

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOLUME CIV

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1913

NUMBER 1965

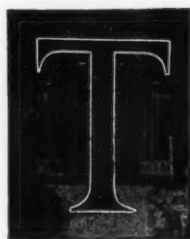


FIG. 1.—CHIMNEY PIECE ON GROUND FLOOR, TATTERSHALL CASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE, ENGLAND

THE BRICK FIREPLACE

By GEORGE J. JERVIS

"Sir, he made a chimney in my father's house and the bricks are alive at this day to testify it."—Henry VI, Part II, Act IV, Scene II.



THE importance in which the people of mediæval times held the chimney is demonstrated by the fact that in many cases they followed the rule of first building the brick stack and then erecting the half-timbered house around the stack. The old brick fireplace was indeed the keynote of old-time hospitality. Its inviting ingle-nook, being the rallying place for comfort

and for council, came to be recognized as the most important part of the entire house. Those of us who have had the opportunity of viewing some of the old manor halls of England, must have noticed that the Great Hall fireplace was quite a dominant feature, and helped to a very large extent to give that air of comfort which pervades the living rooms of those old-time houses.

It has been claimed that from the exterior appearance of a house one may form some opinion of the individuality of the owner.

Copyright, 1913, by The American Architect



FIG. 2.—FIREPLACE IN WILTWYCK INN,
KINGSTON, N. Y.
MR. MYRON S. TELLER, ARCHITECT

If this is true, how much better may we judge this by the impression conveyed by the appearance of the interior?

How often do we hear people speak of some cozy home which they have visited, where some effect which at first they can hardly explain has impressed itself on their mind and, on later thought, find that it is not just some particular pattern of rug, shade of color or a comfortable chair, but the air of cheerfulness which has impregnated the atmosphere of that particular home.

A well-designed fireplace is synonymous of cheerfulness and warmth, and this is not dependent on the fact of there being a fire upon its hearth, but because of its appearance as regards design and color scheme, thus making it part and parcel of the room itself.

A comfortable arm chair

needs not to be occupied to give an air of restfulness and comfort, and so, too, an appropriate fireplace may give an air of warmth to the room even with no fire upon its hearth tiles.

The mere fact that a house is heated by a furnace need not prevent the idea of installing a fireplace in at least one of the rooms, especially the living room, for it is well known that an open fireplace in a house, even in the absence of an actual fire, ensures better ventilation and helps to warm the house more quickly by drawing the cold air from the floor and thus allowing the warm air which has naturally ascended to the ceiling to descend and warm the lower part of the room.

Some of us have had the misfortune to see fireplaces which were built of such unprepossessing material and so dreary and cold in appearance that even the firelight itself has only served to intensify their ugliness. The charming lines of the old Colonial fireplace in a room of that particular style with its wood mantel of white or mahogany, should be the most distinctive and artistic feature of its decoration, and yet the writer has known cases where the brick specified have been of perfectly smooth glazed and new-looking surface and in color a large spotted yellow buff.

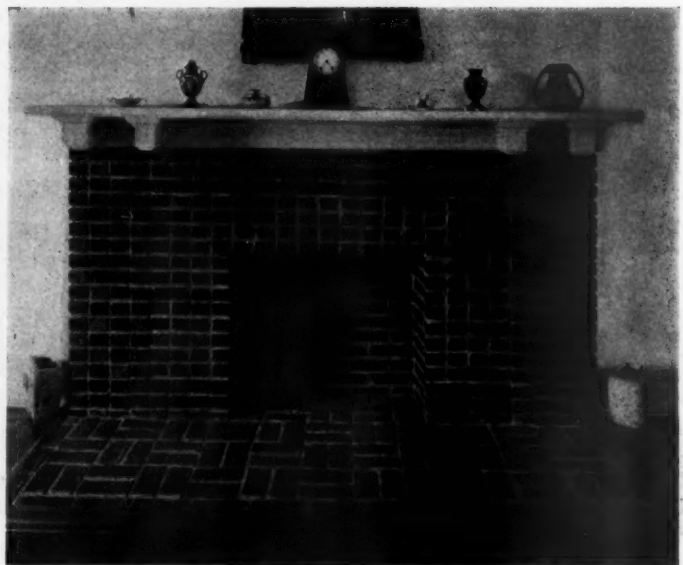


FIG. 3.—FIREPLACE IN A HOUSE AT GLEN RIDGE, N. J.
MR. ROBERT A. PRYOR, ARCHITECT



FIG. 5.—A BEDROOM IN THE JAMES FENIMORE COOPER HOUSE, COOPERSTOWN, N. Y.

Bricks absolutely incongruous both in color and finish and which, whatever their value as a facing for the exterior of a building, were absolutely impossible for any interior decoration, much less Colonial.

Some years ago, one of the greatest disadvantages as regards an artistic fireplace was the fact that in many cases the lining of the fireplace had to be carried out in a different and inharmonious shade of brick from that used in the face or front, the reason being that more often than not the brick chosen for the facing of the fireplace would not stand the fire and so fire-brick had to be used for the linings.

To-day brick of various shades are being manufactured which may very safely be used for the entire facial structure, that is to say, the front hearth, underfire and lining, and the entire fireplace can thus be built of shades which harmonize with its surrounding interior decoration which will be a credit to both the owner and the manufacturer alike.

It is the grain of the wood which gives so much character to each particular wood finish. It is the light and shades which brings out color value of silks and velvet. Can we not appreciate then the value of different shades and texture in clay products such as brick and tile?

The variety of designs possible to-day in the brick fireplace are innumerable,—Gothic, Tudor and other classical forms can be carried out in lines and color scheme to suit existing conditions; but while the master of the house may well rely upon his architect's suggestion as regards the outlines of design, the question of color may invite the severest criticism from the lady of the house; for to be satisfactory it must harmonize with and be part of that decorative scheme which she had in mind.

And this is where face bricks of various shades fulfill their mission.

For a colonial fireplace which, by the way, presents the minimum amount of brickwork, one may select a brick with a centre of subdued red tones with brown edges which is obtained by fire flashing during the process of manufacture, and it should be neither too rough or too smooth. Thus, by its surface and color, it will show a cer-



FIG. 4.—FIREPLACE LAID IN FLEMISH BOND, OF RED AND GREY BRICK WITH CREAM MORTAR JOINTS

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

tain appearance of age consistent with the period it represents.

The illustrations to this article of some recently erected fireplaces will give some idea of the diversity of design possible in this material. The small unpretentious

throughout, a very pleasing variation of pattern is obtained by recessing a portion of the field around the opening, these particular brick being laid up with flush joints while the rest of the joints are raked. The hearth is composed of standard sized brick laid on the flat.

The large fireplace in Fig. 4 was built of rough textured brick of various shades of warm gray.

In Fig. 5 we have a fireplace of true Colonial design, this fireplace being an absolute reproduction of an old Colonial

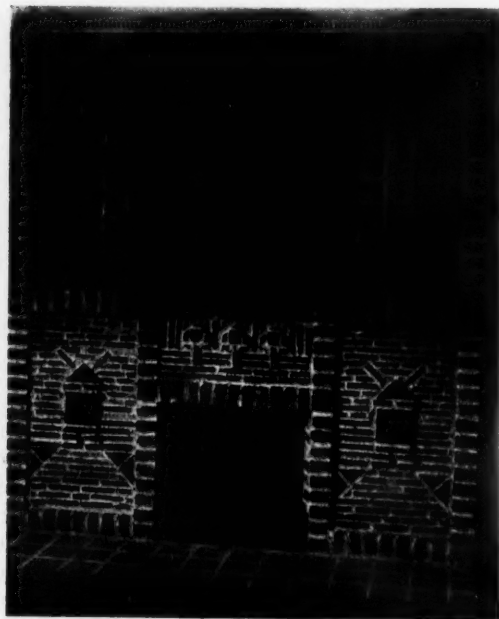


FIG. 6.—FIREPLACE IN A HOUSE IN FAR ROCKAWAY, NEW YORK. RED BRICK, GRAY JOINTS

bedroom fireplace, one more decorative for the Living Room and a fireplace of more massive proportions for the Studio or Den.

The fireplace should be representative of the room it occupies, and its color scheme should harmonize with the wood trim and the color of the walls.

Fig. 1 illustrates one of the celebrated old fireplaces at Tattershall Castle, Lincolnshire, England. This particular one was situated on the ground floor and was built about 1430 to 1440.

The face of the fireplace is stone, the lining being of brick with an attempt at decoration by working a kind of herring-bone design across the back with a thin brick or tile.

Fig. 2 shows an interesting design for a Hall fireplace.

In Fig. 3 is to be noticed a quaint and artistic fireplace laid up of headers, and although this same unit of size is used



FIG. 7.—BRICK FIREPLACE IN HOTEL SEWARD, PORTLAND, ORE.

MR. W. C. KNIGHTON, ARCHITECT

fireplace erected over one hundred and fifty years ago.

Fig. 6 was designed for a Nursery fireplace, the small pieces being cut from rough tile. The field of the fireplace was composed of various shades of gray buff, the general effect being that of old ivory. For the

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

windmill, dull red tile were used, greenish brown brick for the trees and a purple blue brick for the strip of sea on the horizon line.

Fig. 7 shows an artistic design in brick and tile.

There is one very important point regarding the mortar joints which should not be overlooked, namely, the question of color. Avoid a glaring white, and if a light joint is required, let it be of a cream white or a warm or cold gray.

Many fail to realize the fact that the mortar joint is a dominant feature of brickwork and especially so in the case of the brick fireplace, the details of which being so near to the eye, are particularly noticeable.

In conclusion, let us remember that at all times the fireplace in the room is or should be an artistic part of the whole scheme and during the long winter evenings when the logs blaze and crackle on the hearth, we may realize the truth of the couplet,

*"Fireside happiness to hours of ease,
Blest with that charm, the certainty to please."*

COMPETITIVE DESIGNS, CINCINNATI COURT HOUSE COMPETITION

WE reproduce in this issue the premiated design by Messrs. Rankin, Kellogg & Crane, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the second prize design by Mr. A. Lincoln Fechheimer, of Cincinnati, Ohio, in the competition recently held for a court house to be located at Cincinnati.

The Commission in charge of the competition and which will be continued as in charge of the building during construction, were unanimous in endorsing the selection of the Jury of Award. The President of the Commission, Mr. James A. Green, is reported as stating:—"The Commission has but one regret, and that is that we are not to build fifteen court houses in as many counties—all the designs submitted are good."

The report of the Jury of Award states:—"We have held in all, nine separate sessions on four consecutive days. We received from the professional adviser, Professor Warren P. Laird, fifteen sets of drawings, declared by him to conform to

the mandatory requirements of the program. We have carefully examined all the drawings in every set submitted, and in selecting and rating the designers, we have acted under Section 12 of the program, as holding them to define the professional and artistic capacities of their respective authors for dealing with this especial problem as it may be regarded from all points of view, including that of costs. Design No. 12 designated as 'Premiated,' shows such evidence of professional and artistic capacity on the part of the author as will insure in his hands a worthy and enduring monument."

The Jury of Award was composed of Professor James Knox Taylor, Professor Paul P. Cret, and Mr. H. Van Buren Magonigle.

In addition to the two authors whose designs are illustrated, the following thirteen authors were included in the competition: Louis Dittoe, Holabird & Roche, Cass Gilbert, Harry Hake, Samuel Hanneford & Sons, Garber & Woodward, The Allyn Co., Bansmith & Drainie, Tietig & Lee, James Gamble Rogers, Werner, Weber & Atkins, Palmer, Hornbostel & Jones and Carrere & Hastings.

It is gratifying to note the outcome of this important competition, as constituting a further justification of the well defined rules provided by the American Institute of Architects' Competitions' Committee, for the regulation of these matters.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND A PROPOSED MINISTRY OF THE FINE-ARTS

A BILL to establish a Ministry of the Fine-Arts was introduced in the British Parliament some time ago. Its promoters, anxious that action should be taken and the matter brought to a definite point, asked the Prime Minister if he would consider the advisability of establishing an office whose functions would be to control matters relating to the Fine-Arts. The reply, very briefly and bluntly made was to the effect that "the suggestion was not a practicable one." It is difficult to imagine a line of reasoning that would arrive at such a

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

conclusion, especially as for many years there has been a Minister of Fine-Arts in France, the result of whose administration has been to conserve the cause of art and to foster its growth. With so good an example near at hand, the reply of the "Government" must be taken as representing merely the political point of view and with no reference to the artistic needs of the people. Meantime a very desirable movement must halt until a stronger public sentiment can be brought to bear.

While in this country we are also backward in these matters, the establishment of a National Fine Arts Commission during a recent presidential administration is a long step in the right direction. The work of this commission has already been valuable in saving the country from many bad examples that would under earlier conditions have been accepted by the Government. Yet, it would seem, that the artistic needs of the people are in many ways as important as necessities already safeguarded by other departments of the National welfare, presided over by cabinet officers.

The failure of Parliament to regard the institution of a Ministry of the Fine-Arts as "practicable," has aroused protest in England. It is hoped that this may lead to continued agitation of the subject, and thus eventually secure more serious consideration.

JOHN W. ALEXANDER ON THE LACK OF ARTISTIC APPRECIATION IN THIS COUNTRY

IN a letter addressed to the editor of the *Nation*, and printed in the July 31st issue of that journal, Mr. John W. Alexander, President of the National Academy, takes objection to the attitude of the public towards art, and particularly that of the daily press, whose columns he states, only find a place to chronicle art matters when the prices paid for pictures have reached large figures. He regards the attitude towards art in this country as based entirely on its commercial aspect.

The opinions of a man of Mr. Alexander's high reputation are of course worthy of respectful consideration. We suggest, however, that it might be well to bear in mind that the less thoughtful of his readers may be misled by the opinions of one who quite naturally regards the question as it relatively affects the art he practices.

The shortcomings that are noted as characteristic of the general public are the result of conditions purely political. Governmental patronage of the Fine-Arts has been an established fact in France and Germany for many years, and the conditions Mr. Alexander so warmly approves of in those countries are the result of this patronage.

In this country we have no appreciation by legislative bodies to any great extent, of matters pertaining to the Fine-Arts. The opportunities for education are therefore in the most part restricted to the efforts of wealthy collectors through whose influence certain cities have been induced to provide art museums. Collections housed in these buildings are either largely given or loaned by individuals and in this way such interest as we have in art is stimulated and kept alive.

Certainly our National Government has done little to help along this work. The attempt on the part of the present Congress to place restrictions on the importation of art is evidence of a further lack of appreciation on the part of the Government, but Mr. Alexander apparently fails to realize its significance as affecting the furtherance of good art and regards it as directly affecting the interest of painting as a profession.

Mr. Alexander's attention might also be directed to the fact that the governing bodies of representative art societies in Europe are much more active in all these matters than similar bodies in this country. As President of our leading art organization he can, we believe, make the Academy a more potent factor than it has been in the past in the attainment of conditions he regards as desirable.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

Founded 1876

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT (INC.)

No. 50 Union Square, New York
(Fourth Avenue and 17th Street)

G. E. SLY, PRESIDENT

E. J. ROSENCRANS, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Address all communications to "THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT"

SUBSCRIBERS' RATES:

In the United States and Possessions (Porto Rico, Hawaii,
Philippine Islands and Canal Zone),
Mexico and Cuba

TEN DOLLARS PER YEAR, POSTAGE PAID
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES . . . \$12.00 PER YEAR
SINGLE COPIES (Regular Issues), 25 CENTS

CHICAGO OFFICE, Hearst Building
Page A. Robinson, Western Manager

Entered at the Post-office, New York, as Second-class Matter

VOL. CIV AUGUST 20, 1913 No. 1965

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE LOSS

STARTLING conditions have been reported by the fire-inspector who recently completed a quiet investigation of the Ashe Building, New York, where two years ago 146 factory girls lost their lives in a fire and the resulting panic. According to the statements made nearly every law of the fire department applying to such buildings has been seemingly ignored. At the time of the inspection oil-soaked refuse lying on the floor invited sparks from lighted cigarettes, and as a supplement to this hazard, the principal exits from some of the workrooms were locked. In another building the entrance to the fire-escape was boarded up.

This inspection seems to have been one of those spasmodic occurrences which always follow in the wake of such disasters as that at Binghamton, N. Y., recently, when over fifty workers lost their lives. It appears that at the Binghamton factory the management was not criminally negligent except in regard to the ordinance requiring the frequent removal of waste, an ordinance the existence of which it pleaded ignorance. Excepting for this, the laws seem to have been carefully complied with. The four-story building of

"slow burning" construction was provided with the stairways and fire escapes required by law, and fire-drills were held so frequently that the workers regarded them as a nuisance. There was no fire-hose, but nine pails of water were provided to cope with a fire which enveloped the building so rapidly that only about half of its occupants escaped. The manager seems never to have investigated the merits of automatic sprinklers or chemical extinguishers.

Since this disaster, the public press has been eloquent with suggestions, more or less meritorious, for the prevention of such catastrophies in the future. It is certain that factory buildings more than one-story in height, containing highly inflammable goods, should be built of non-combustible material, that the means of exit should be ample to empty the building within a short time and that they should be protected from flame and smoke.

From the unfortunate loss of life so frequently sustained and the dangerous conditions existing so generally in factory buildings whether of "slow-burning" or fireproof construction, it seems obvious that the laws are insufficient guardians of life and property. Thoughtlessness rather than deliberate defiance of law appears to frequently be responsible for these tragedies which periodically arouse men to a sense of responsibility only to relapse within a few months into a lethargy of indifference.

Laws are, after all, only the codified opinions and customs of a part of the people, and that fraction is not always the most intelligent or most desirous of the general welfare. Yet even the well-intentioned factory owner assumes that in following the requirements of the factory law, or that portion of it with which he happens to be familiar, he is discharging all of his obligations to society.

With this well-intentioned owner is the architect's opportunity for improving conditions. If he will take the pains to explain to his client the advantages of sturdy construction, of the fire tower isolated from danger of flame and gases, of automatic sprinklers to extinguish a fire before it can possibly jeopardize the entire building,—if he will explain the insurance value of these or other precautions according

to the problem in hand, irrespective of the requirements of a politician's building code, then the architect will have justified his existence as a personal and professional adviser rather than as a building tool. When the owner's responsibility as the guardian of his employees' lives and safety is explained and the only means of honestly meeting that responsibility made clear to him, no fair-minded client will refuse to consider them. If the prospective client persists in erecting a structure which past experience proves will unduly jeopardize the lives of its inmates, and thus defy the laws of humanity though possibly conforming to those on the statute books, then the architect with a conscience will resign his commission rather than become a party to erecting another charnel-house.

We imagine a few resignations for such reasons would, if the facts became known, have a far-reaching influence on public opinion in the communities where they occurred.

ASTOR HOUSE SITE FOR NEW POST OFFICE

THE plan proposed by the Merchants' Association of New York City to have the United States Government acquire the Astor House site, upon which would be erected the proposed new Post

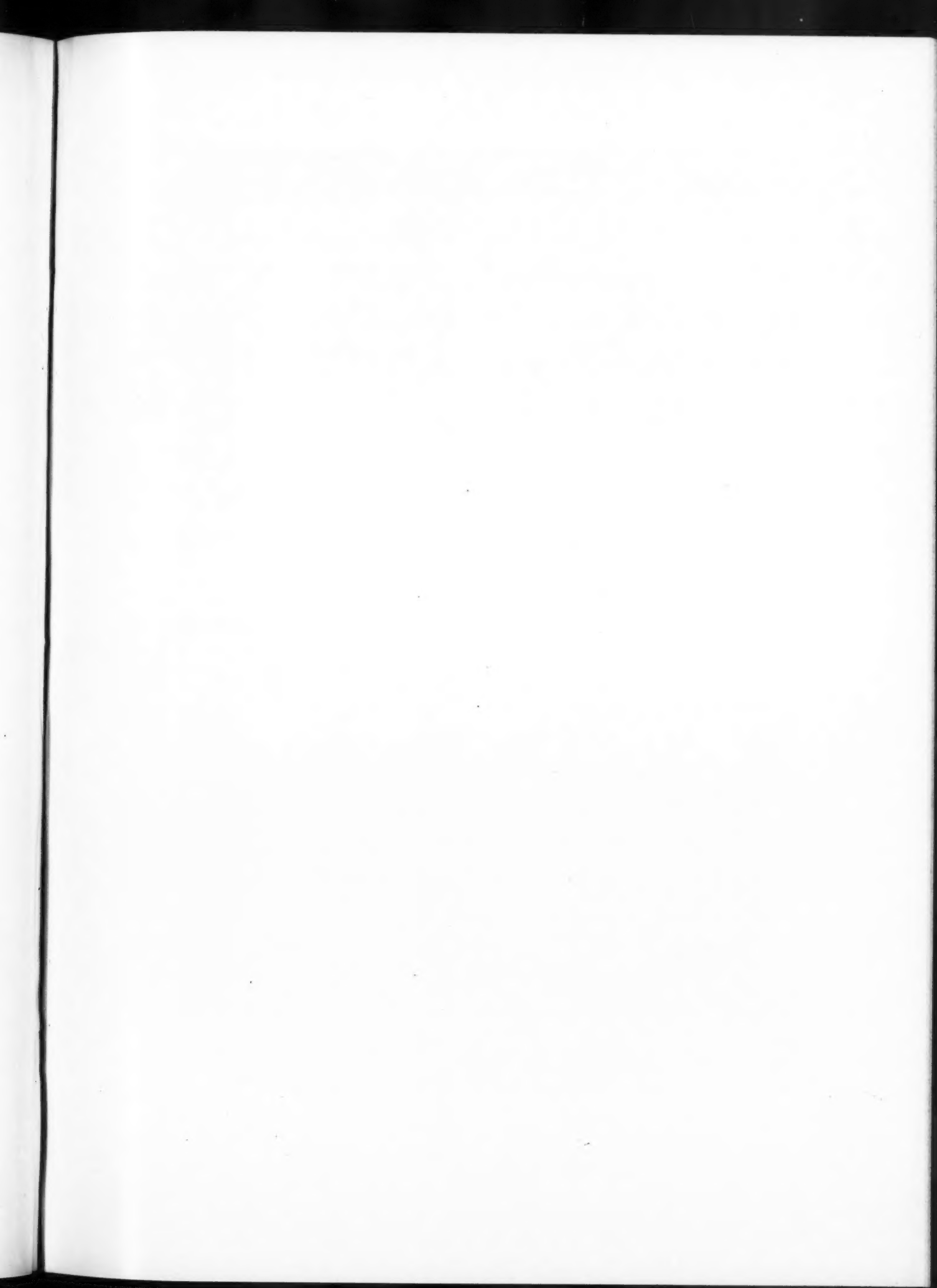
Office, is in every way so commendable that we are in hopes it may be successfully carried forward. This site is directly opposite the present Post Office, and the transfer from the old building to the new could be so readily and economically effected as to work a considerable saving in both time and money.

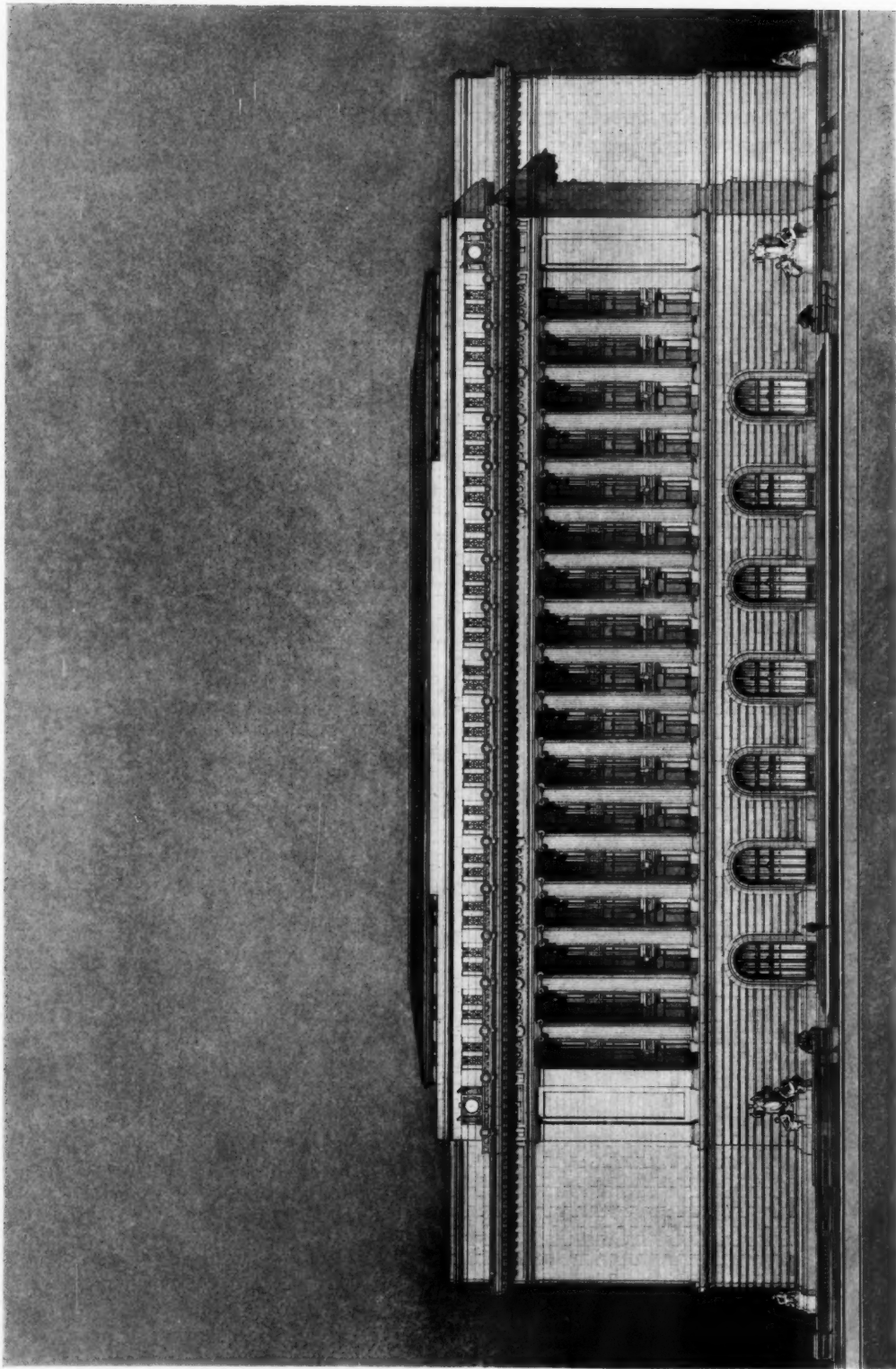
Public sentiment is so largely in favor of the removal of the present unsightly Post Office building and the restoration to park area of the ground on which it stands, that it is difficult to believe that the Government will much longer defer action in the matter, especially in view of the fact that the plan submitted by the Merchants' Association is so very practicable in all its details.

The removal of the present Post Office building would also largely enhance the advantages of the Astor House site, especially in the matter of light and air, and would relieve in a measure the congested conditions now present in this section of the city.

The Government should act promptly lest by delay matters arise that would retard and perhaps prevent this very desirable improvement. That such a thing is possible is well known to many who are cognizant of various well defined improvement schemes that have failed in the past.



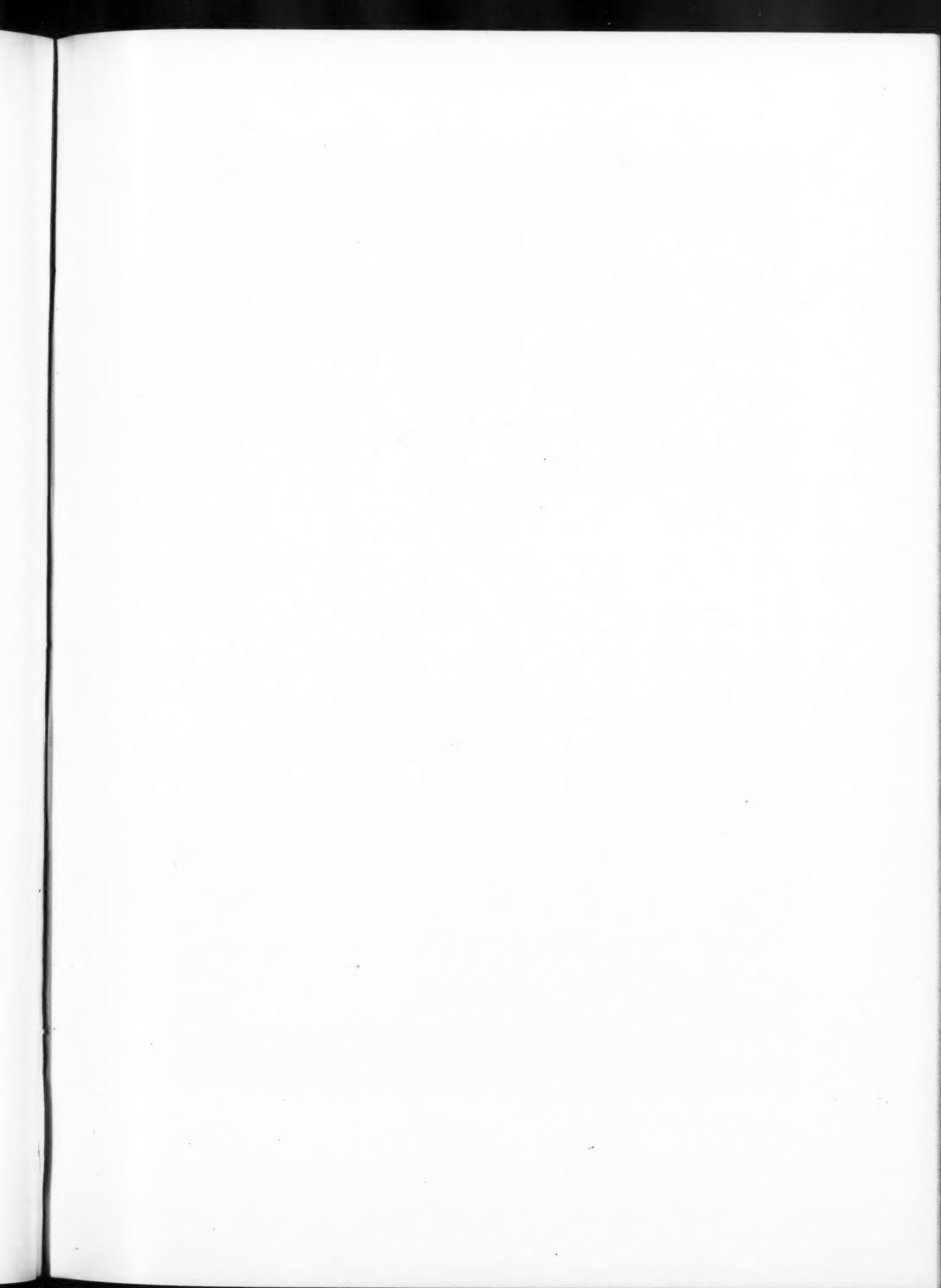




FIRST PRIZE DESIGN—WEST ELEVATION

HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION

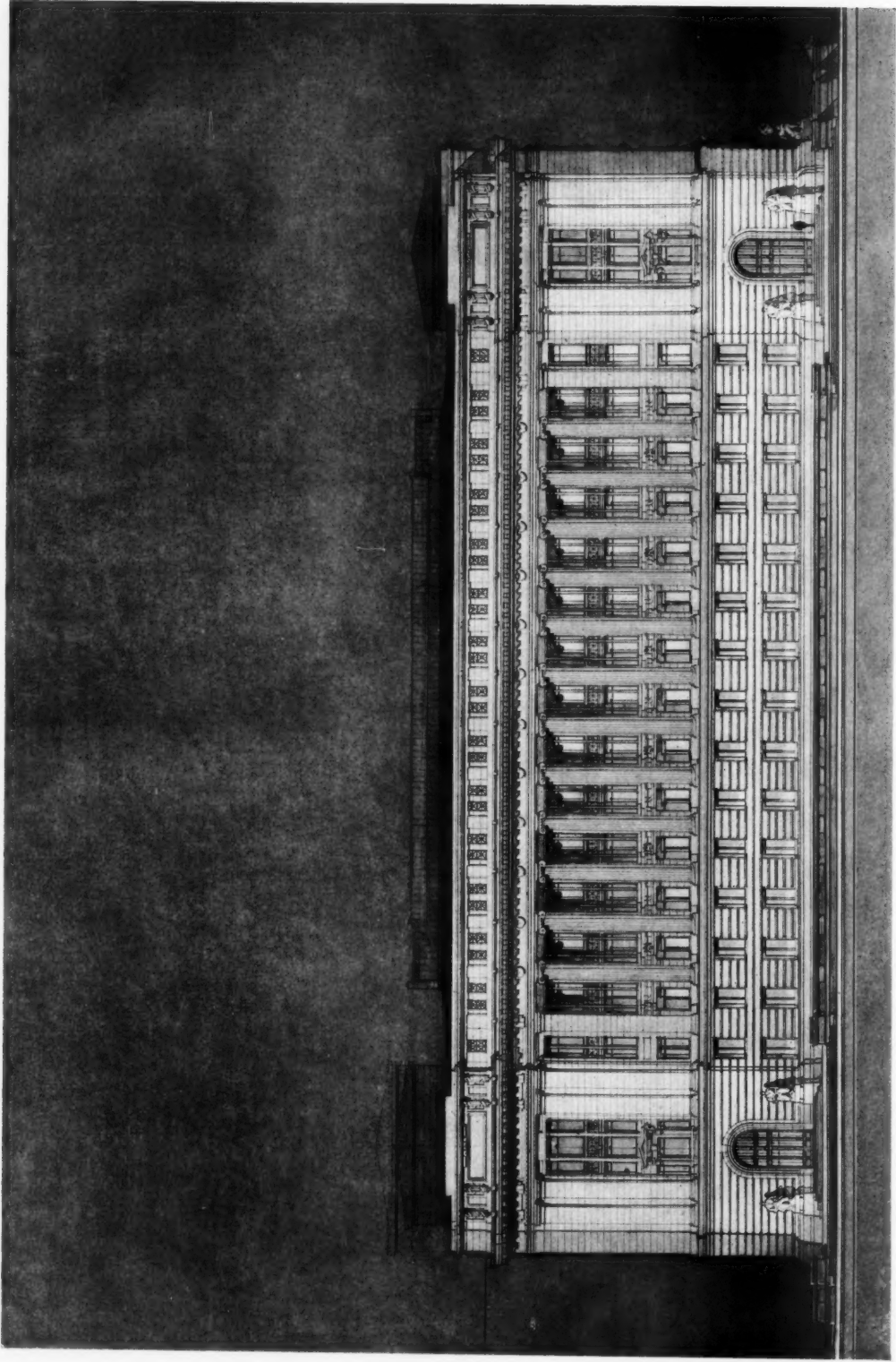
MESSRS. RANKIN, KELLOGG & CRANE, ARCHITECTS



THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOL. CIV, NO. 1965

AUGUST 20, 1913



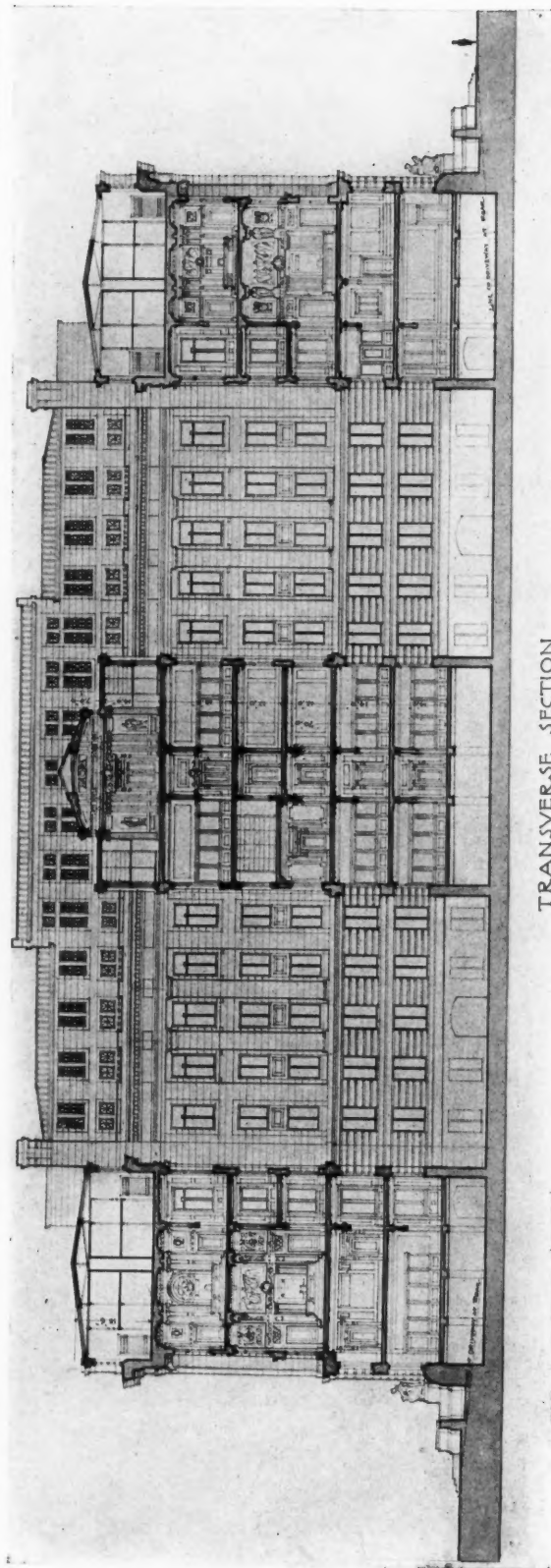
FIRST PRIZE DESIGN—NORTH ELEVATION

HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION
MESSRS. RANKIN, KELLOGG & CRANE, ARCHITECTS

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

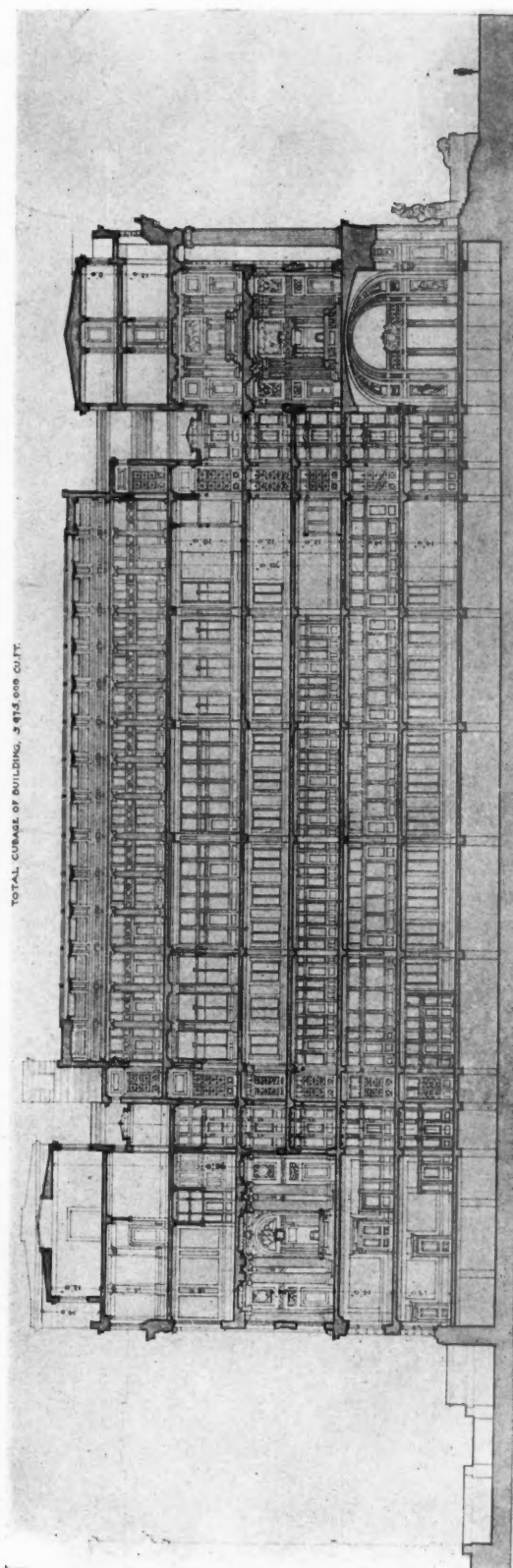
VOL. CIV, NO. 1965

AUGUST 20, 1913



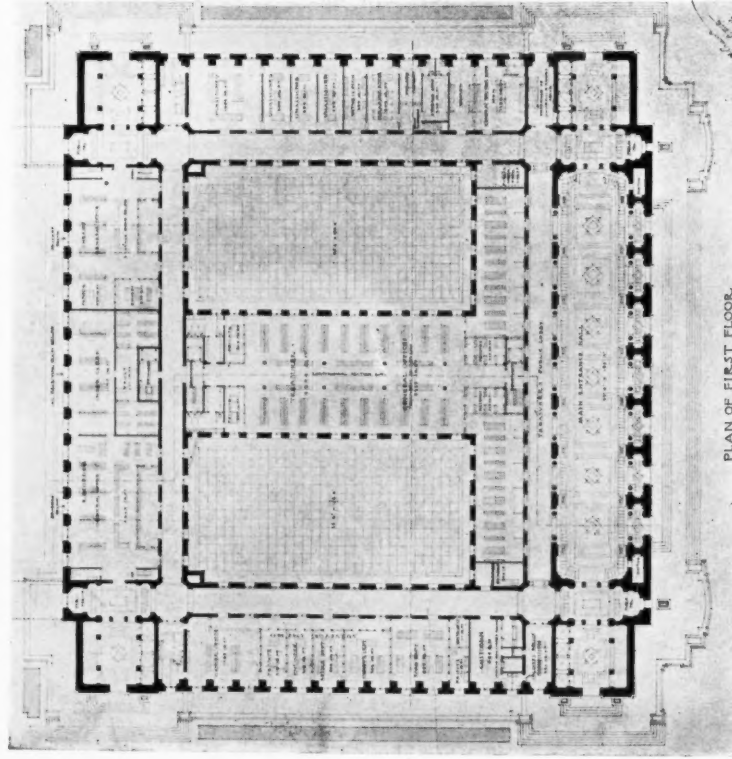
TRANSVERSE SECTION

TOTAL CUBAGE OF BUILDING, 3,915,000 CU. FT.

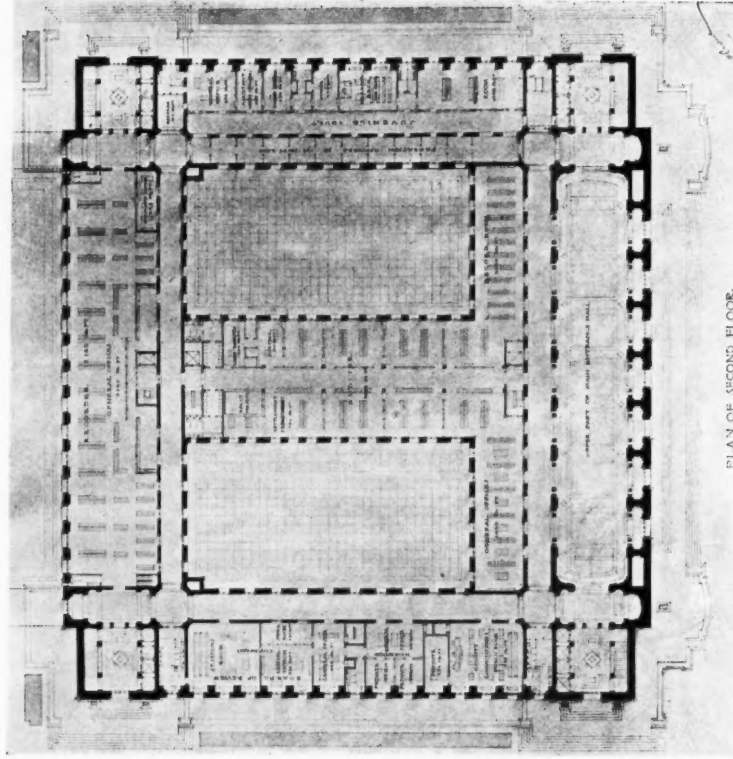


LONGITUDINAL SECTION

HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION
FIRST PRIZE DESIGN
MESSRS. RANKIN, KELLOGG & CRANE, ARCHITECTS



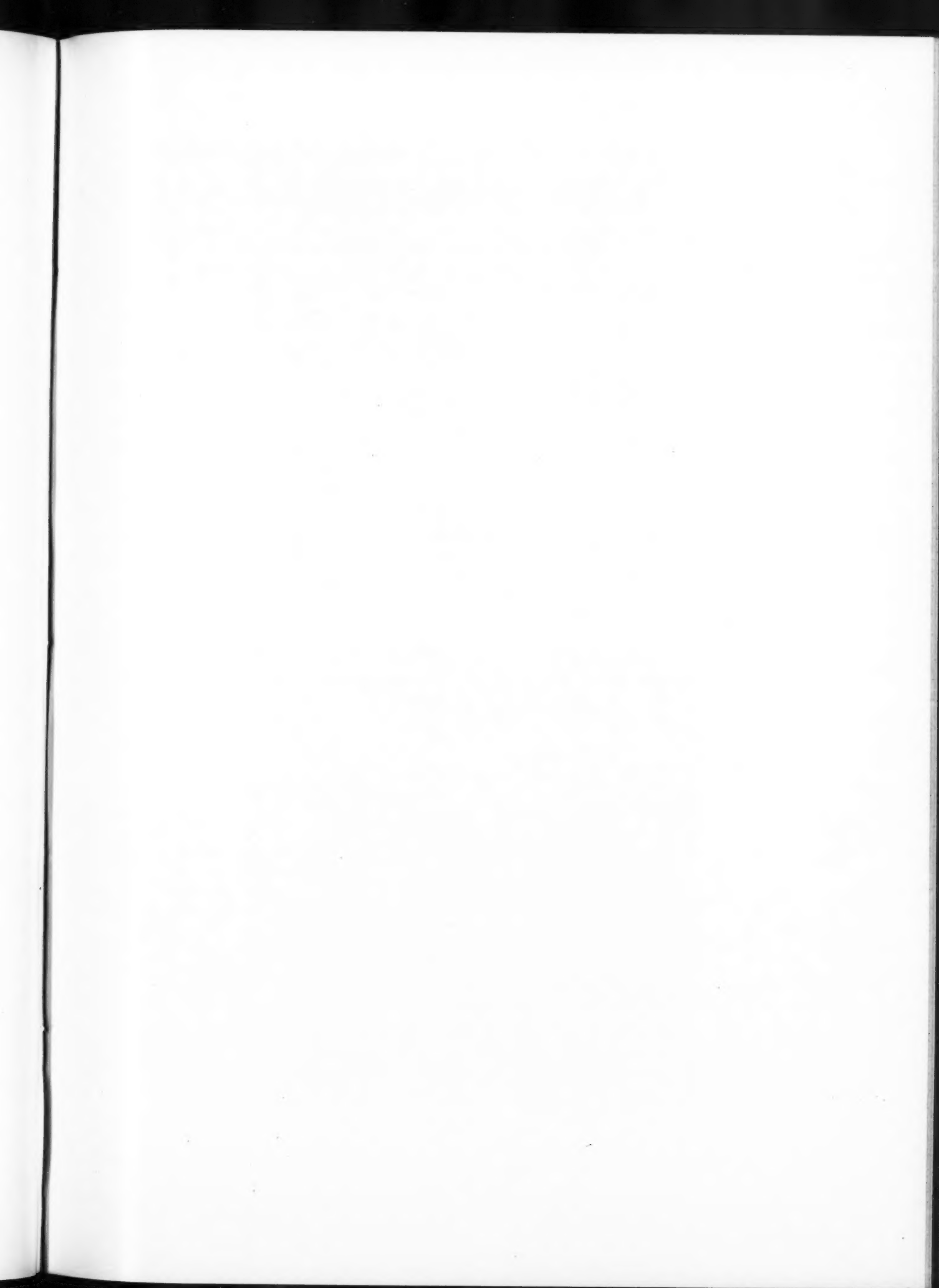
PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

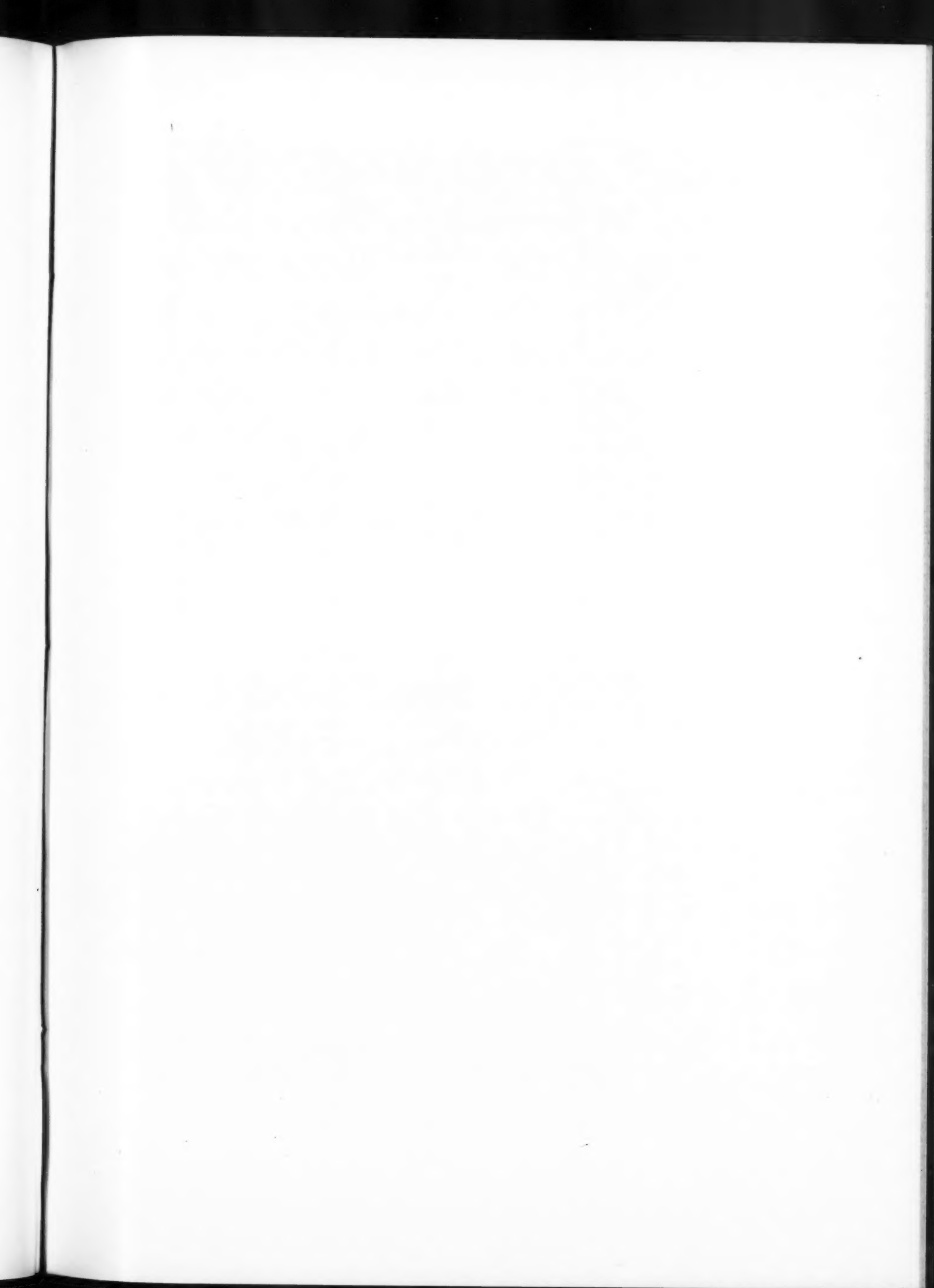


PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

FIRST PRIZE DESIGN

HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION
MESSRS. RANKIN, KELLOGG & CRANE, ARCHITECTS

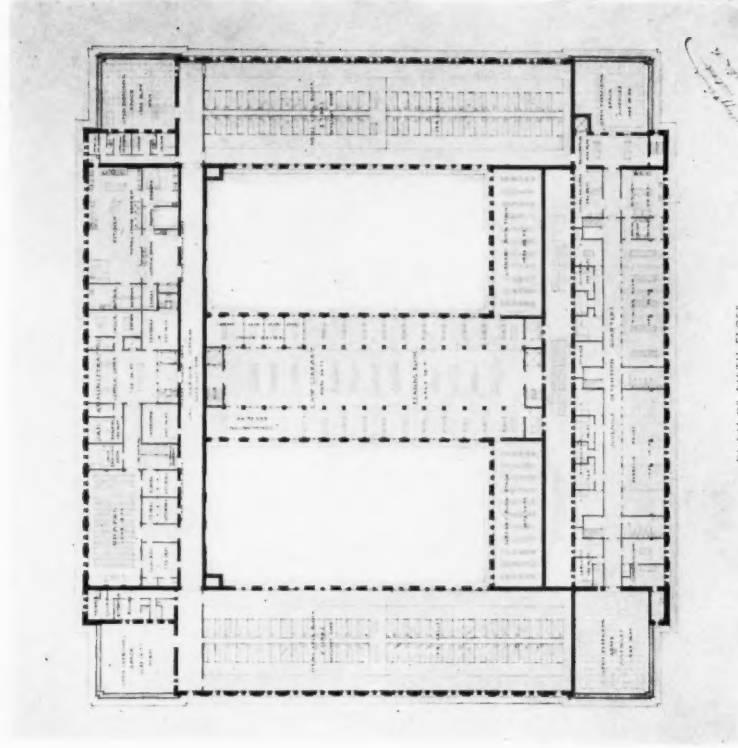
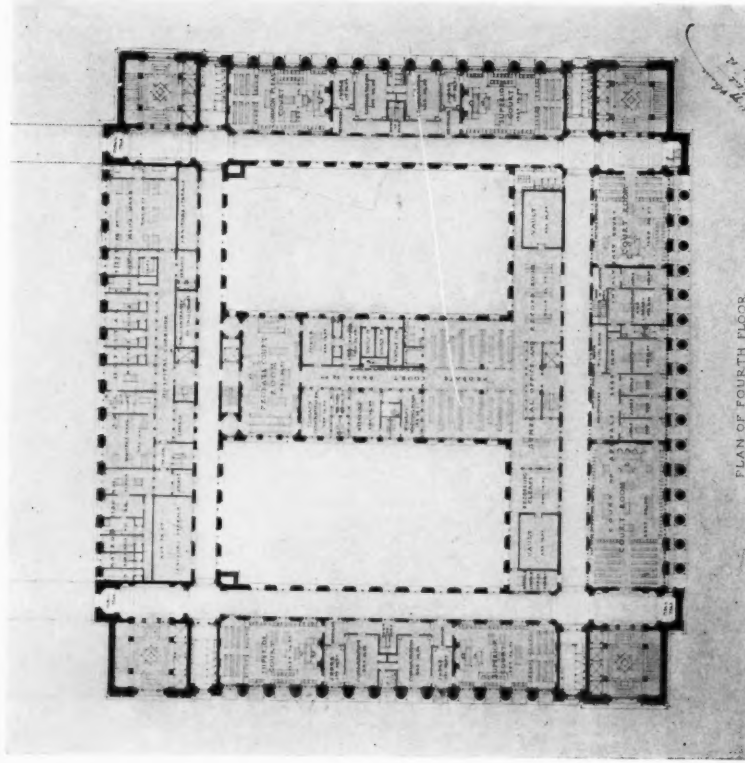




THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOL. CIV. NO. 1965

AUGUST 20, 1913

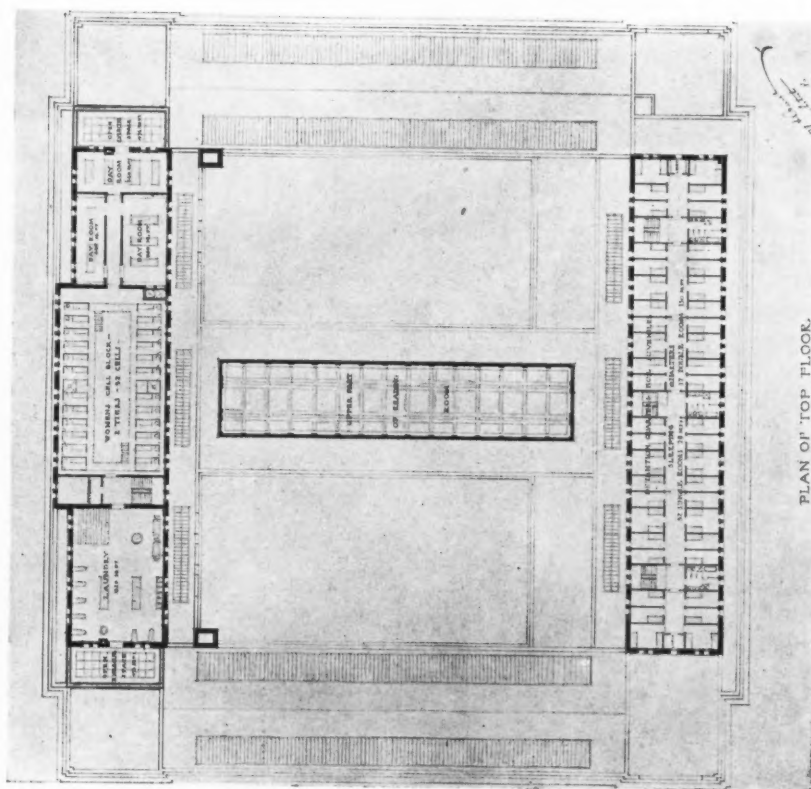


FIRST PRIZE DESIGN

HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION

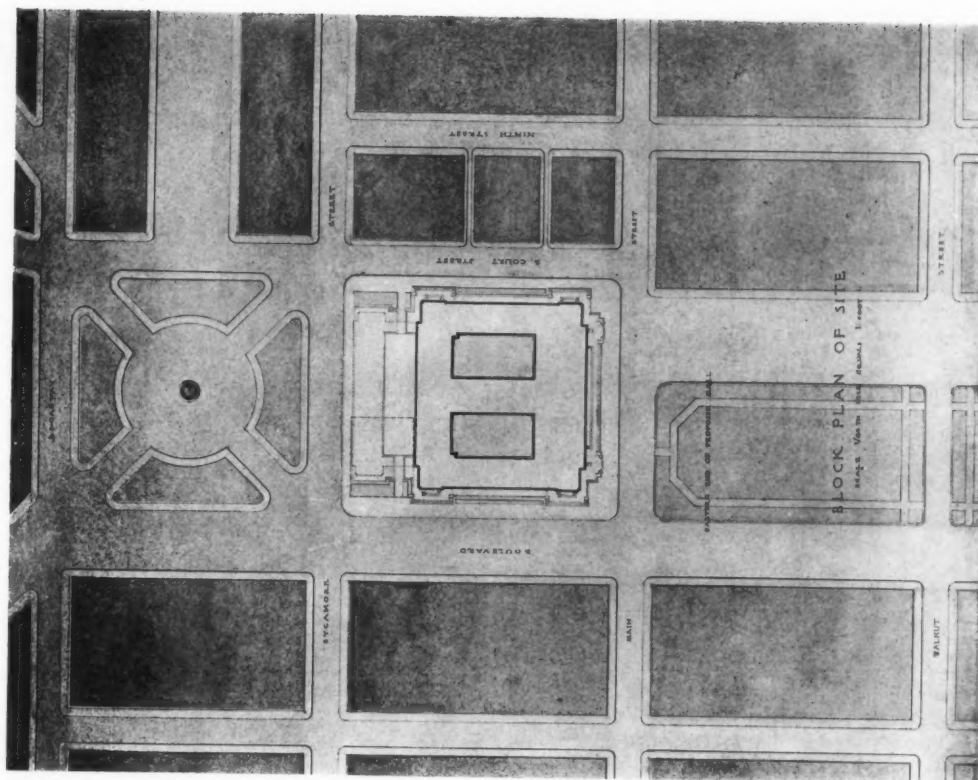
MESSRS. RANKIN, KELLOGG & CRANE, ARCHITECTS

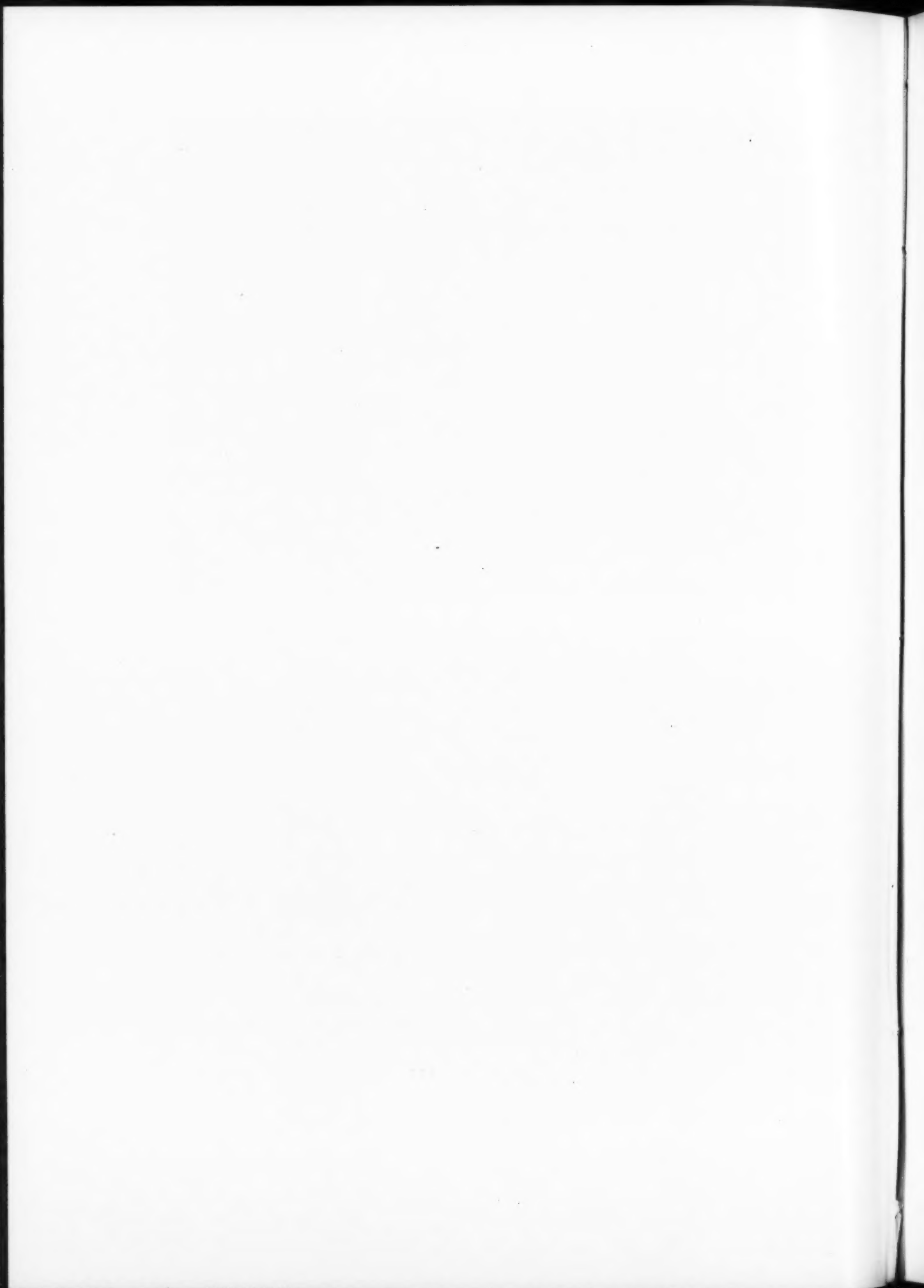
THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



**HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE
COMPETITION**

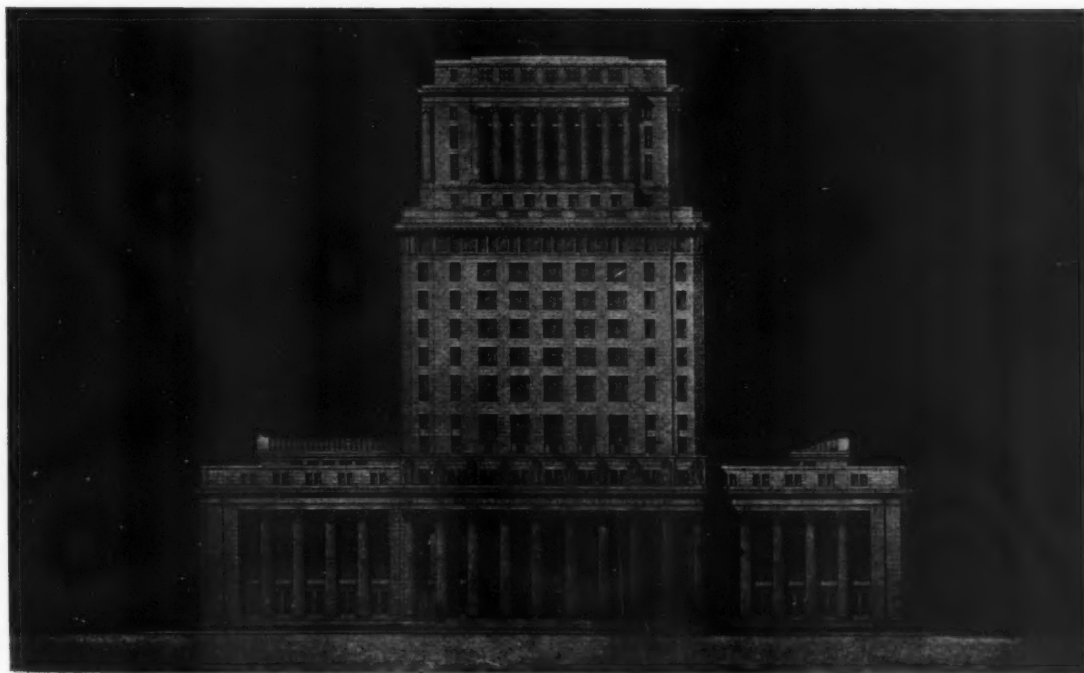
MESSE^{RS}. RANKIN, KELLOGG & CRANE, ARCHITECTS







NORTH ELEVATION

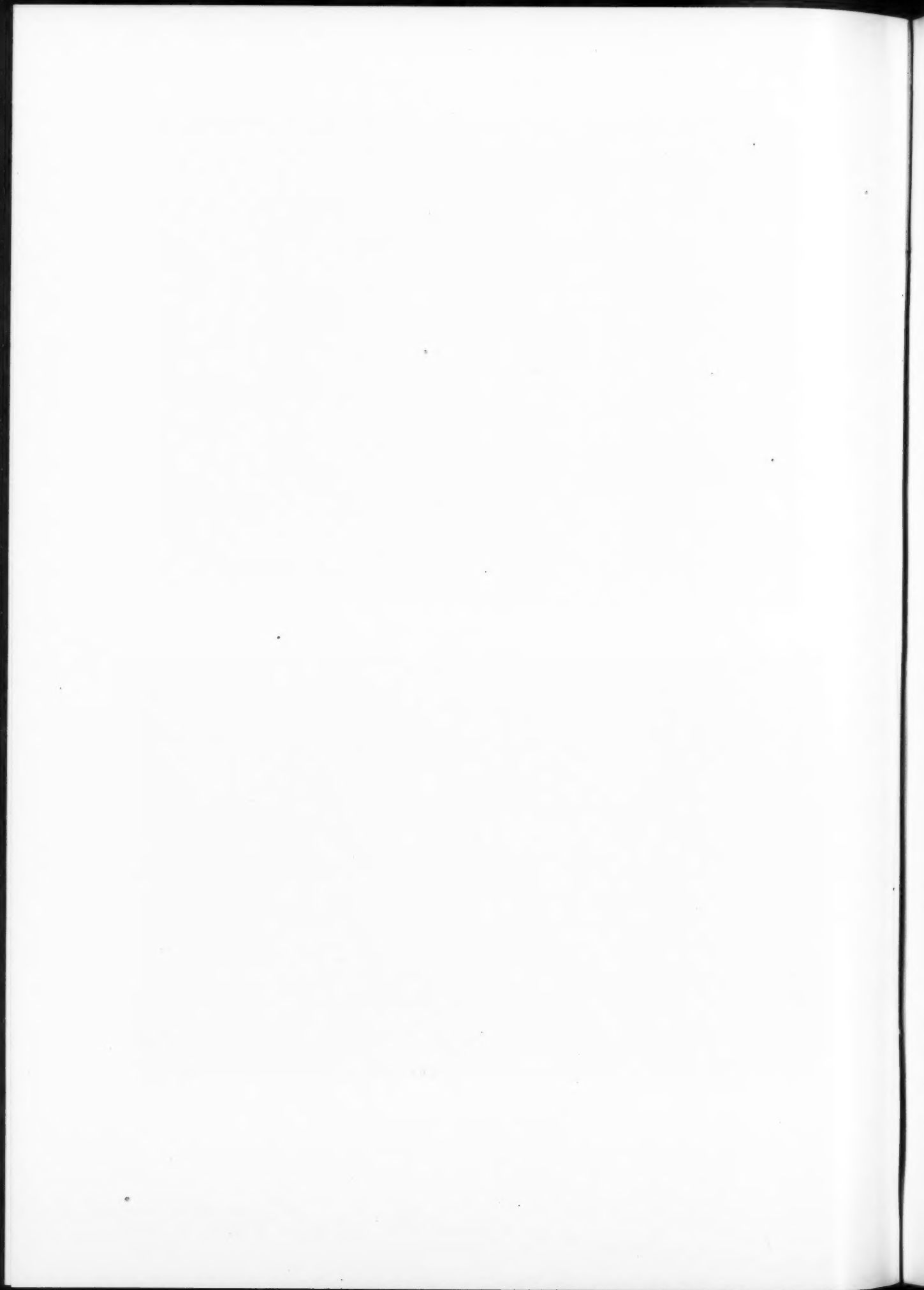


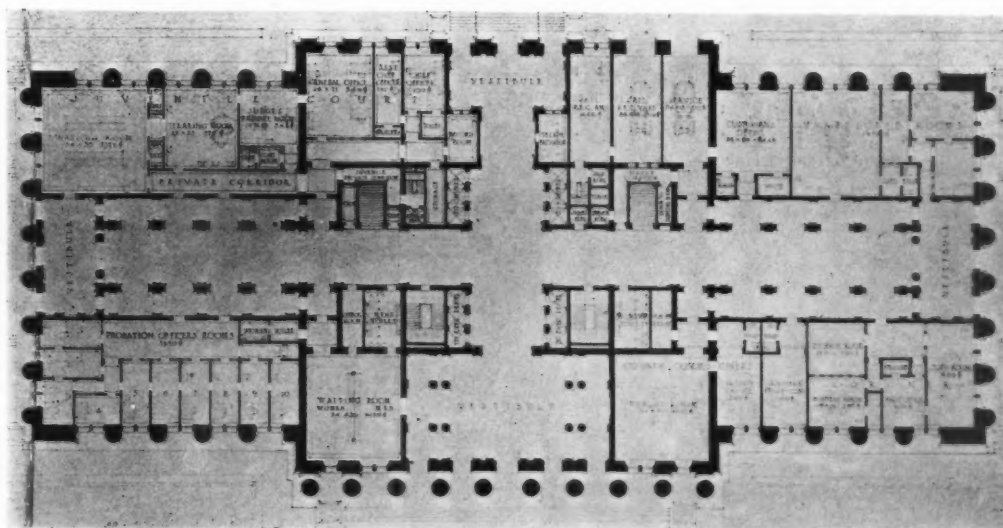
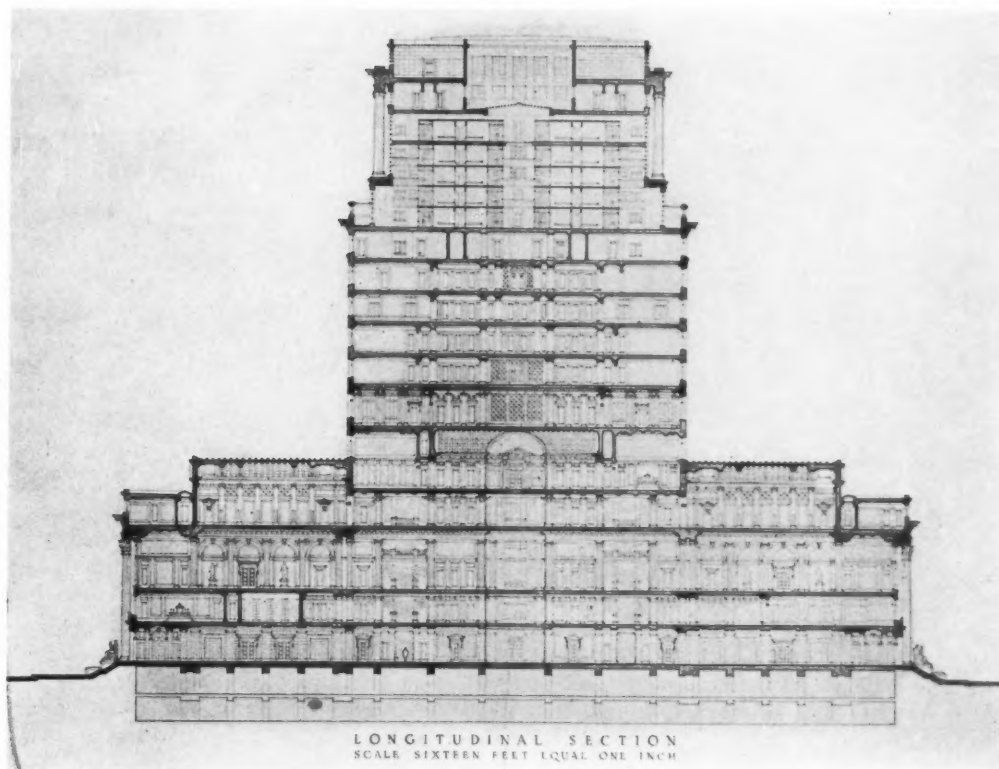
WEST ELEVATION

SECOND PRIZE DESIGN

HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION

MR. A. LINCOLN FECHHEIMER, ARCHITECT

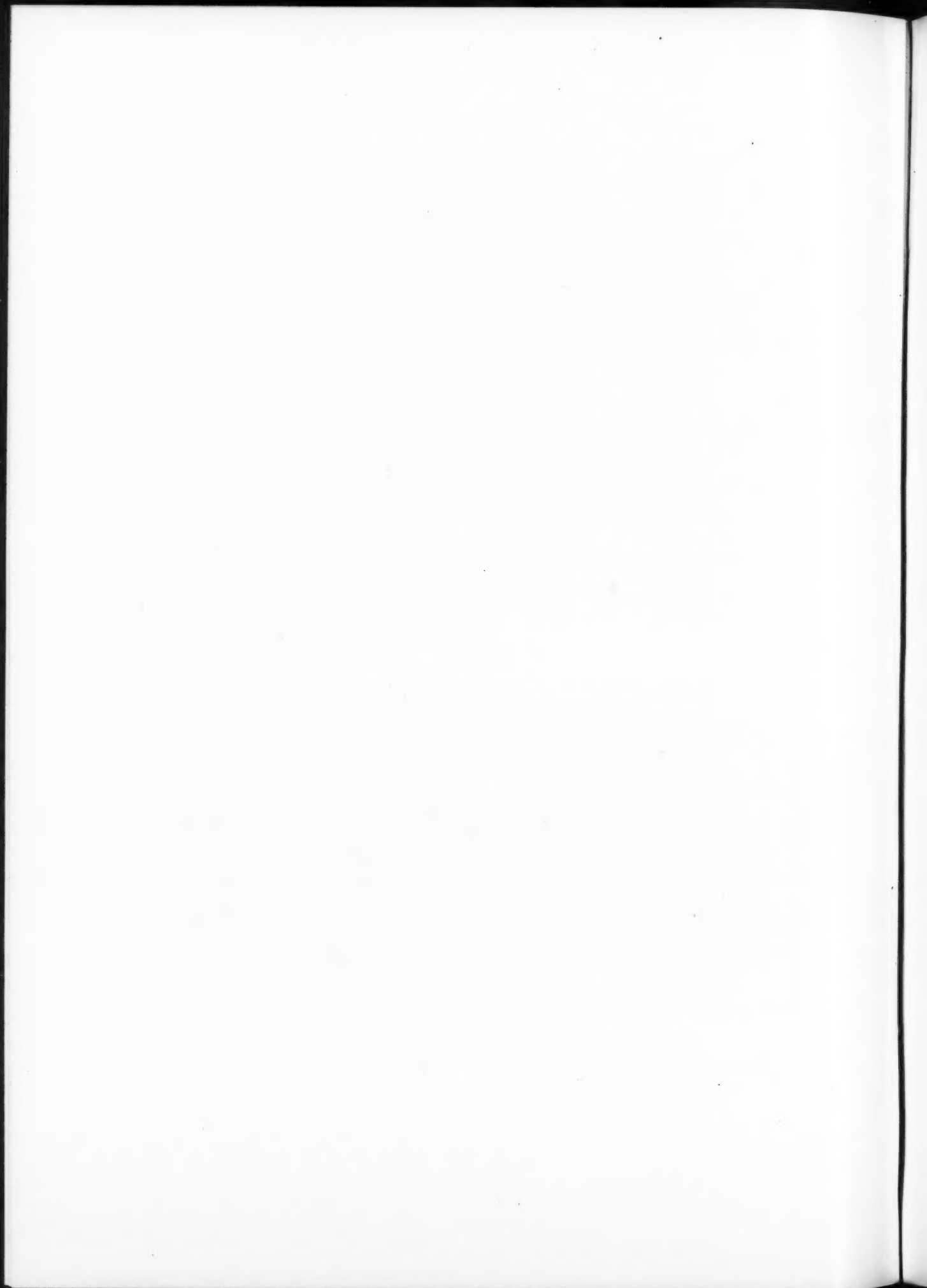


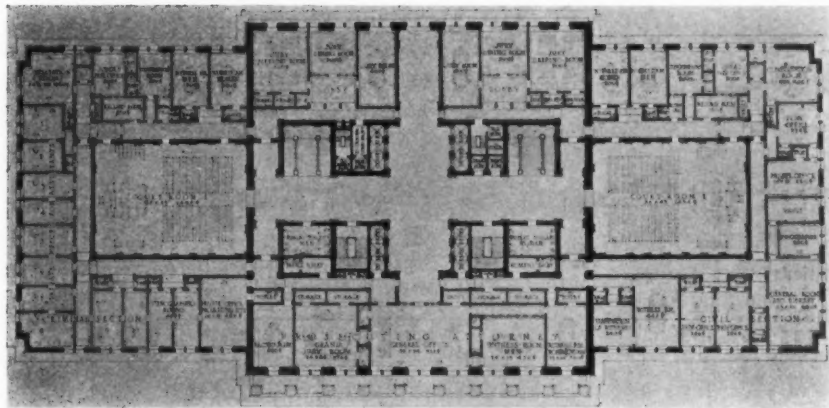
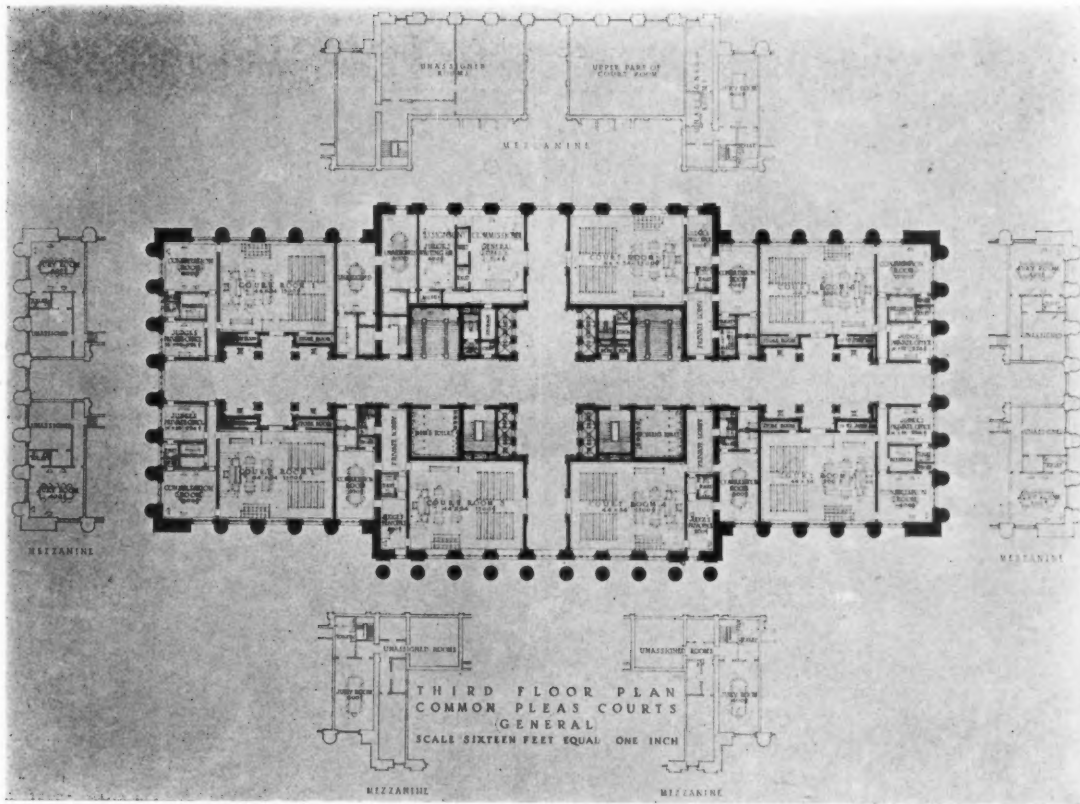


SECOND PRIZE DESIGN

HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION

MR. A. LINCOLN FECHHEIMER, ARCHITECT



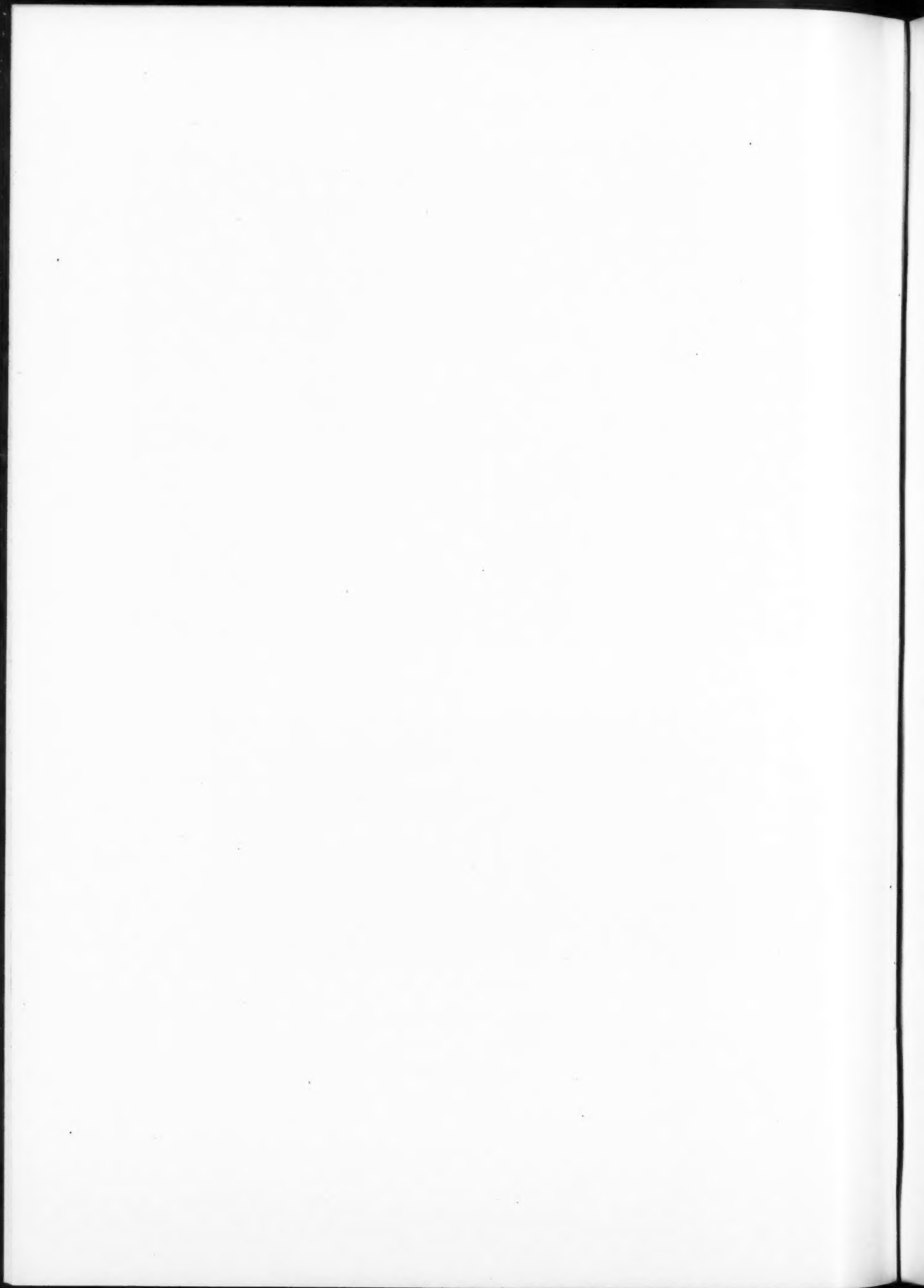


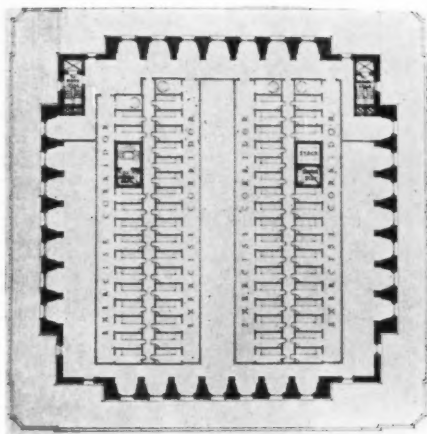
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

SECOND PRIZE DESIGN

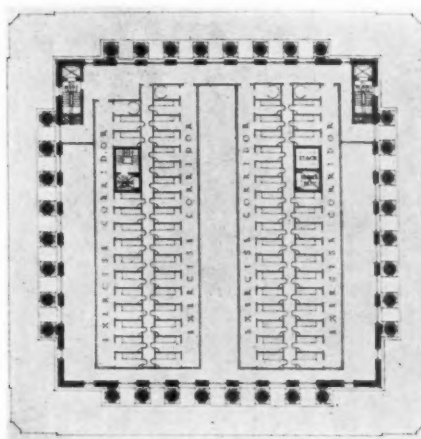
HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION

MR. A. LINCOLN FECHHEIMER, ARCHITECT





SECOND TIER, MEN'S CELLS

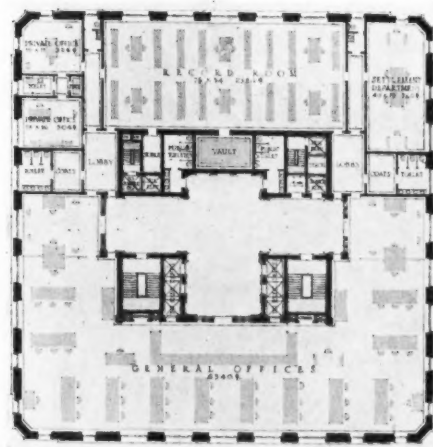


THIRD AND FOURTH TIER, MEN'S CELLS

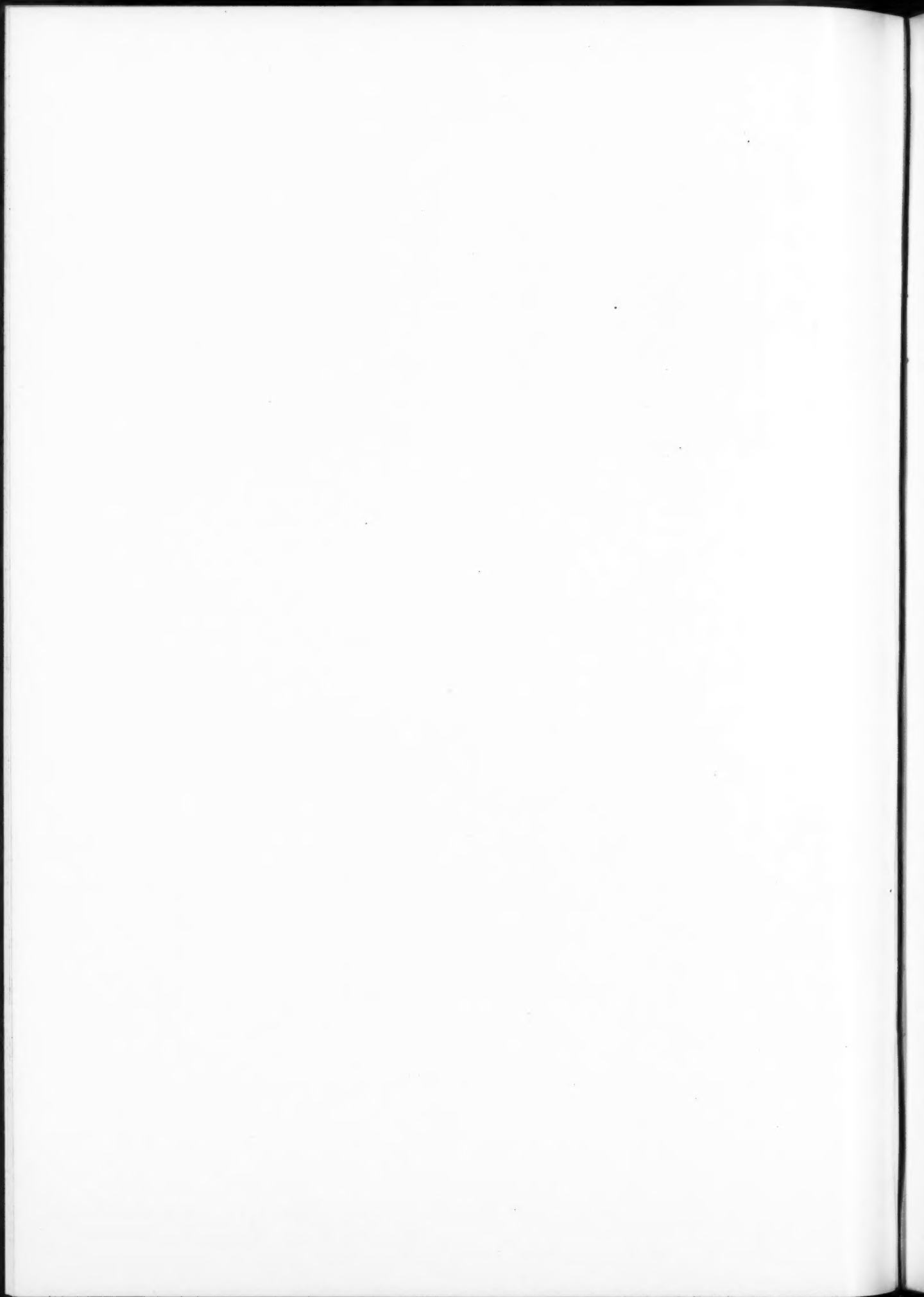
SECOND PRIZE DESIGN

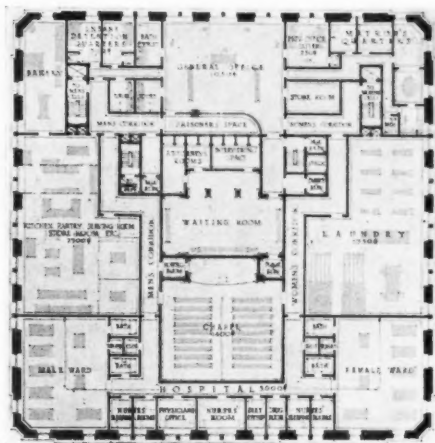
HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION

MR. A. LINCOLN FECHHEIMER, ARCHITECT

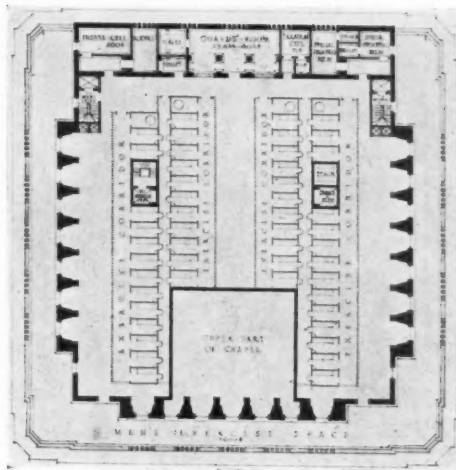


SEVENTH FLOOR, TREASURER





ELEVENTH FLOOR, JAIL ADMINISTRATION

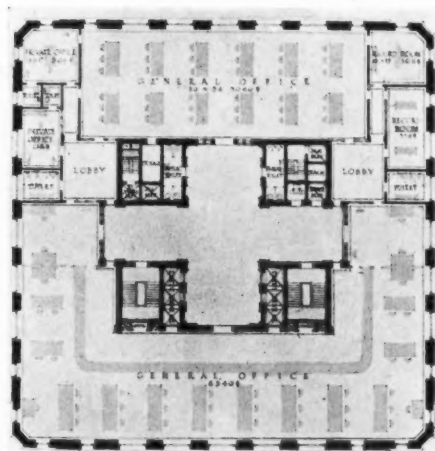


TWELFTH FLOOR, MEN'S CELLS BLOCK

SECOND PRIZE DESIGN

HAMILTON COUNTY (CINCINNATI), OHIO, COURT HOUSE COMPETITION

MR. A. LINCOLN FECHHEIMER, ARCHITECT



EIGHTH FLOOR, AUDITOR

CURRENT NEWS AND COMMENT

A COMMUNICATION

"Editor THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT,

SIR:—In sending you the Hill Auditorium drawings and photographs which you published in your August 6th issue, my assistant failed to advise you that I desired the name of Mr. Hugh Tallant to appear as Acoustics Engineer, in connection with our own names. To him is due entirely the successful acoustics of the building, and I am anxious that all credit be given him for his services.

Yours truly,

ALBERT KAHN."

SAN DIEGO ARCHITECTURAL CLUB

The San Diego Architectural Club has opened its new quarters in the Isis theater building. The Beaux Arts competition has already commenced, and general classes and lectures will be in progress throughout the year.

The officers of the club are James W. Corking, president; F. Hodgson, vice-president; Ernest Flores, secretary; H. Vaughan and Mont. Fernbach, directors.

SAN FRANCISCO'S BUILDING RECORD

Fifty thousand buildings, representing an investment of \$225,000,000, have, it is stated in the local press, been passed on by the Board of Public Works of San Francisco since 1906, the year of the great fire and earthquake. In addition to this vast sum there has been appropriated and expended for public buildings \$175,000,000, or a grand total for building operations for the seven years of \$400,000,000.

RECENT ACCESSIONS BY THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Among the recent important accessions by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, is a large painting measuring 53 x 126 inches, executed by the late Edwin A. Abbey, and given to the Museum by Mr. George A. Hearn of New York City. This important example of Mr. Abbey's work was secured by Mr. Hearn from the McCulloch Collection, dispersed last May, and shows in a remarkable way evidences of Mr. Abbey's wonderful illustrative facility, combined with the highest development of color sense and accuracy of drawing.

SOUTH CAROLINA ARCHITECTS IN SESSION

The South Carolina Architects Association met on July 28th for a three days' session, at Isle of Shoals, Charleston.

Many North Carolina, Georgia and Florida architects were present by invitation.

A South Carolina Chapter of the American In-

stitute of Architects was organized and the following officers were elected:

C. C. Wilson, president; E. B. Richards, of Bennettsville, vice-president, and J. D. Benson, of Charleston, secretary and treasurer. Executive committee: E. D. Sompayrac, of Columbia; A. W. Todd, of Charleston, and D. C. Burdot, of Charleston. C. C. Wilson and J. D. Benson were chosen delegates to the national convention.

The South Carolina Association meets twice yearly. The objects of the summer session are of a social nature to afford opportunities for fraternizing among members. For this reason little business of importance aside from the organization of a State chapter was attempted.

SECRETARY McADOO REPORTED AS URGING APPROPRIATION FOR DEPARTMENTAL BUILDINGS AT WASHINGTON

That Congress will be asked at the next session to appropriate \$8,200,000 for the construction of buildings for the State, Justice, Commerce and Labor departments on the three squares between 14th and 15th streets, from Pennsylvania avenue to the Mall, now owned by the Government, seems assured. Secretary McAdoo of the Treasury Department, it is reported, is now considering designs and estimates submitted.

It is expected that Secretary McAdoo will follow closely the suggestions made to Congress by his predecessor in office, Secretary Franklin MacVeagh. These proposed that Congress appropriate \$8,200,000 to carry out the authorization for construction on a basis of \$8,000,000 expenditure contained in a previous building act.

Secretary MacVeagh asked authority to enter into contracts to provide sufficient accommodations for the several departments, and that the appropriation known as "architectural competitions" be made available for the payment of fees of architects. Congress did not act on this request, which was made February 8, this year, just before the close of the last session of Congress and the inauguration of a new President.

In accordance with the authority in the public buildings bill, a competition was held and an architect was selected for each of the three fireproof buildings proposed. The architects were then instructed to review with each department its requirements as to space, taking into consideration a reasonable growth in the work of the departments. It was found that as a result of this study it was desirable to increase the accommodations for each department in order that the Government might not be in the position of erecting buildings which would be found inadequate after only a few years' service. —Washington "Star."

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

PALACE OF MEDIAEVAL FRENCH KINGS TO BE PRESERVED

The Department of Historical Monuments of the French Government is about to begin the restoration of the ancient Episcopal Palace of Rheims, which the municipality of that city intends to convert into a museum. The palace is of great historical interest, since, though it was reconstructed in 1671, the hall in which the coronation banquet of the mediaeval kings of France took place is preserved. Louis XV, Louis XVI and Charles X lodged in the palace as it now exists after their coronation. Francis I and Louis XIV lodged in a portion of the palace, which was afterward rebuilt.

During the Revolution the palace remained untouched, being used as a court of justice. It was restored to its original purpose at the coronation of Charles X. The whole building possesses architectural interest, but the Salle des Rois is particularly remarkable for the great sculptured fireplace, in front of which the royal table was placed for the coronation banquet.

AN INTERESTING LEGAL DECISION

COSTS MUST BE WITHIN ARCHITECT'S ESTIMATE

A court decision which is rather unusual in the architectural field comes from Oakland, Cal., which is recorded in a press dispatch as follows:

The decision of Judge Murphy in favor of former Governor George C. Pardee and against Charles Taylor, architect, it is believed, will afford the Institute of Architects a theme for discussion. Pardee entered into an agreement with Charles Taylor and his father, under the terms of which Taylor was to draw plans for a home to cost not over \$25,000.

After the house was built Pardee found that he had spent \$34,000 in its construction and refused to pay Taylor's fee. Taylor sued for \$751, and Judge Murphy held that he should have kept the price within the original estimate if he desired to collect for his services under his contract.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CHOOSES SUCCESSOR TO THE LATE PROFESSOR DESPRADELLE

Advices from Paris announce that the two vacancies in the Department of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have been filled, the men coming to the Institute being Frenchmen and graduates of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. The vacancies in question are those caused by the death of Professor Despradelle and the resignation of Assistant Professor Allen H. Cox.

The selection of suitable men for the department was delegated to Professor H. W. Gardner, who visited Paris early in the year. Professor Gardner recommended Jean Frederick Weilhorski, of Tours,

for successor to Professor Despradelle, and Albert LeMonnier, of Paris, for the other place.

M. Weilhorski, whose title at Technology will be Rotch Professor of Architectural Design, is a practicing architect of Tours. His record, which will appeal to architects and to architectural students, includes four years (1894-98) at the Beaux Arts, and his subsequent awards are, in 1900, the second Rougevin prize; the next year he gained the Godebouef prize and in 1902 the Prix Lebarre. His fourth consecutive award, in 1903, was the second Grand Prize of the school, and at various times he received medals for projects, sketches, and in archaeology. In 1900 he was designated laureate of the Central Society of French Architects and the honor was repeated in 1902.

M. LeMonnier, whose title at Technology will be Assistant Professor of Architectural Design, is a young man, not yet thirty. He was admitted to the Beaux Arts in 1903. He has received more than fifty awards in the various competitions related to the school.

IMPORTANT HOUSING LAW PASSED IN PENNSYLVANIA

According to members of the Philadelphia Housing Commission the approval by Governor Tener of Pennsylvania of the Heidinger bill giving cities of the first class complete authority over the enforcement of sanitary and health laws as they apply to buildings used for dwelling purposes will open the way for the elimination of hundreds of tenement eyesores in Philadelphia. The law will go into effect immediately as the first radical change in legislation affecting housing conditions since the year 1818.

No change vital to the object desired was made in the bill after it left the hands of the legislative committee. The principal reform is the elimination of the three-division city housing commission and the placing of the inspections on sanitation, house drainage and nuisances under one head.

PERSONAL

Mr. Frank C. Walter, Architect, formerly of Atlanta, Georgia, announces his removal to Tampa, Florida, where he has opened offices in the Citizens Bank Building.

Mr. R. C. Sweatt and Mr. J. T. Levesque, Architects, Spokane, Washington, announce the formation of a partnership for the practice of their profession under the firm name of Sweatt & Levesque. Their offices are in the Mohawk Building, Spokane, and they have also opened a branch office at Great Falls, Montana. They desire to receive catalogues and samples at the Great Falls office.

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.

THE WINSLOW WINDOW

The Winslow Brothers Company, who are designers and manufacturers of ornamental iron and bronze for buildings, and whose offices are located in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, have recently issued a pamphlet directing attention to a new type of steel window made in one plane with Austral-Balance. This window, the makers state, affords perfect ventilation, instant control without the disadvantage of weight and pulleys, and provides an artistic window for the highest class of buildings.

The makers are desirous of bringing this latest development in window construction to the attention of architects, and will forward the pamphlet referred to on request.

"PARADIGM"

"Paradigm" Skylights are made by the National Steel Products Company, whose sales offices are in the Drexel Building, Philadelphia. They have recently issued a pamphlet that very fully illustrates this skylight, in which attention is directed to the fact that it has been recently adopted by the United States Government for a large amount of important work, especially in the various Navy Yards throughout the country.

Particular attention is directed to the statement that when properly installed, the maintenance and repair cost is reduced to a minimum, and, owing to the rigidity of construction and its simplicity, it is not likely to get out of repair.

"NICE" VARNISHES AND PAINTS

Eugene E. Nice, 274 S. 2d Street, Philadelphia, Pa., has recently issued Catalogue and Price List G of varnishes, fillers, japans, stains and enamels, all of which he manufactures and which he recommends as reliable products to secure the better class of architectural finishes.

GRINNELL AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS

The July issue of the Grinnell Automatic Sprinkler Bulletin, a quarterly publication issued by General Fire Extinguisher Co., Providence, Rhode Island, is interestingly devoted to topics of fire prevention and the prompt detection and extinguishing of fires.

The leading article treats of the fire danger that lurks in asylums and hospitals. Other articles

describe a series of tests of sprinkler efficiency. Items of general news interest as to fires, their origin and means of prevention, present the subject in a valuable manner.

HALOWAX

The substances to which has been given the trade name of Halowax are manufactured by Condensite Co. of America, Glen Ridge, N. J. It is stated, in a recently issued pamphlet, that they are chlorine substitution products, having properties of noninflammability, high boiling points and a wide range of melting points. These waxes are, it is stated, insoluble in water, and are inert in most aqueous acid and alkaline solutions.

The uses of Halowax as thus far developed are oil insulation for electrical apparatus, a solvent for varnishes and japans and for impregnating paper, wood and fireproofing fabrics.

These and other important uses are set forth in a recently issued pamphlet, to be had on request.

REFRIGERATORS

The Shirk Refrigerator Co., No. 116 So. Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, specializes in the building and installation of refrigerators in residences. Cold drinking water systems are also a part of the equipment of these refrigerators.

A feature to which particular attention is directed in literature recently published is a hot water flushing system, consisting of hot water pipes run into the refrigerator, with valve outside, so that not only the drain pipes of the refrigerators but the trap and drainage system of the building as well may be kept in a perfectly sanitary condition.

A number of illustrated pamphlets devoted to various types of refrigerators and their accessories have been issued and will be mailed on request.

WATER HEATING GARBAGE BURNERS

While effecting the very desirable incineration of garbage, the Kewanee Water Heating Garbage Burners at the same time heat water for use in the building wherein they are installed. The working of this economic method of destroying garbage and the heating of water is illustrated and described in a pamphlet issued by Kewanee Boiler Co., Kewanee, Ill.

This pamphlet also records a number of tests, showing weight and cost of fuel used, amount of hot water furnished and quantity of garbage con-

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

sumed. From these tests it is deduced that the cost of hot water for twenty-four hours' supply ranges in the case of a number of apartment houses where the tests were made from \$0.016 to \$0.0466 per apartment.

This would seem to indicate a most economical arrangement for water supply in this class of building, hotels, clubs, hospitals, or wherever a reliable and sufficient quantity of hot water is a necessity.

The makers will send catalogues and full particulars on request.

STABLE FITTINGS

An illustrated catalogue issued by the F. P. Smith Wire & Iron Works, Lake and Dearborn Streets, Chicago, illustrates what would seem to be a very complete line of stable fittings and the many accessories that go to make up the equipment of modern stables. Other catalogues of Iron Fences, Fire Escapes and Patented Spiral Wire Columns are issued by this company, who state that extensive factory facilities and long experience enable them to guarantee prompt delivery and reliable work in any of their various branches.

AN ELECTRICALLY-OPERATED CLOTHES WASHER

The Judd Laundry Machine Co., Peoples Gas Building, Chicago, have perfected an electrically operated clothes washer, supplementing the line of laundry machinery already made by them. This washer is illustrated and described in a recently issued pamphlet.

The machine consists of a copper tub, mounted on a standard to which is attached the wringer. The electrically driven motor oscillates the tub in the manner described in the pamphlet and, the makers claim, efficiently washes the fabrics that are placed within it.

VAPOR HEATING SYSTEMS

The Doody Vapor Heating Co., Inc., Boston, Mass., are manufacturers of vapor heating systems. These are fully described and illustrated in a pamphlet issued for free distribution.

The main principle of the system employed is the use of vapor as a means of heating. This, it is claimed, does away with all pressure on the pipes and eliminates the annoyances of leakage and "water hammer." The makers state that there is perfect automatic regulation at the boiler combined with independent regulation at the radiator. The latter is secured by the use of a vapor modulating valve attached to each radiator, and which, it is

stated, affects very sensitively the automatic control of the boiler dampers.

The economical operation of the system is described at some length, and it is pointed out that an even heat throughout the twenty-four hours may be maintained with a minimum attention to the boilers.

Application to present systems, it is stated, may be easily and economically effected.

WATER TUBE BOILERS

It is stated in a pamphlet issued by the Harrisburg Manufacturing and Boiler Company, Harrisburg, Pa., that the Harrisburg "Star" boiler, to which attention is particularly directed, is a self-contained internally-fired water tube boiler, and that it embodies all of the most important and advanced details in modern boiler construction. It is stated in the pamphlet, which may be had on request, that these boilers are so constructed that the proper combustion of the fuel and the complete absorption of the heat of combustion is fully secured and for this reason the makers believe Harrisburg "Star" boilers present unusual advantages in any form of heating operations.

METAL WINDOWS

One of the most pretentious catalogues that has been received in the Catalogue File Department of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT is that published by Henry Hope & Son, 103 Park Avenue, New York, with offices in Toronto, Ont., and London and Birmingham, England. It is issued for the purpose of illustrating and describing Hope's Casement Windows and Leaded Glass. This catalogue is a substantially bound book, 12 x 15 inches, of approximately 180 pages, and in addition to section details and elevations of the various forms of casement windows and the hardware accessories therefor, illustrates a large number of installations comprising some of the most important buildings of recent erection in this country and England.

In addition to the manufacture of casement windows, this company also are designers and manufacturers of lead work and a very interesting part of the catalogue referred to is the illustrations of rain water leader heads, sun dials, and other examples of lead work, the use of which in this country has not, we believe, been as general as the artistic possibilities of this material permit.

Further information as to the catalogue and how it may be procured may be had on addressing the manufacturers. It is encyclopedic in character and a compendium of metal sash construction.

THE TEMPLE OF ANTONINUS AND FAUSTINA AT ROME

The frieze and cornice

THIS is a hexastyle, prostyle temple of the Corinthian Order dedicated in 141 A.D. by Antoninus Pius in honor of his wife Faustina but after his death dedicated to him by the Roman Senate. The columns have shafts of Cippolino marble while the capitals and bases are of white marble. The design of the capitals seems to have been copied from that of the Pantheon, but the entablature of white marble is quite different, having the character of the Ionic style rather than of the Corinthian. The frieze is finely sculptured but unfortunately it is so narrow in proportion to the cornice and architrave that the effect of beauty is greatly impaired. The griffins which are in mezzo-relief are symbolic of guardians or protectors of the oblations supposed to be contained in the vases and which have been offered to the deity of the temple. The candelabra are supposed to be portable, are highly ornamented and at the top emit flames in which was burned the perfumes and incense for the temple. Both the vases and candelabra are in bas-relief. The corona of the cornice is decorated with flutes while in the bedmould is an excellent example of the Roman egg-and-dart ornament. Below and separated from it by a broad plain fillet is a cyma recta enriched with acanthus leaves alternating with an anthemion design both of which are carved entirely independent of each other. The general horizontal effect of the decorations in the frieze is noteworthy.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



FRIEZE AND CORNICE

TEMPLE OF ANTONINUS AND FAUSTINA, ROME, ITALY

(For description, see preceding page)