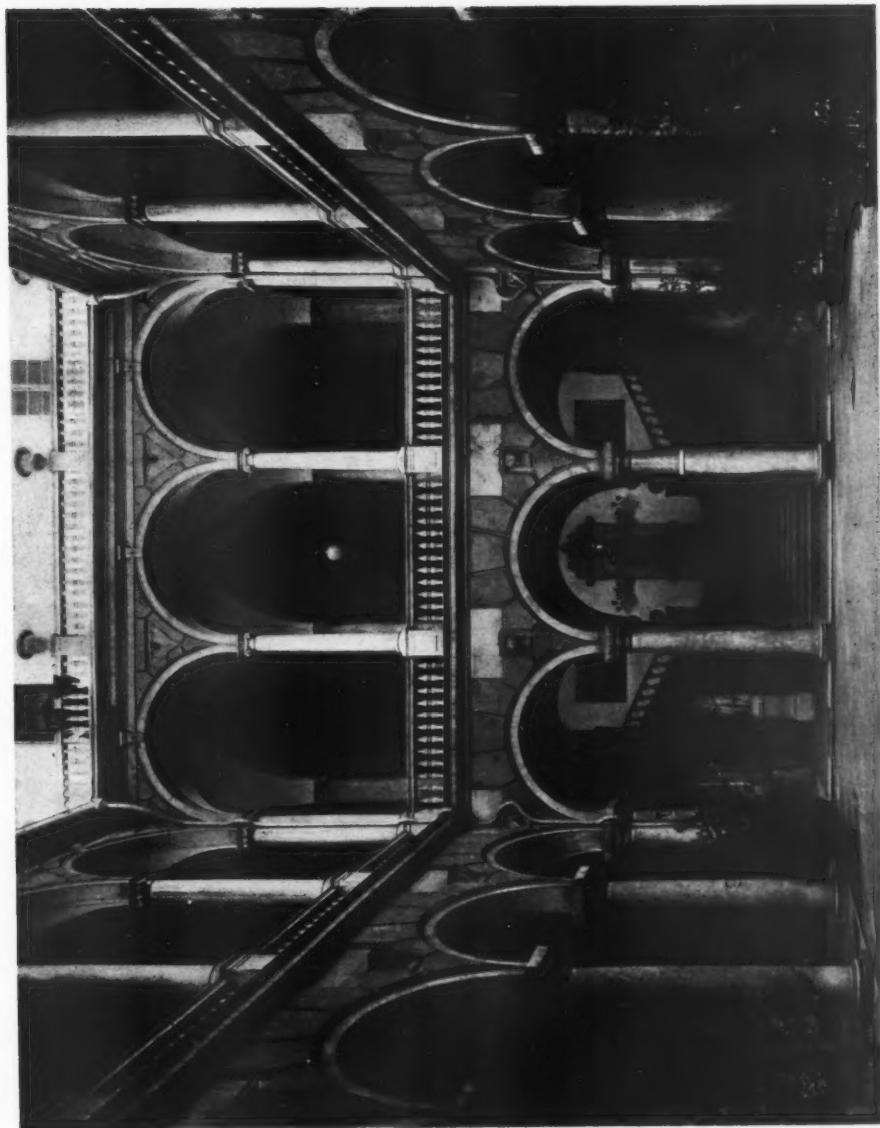
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ATELIER BOSWORTH

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THE PARIS PRIZE COMPETITION



THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



COURT OF THE MUNICIPIO (FORMERLY PALAZZO DORIA-TURSI 1564), GENOA, ITALY
ROCCO LURAGO, ARCHITECT