

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ARCHITECTURE

AS READ BEFORE THE FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE close of 1912 found the Government, through the repeal of the Tarsney Act, without any means of procuring architectural service outside of the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury and such Bureaus for the preparation of plans as are maintained by other departments, excepting a few isolated instances where authority to make other arrangements had been attached by Congress to authorizations for public buildings. There was much difference of opinion in the profession as to what should be done to change this condition; some advocating a Bureau of Fine Arts; others a National Board of Works; while many advised the enactment of a law similar to, but more comprehensive than, the Tarsney Act. Others felt that the certainty of intolerable conditions which would soon confront the Government, made it desirable for the Institute to await developments, and take advantage of the wave of discontent that such a state of affairs would inevitably bring about. As it transpired, members of Congress attending the extra session found upon inquiry and investigation, that the Supervising Architect's office was not in position to take up any new work for several years. This created a general demand in Congress for some sort of action. Various members of the Institute reported that they found, when discussing the question with members of Congress, that there was a latent sentiment of great dissatisfaction, and it was believed this could possibly be brought to a focus through some form of legislation.

* * * * *

Vague Policy of Government

That a general feeling exists in Congress that the whole Public building question is in wretched shape, is indicated by letters from members of the House and by a provision in the Public Buildings bill, approved March 4th, 1913, which is as follows:

"A commission composed of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postmaster-General, the Attorney-General, two members of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, shall, with the aid of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury present to Congress a connected scheme, involving annual appropriations for the construction and completion of public buildings heretofore authorized within a reasonable time, and shall frame a standard or standards by which the size and cost of public buildings shall, as far as practicable, be determined, and shall report as to the adaptability in size, accommodations, and cost of buildings hitherto authorized to the requirements of the communities in which they are to be located, and also whether the existing appropriations should be increased or diminished to meet such requirements."

From this it would appear that the United States, having under construction and in contemplation more public buildings than any other Government in the world, is drifting aimlessly in respect to this work, and without definite policy regarding what

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is to become an important part of the enduring evidences of the taste and cultivation of our time. It is to be hoped that the Commission just referred to, consisting entirely of Government officials and employes, may seek the advice and counsel of the profession for whose work it is charged with the responsibility of preparing a connected scheme.

Duty of the Institute

There are a number of courses which the Institute may follow in order to assist in getting the question of Government architecture placed on a basis commensurate with its importance, it being assumed at the outset that the Institute owes it to itself and to the Government to take the initiative in a matter so directly involving its aims and ideals. These may be briefly outlined as follows:

FIRST. Conditions being so generally unsatisfactory to Congress itself, we may confidently await results with the certainty that some Governmental action will be taken in the near future, and the Institute be free from any responsibility concerning whatever measure of relief that may be decided upon. It seems so obviously the duty of the Institute to point the way, however, that this suggestion may well be rejected as unworthy of serious consideration.

Bureau of Fine Arts Suggested

SECOND. The idea of a Department of Fine Arts, or a Board of Works, or a Bureau of Arts and Buildings, under which all Government expenditures for art in any form may be handled, has most deservedly held an important place in the minds of those interested in architecture and the other allied arts. Legislation leading to the establishment of such a Department, that would have jurisdiction over all buildings, sculpture, objects of art, and all works involving these, has been the dream of many of our most earnest members, and it has many advantages. It would immediately place the question of Government architecture and related arts in a position of great importance, and perhaps enable many things to be done properly which are now done in a slipshod and slovenly way. On the other hand there are objections to such a plan, which might indefinitely delay its

enactment into law. It would be opposed by all Departments of the Government for the reason that no department desires to relinquish control of its work to another department. Its adoption would probably mean that all Government architecture must necessarily be put on a competitive basis, because no other arrangement seems possible for work of such volume as that now conducted under the Supervision of the Treasury Department, and it would be difficult or impossible to make distinctions. As it now stands, any Government Department, except the Treasury Department, can employ architects by direct selection, and it is a question whether the Institute should advocate a measure that would make it impossible for the Government to employ private architects except by competition. The drafting of a bill to create a department such as would be necessary to take care of all this work, would be a task of great difficulty and could only be done properly with the assistance of the best legal and legislative experience, after considerable study and research. Therefore, while this plan has much merit, and while its consummation at some future time is to be looked forward to, the Institute should carefully consider whether it covers the needs of the immediate future.

Tarsney Act Provisions may be Strengthened

THIRD. The Tarsney Act proved to be a workable law, and there appears no reason why a similar law, with some slight but important modifications, would not be entirely practical and satisfactory as far as the Treasury Department work is concerned, for the near future at least. The enactment of such a law, giving the additional authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to employ juries in each competition, to pay fees to competitors and juries, and requiring him to apply it to all buildings above a certain cost, and to conduct the competitions and pay the successful architects in accordance with the best practice, may well be considered as a relief from present conditions, while further thought could in the meantime be given to the designing of a plan and working out of the details for a Department of Fine Arts.

Whether such a bill could pass Congress as at present constituted is not now certain. A

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bill was drafted by this Committee during the present year, not for introduction for passage, but at the request of a member of Congress to enable him to make a canvass of the House.

It is hoped that the discussion at the convention of the Institute on this subject may develop a sentiment in favor of some definite line of action, and that the coming year may see us presenting a united front, pressing for specific action by Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. MAURAN,
M. B. MEDARY, Jr.,
EGERTON SWARTWOUT,
BRECK TROWBRIDGE,
WALTER COOK, Ex-officio,

(Signed) JOHN HALL RANKIN,

Chairman,

Committee on Government Architecture.

NOTE

The report of the Committee on the Reports of Standing Committees, referring

to the foregoing report, was as follows:

RESOLVED—That it is the sense of this Convention that some orderly system should be adopted by the United States Government in the designing of its buildings, monuments, etc., in the purchase, selection and acceptance of sculpture, painting and other works of art, whereby the services of those architects, sculptors, and painters best qualified for such work may be made available; that the Board of Directors be requested to have prepared for proposal Legislation along the broadest lines to give effect to this resolution, the same to be submitted if possible to the next convention of the Institute; and be it further resolved that in the meantime the Board be requested, if it deem such course wise to prepare proposals for Legislation for submission to Congress, whereby the congestion in the Treasury Department may be relieved by the employment through selection of competition of Architects in private practice, for the work in that Department.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPETITIONS

AS SUBMITTED TO THE FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

In making its report to the Forty-seventh Annual Convention, the Standing Committee on Competitions believes it necessary to reiterate certain of the basic considerations underlying the statements contained in the circular of advice. Some of the reports from sub-committees indicate that the function of these committees are not fully understood, and that the position of the Institute on the subject of competitions is not as clearly understood as it should be.

The Standing Committee has also determined upon certain changes in the circular which it believes will bring it into closer accord with conditions as they exist at this time.

* * * * *

The Necessity for Competitions

Turning to the circular itself, reports of some of the sub-committees indicate a feeling that the Institute contradicts itself in first advising against competitions and then

offering advice as to the proper mode of conducting them.

The Standing Committee is of the opinion that the normal practice in any architects' office is not obtained through competition, but at the same time it recognizes the fact that conditions frequently exist prohibiting direct selection. If it were the unanimous opinion of the profession that competition was undesirable, this condition would have long since righted itself, but as long as many architects regard competition as desirable, if conducted in such a manner as to insure results commensurate with the business risk, competition will continue and it becomes necessary to establish regulations for their government.

How the Institute Attempts to Assist in Regulating Competitions

To meet this situation the American Institute of Architects, at the risk of being charged with an attempt to regulate the

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purely business affairs of its members, formulated the circular of advice, not with the idea of regulating the private business of its members, but to establish a method by which competing architects might be relieved of the enormous economic waste which was involved in an unregulated scramble, and one by which the owner might be assured of the interest of those architects who could not be expected to enter a competition which did not offer a business proposition.

In short the Institute offers, where direct selection is not possible, a plan by which the interests of both the owner and architect are protected to their mutual advantage.

The Architect who believes that a competition is a fair field in which the inexperienced may be educated at the expense of his client, and the architect who believes that a competition should be open only to those who have executed work of the greatest magnitude, will both alike find fault with the circular.

* * * * *

Where Political Conditions are a Factor

The Standing Committee believes that where political conditions have resulted in placing a monopoly of public work in the hands of incompetent architects by direct selection, appointed for political reasons and without regard for the intelligent expenditure of public funds, that it is entirely competent for a sub-committee to propose properly regulated competition and to call upon the Local Chapter to urge such procedure where the direct selection of competent men is impracticable.

The Advisor and Jury

The Institute's attitude concerning the advisor and jury has been the subject of some misunderstanding. The Standing Committee is of the opinion that an advisor in preparing his program can not avoid arriving at some solution of the problem in his own mind, influenced perhaps by many considerations which are not stated in the program. When he attempts to act as an unbiased judge of the drawings submitted, he must unconsciously be influenced by all of these considerations and the owner and the competitors are deprived of the benefit

of a judgment based solely on the documents given to the competitors. Inasmuch as a competition is for the selection of an architect, then judgment should be based on the competitors' solution of the problem as submitted to them, the jury being in possession of only such information as was open to the competitors.

Judgment by Advisor Only

Where a competition is judged by the advisor only, the owner is deprived of the fullest benefit by the fact that the competitors can hardly be blamed if their chief effort be to meet the personal architectural predilections of that gentleman rather than to solve the problem on its merits.

This would apply to any judgment by an individual, hence the requirement of a jury of at least three persons, the judgment of such a jury at once becomes impersonal and in the deliberations of such a jury each member must offer something more than his personal predilections before he can hope to influence his fellow members. And this becomes even more valuable when some members of the jury are not architects.

The Responsibilities of Advisor and Jury

While on the subject of advisor and jury, the Standing Committee believes it important to call the attention of members to the responsibility of such service. In several important competitions it has been stated that awards were made in favor of competitors who had violated mandatory provisions, although the program had stated that no award would be made under such circumstances, and where it was further provided that the jury would certify that no such violations had occurred. A program so drawn constitutes a contract between the owner and each competitor and a jury violating its terms makes the owner liable for breach of contract with each competitor. It is therefore highly important that no advisor should place under the mandatory provision any item concerning which the competitor is expected to give that consideration for which he is employed, and it is equally important that no member acting as a juror shall permit a violation of the expressed terms of an agreement, in making an award,

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no matter to what extent the jury may believe the program to have been badly drawn; and your Committee believes a jury making awards in violation of such contracts should be adjudged guilty of unprofessional conduct.

Jury Judgment as Final

One of the sub-committees urges that the action of the jury should be final. This might be acceptable to the owner, provided he was given equal representation on the jury and the Standing Committee believes such a jury, especially if it included experts on the particular kind of work involved, as for instance hospital or school work, would be very desirable, but to make such a provision mandatory would undoubtedly be impossible in much public work where final authority is vested by law in public officials. As a matter of fact, such an official will rarely assume the responsibility involved in acting contrary to the recommendations of a jury of technical men to give technical advice.

Associated Architects in Competitions

It has been urged that the circular should provide a type of competition by which an inexperienced architect may receive the award subject to the requirement that he shall associate himself with some one competent to take charge of the work. The Standing Committee is of the opinion that where such an association is advisable it should be made before and not after the competition, and that such an association after a competition has been won is difficult to bring about in such a manner as to safeguard the interests of all parties by a pre-arranged agreement.

Anonymity

The Standing Committee is of the opinion that all competitions should be anonymous and recommends the elimination of the exceptions to complete anonymity contained in previous editions of the circular.

The Agreement Clause in the Program

The requirement of an agreement in each program has proved a valuable addition to the circular and makes the terms of a program more definite than in the past. It has been found, however, that the

statement regarding reimbursement for the cost of engineers' services is indefinite and therefore the source of some difficulty. This is largely due to the fact that the Schedule of Charges is indefinite on this subject, and necessarily so, because the necessity for and the nature of special engineering services varies with each problem, and it has therefore been determined that the circular shall require the advisor to state in his program the nature of the engineering services for which the architect will be reimbursed, in each particular case. This is a step further in the direction of offering a definite program, in advance of entering the competition, in which all matters which might lead to misunderstanding afterward have been eliminated as far as may be.

* * * * *

Elimination of Section 19 Recommended

The Standing Committee recommends the elimination of the whole of Section 19 on the ground that the definition of a competition appears in Section I and that none of the exceptions are desirable. The exception permitting architects to compete if paid a sufficient rate, without established regulations guaranteeing equal opportunity to all competitors, was debated at the last convention and permitted to remain in the circular. After a year's deliberation the Standing Committee can find no justification for such an exception. This exception also opens the way for obtaining preliminary studies from architects through competition, leaving the owner free to have them executed without further architectural employment or supervision.

Partial Service in Competitions

The suggestion has been made that the circular should include provision for competitions where only partial service from the successful architects is contemplated. The Standing Committee recognizes that unusual conditions occasionally arise, where an architect might be justified in permitting the execution of his work without his supervision, but believes such situations may be met by an appeal to the Board, who have the power to waive the provisions of the circular in any particular

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when the conditions warrant such action, but your Committee does not believe that such competitions should be advocated by the circular as they must of necessity be rare and unusual.

One of the Things Accomplished

Your Committee is gratified to find that the large majority of reports of sub-committees treat of their work as the natural routine connected with an established procedure and accept the circular and the Institute's work in the field of competitions, as having organized and put upon a reasonable basis, one of the large activities of the profession, with results far beyond the expectations of a few years ago.

That this view is held outside the Institute is indicated by the following quotation from an editorial in the November number of the *American School Board Journal*:—

"Competitions are the least desirable scheme of selecting plans for schoolhouses. If local conditions make them necessary, they should be so limited as to insure the entry of men who are able to do more than draw a pretty perspective and to make a plausible layout. Evidence of experience, integrity as a professional man, a list of successful buildings—both artistically and practically—should be incorporated as a requirement in every competition. It is the best man, not the most finished drawing, that should be selected."

"Informal" Competitions

From some of the sub-committees come the suggestions that the circular is too strict or that it does not apply to the conditions in their particular locality, that it deprives their members of the opportunity of earning their "bread and butter," and it is implied that "*informal competitions*" are necessary in certain localities and that here the local men should solve the problem in their own way. It is urged that to ask the prominent men of a small community to institute a competition containing guarantees of any sort would affront these men and cut off the proposers of such a method from any further consideration.

Your Committee believes that the answer to these arguments is to be found in the results generally throughout the country.

If "*informal competition*" means anything it means the old method, or absence of method, which imposed an intolerable burden on the profession, and under which, for each architect who obtained a commission, his fellows contributed several times the amount of that commission to the general economic waste. If in any given community it is difficult to establish conditions guaranteeing a business agreement as a basis of competition it will be much more difficult to do so if unsupported by the fact that such an agreement is the common and accepted practice throughout the country. The Institute's interest in competitions is to establish a standard of practice so eminently fair as to appeal alike to owner and architect and to make it easy for any architect, no matter where located, to let it be known that he is not interested in any proposition which falls below that standard. It is the hope of the Standing Committee that the circular will eventually be reduced to a simple statement (without arguments), of these conditions which must be included in any program before it can be expected to interest an experienced architect, whether he be a member of the Institute or not.

The Duty of the Individual Architect

It must be remembered, however, that the Institute, through its Conventions, its Board and its Committees, can only endorse and recommend standards of practice or ethics. It remains for the individual architect in his own practice to make these standards a reality and only in so far as we live up to them, even at the cost of some personal sacrifices, will our profession command the respect of the public for them.

It is useless to talk of educating the public. We are wholly responsible for the public attitude toward us and the public is in no wise to blame.

Relation of Committees, Individuals and Owners

* * * * *

A member of the Institute receiving an invitation to take part in an unregulated competition should decline on the ground that the proposition does not offer sufficient

(Continued on page 256)

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REGULATING BUILDING HEIGHTS

THE much-mooted question of building height regulation seems likely to receive an early and definite answer in New York City if the recommendations recently made by an Advisory Committee are acceptable to the City Council. The report gives evidence of an immense amount of careful investigation not only of building heights but of varied character of occupation and other pertinent matters pursued throughout the five city Boroughs. This information has been presented graphically in a series of large maps which are placed on public exhibition before the complete report of the Committee was made. Briefly, the important objects to be accomplished are to prevent the aggravation of evils already existing in Manhattan, and to render impossible the development of similar ones in the other boroughs, which even now seems imminent with the extension of subway facilities being rapidly accomplished.

While the Committee appears to have been guided by what was considered to be the best European experience in drafting its recommendations, it has apparently also been alert to and influenced by the peculiar conditions of New York. The specific suggestions, given in some detail on another

page, provide for the creation of eight districts or zones in the city, each under a different regulation as to height which it is assumed will practically determine the nature of occupation of the buildings erected. Twice the width of the street is designated as the normal maximum height, but this standard is varied according to the requirements of each district.

The height of a portion of a building not exceeding twenty-five per cent. of the lot area may, in accordance with the proposed regulations, be carried to any height, provided it be not less than twenty feet from the lot line, or if it faces a park or water front it may be situated on the building line. What a thrill of satisfaction is given by this provision to the New Yorker who finds his city's denticulated skyline either picturesque in appearance or profitable from an advertising standpoint? If the proposed recommendations are codified as laws, the economic height of mercantile buildings will probably vary from sixteen to eighteen stories according to location, but above this comparatively Lilliputian proportion, the tower may rise to a height that will be apparently increased by comparison with that of the main structure.

The suggestions of the Committee with regard to the size and disposition of light areas seem to have thus far been practically ignored by commentators, yet they are probably more important than any other requirement of law, from the standpoint of public health. In general the suggested changes in this regard are not great. The first story of a building may cover the entire lot, but above that height, a court must be provided at the rear of the site, equal to ten per cent. of its area. The proportionate size of areas for light and air increases with each succeeding story, but these proposed area regulations are varied in the case of corner lots and sites of irregular shape.

The evident care and study given to the whole problem by the Advisory Committee, and the increasing popular conviction that the uncurbed sky-scraper and the gloomy tenement have "out-smothered" themselves assure the ultimate enactment of reform measures, and in all probability they will be along lines somewhat similar to those suggested by the Advisory Committee.

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(Continued from page 254)

guarantee to warrant the large business risk incident to all competitions. Having received the invitation, he is in a position to make such a statement and give his reasons, exhausting every effort to convince the owner of the disadvantage of offering terms which will not attract to the solution of his problem the men best qualified to give such service. The declination of the men selected and invited, is in itself, one of the strongest arguments for his decision in the matter.

This statement coming from others, who are strangers to the owner, and particularly from a committee from an organization, is usually resented as a trespass upon the owner's affairs, and adds thereby to the difficulty of convincing him. The difficulty is increased, if the invited architect, accepts subject to the Institute's permission to take part, as such action virtually endorses the terms of the program as far as he is concerned, and implies that the Institute forbids him to undertake work on terms which he, as a business man, regards as acceptable.

Having declined, he is at once in a position to say that the Institute maintains committees who would be glad to assist the owner in making such changes in his program as would be required, if he desired that it receive the consideration of men who certainly could not be expected to be interested in its present form. He is also in a position to state that these Committees have authority to give the Institute's approval to competition programs, in itself a sufficient guarantee to warrant participation on the part of many architects.

In the case of public work, it is always competent for the Institute committee to criticize the terms of competition offered, and this should be done in the public press and for the same reasons as a private invitation might be declined.

* * * * *

Distribution of the Circular

Among the suggestions contained in the reports of the sub-committees is a plea

for a much more general distribution of the circular and for a campaign of publicity regarding competition practice, including possibly the preparation and circulation of simple model forms of competition for the guidance of advisors or others interested. The Standing Committee believes such distribution and publicity, if too general in character, would tend to increase the number of competitions where no need for competition exists, and, in view of its belief that objection to a competition should originate with the parties invited, it believes that the activities of the Standing and sub-committees should be limited to aiding individuals in their efforts to obtain better conditions, and to assisting owners when the advice of the Institute is sought.

Differences in Opinion not Geographically Divided

In conclusion, it is of interest to mention that a careful analysis of all reports and correspondence which have reached your Standing Committee, discloses the fact that there is no geographical division of opinion concerning the circular. Those enthusiastically upholding it, and those who believe it should be altered * * * are all scattered at random from coast to coast, while the extremes are found in adjoining Chapter territories.

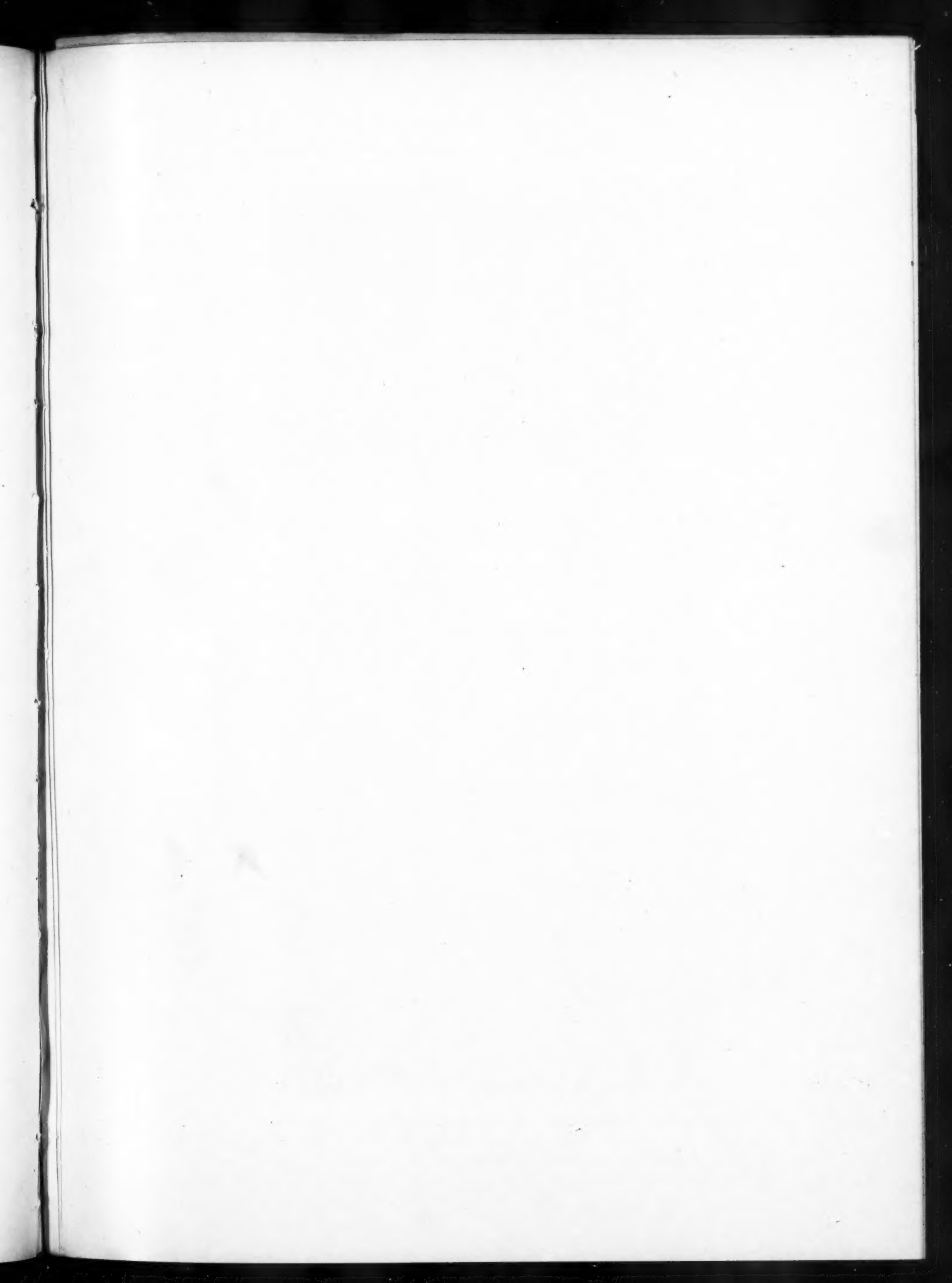
Respectfully submitted,

ELMER C. JENSON, THOS. A. KIMBALL,
ROBT. D. KOHN, C. GRANT LAFARGE,
M. B. MEDARY, *Chairman*.

COMPETITION PROGRAM

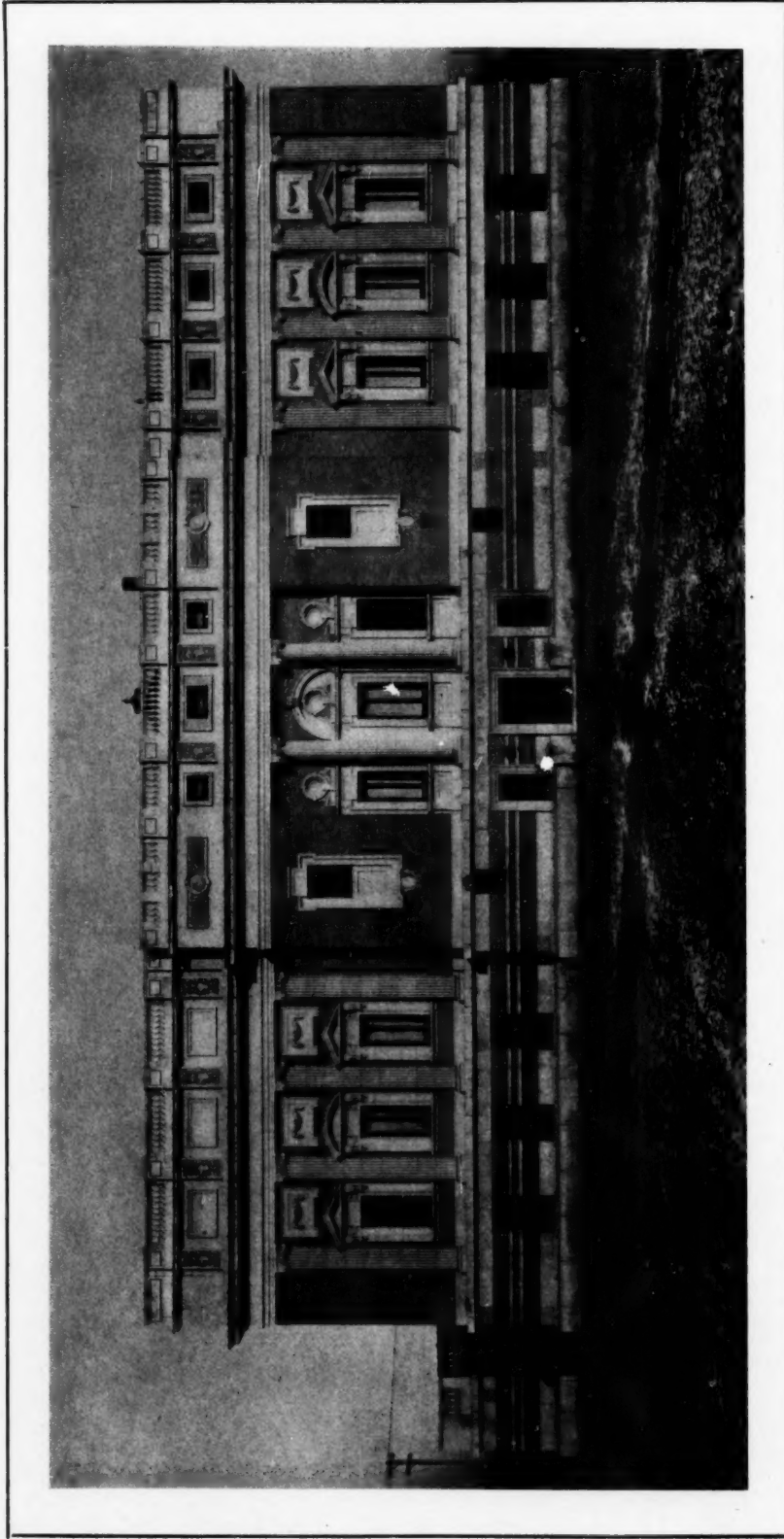
Whereas: there has been presented to the Convention a typical form of Competition Program, which may prove useful in presenting the Institute's point of view to owners, and may with further study prove to be a step in the simplification and standardization of competition programs; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Standing Committee on Competitions be requested to study and improve the form to the end that it may after approval by the Board become an Institute document available for the use of the Chapters, members and the public.

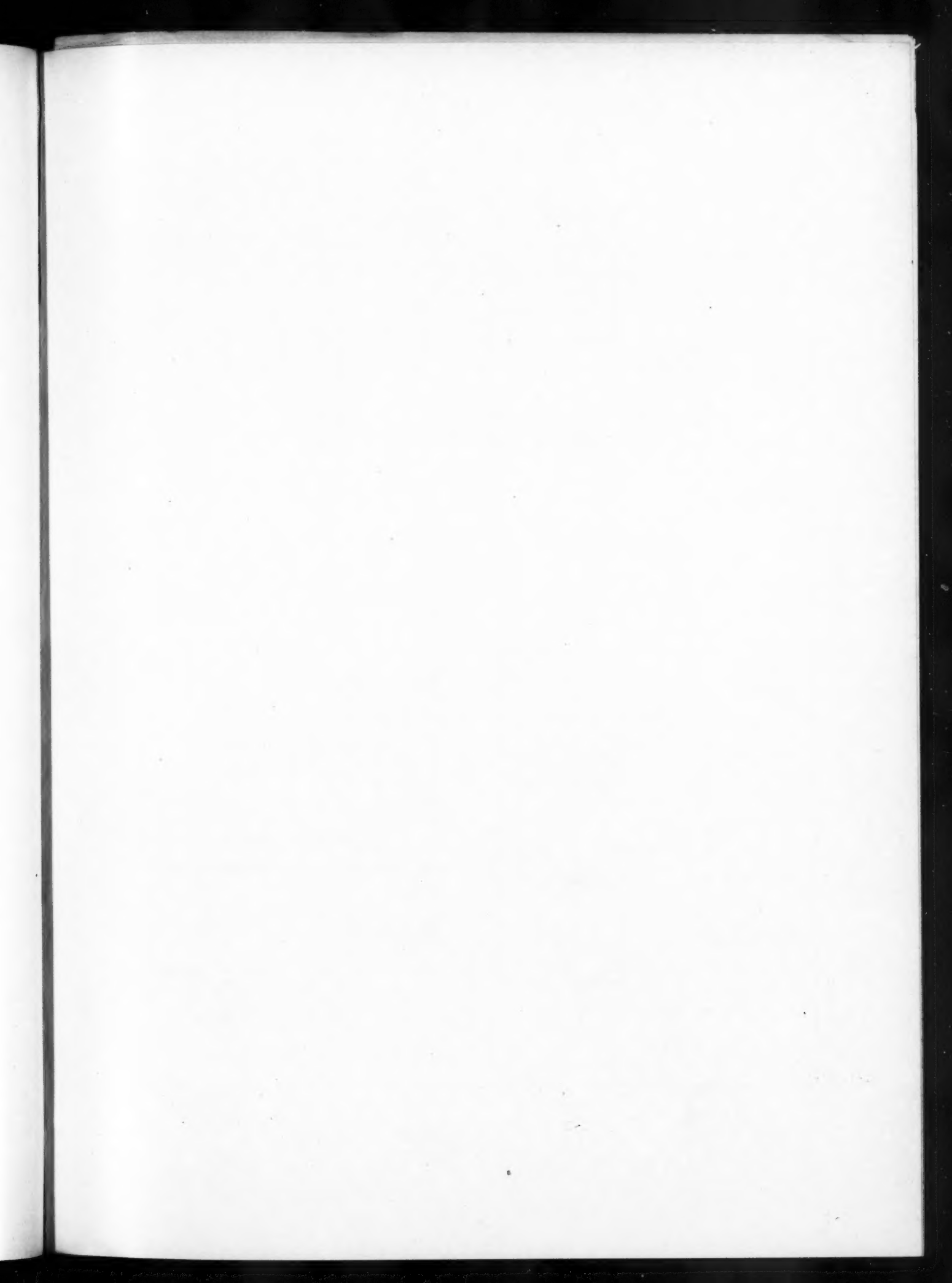


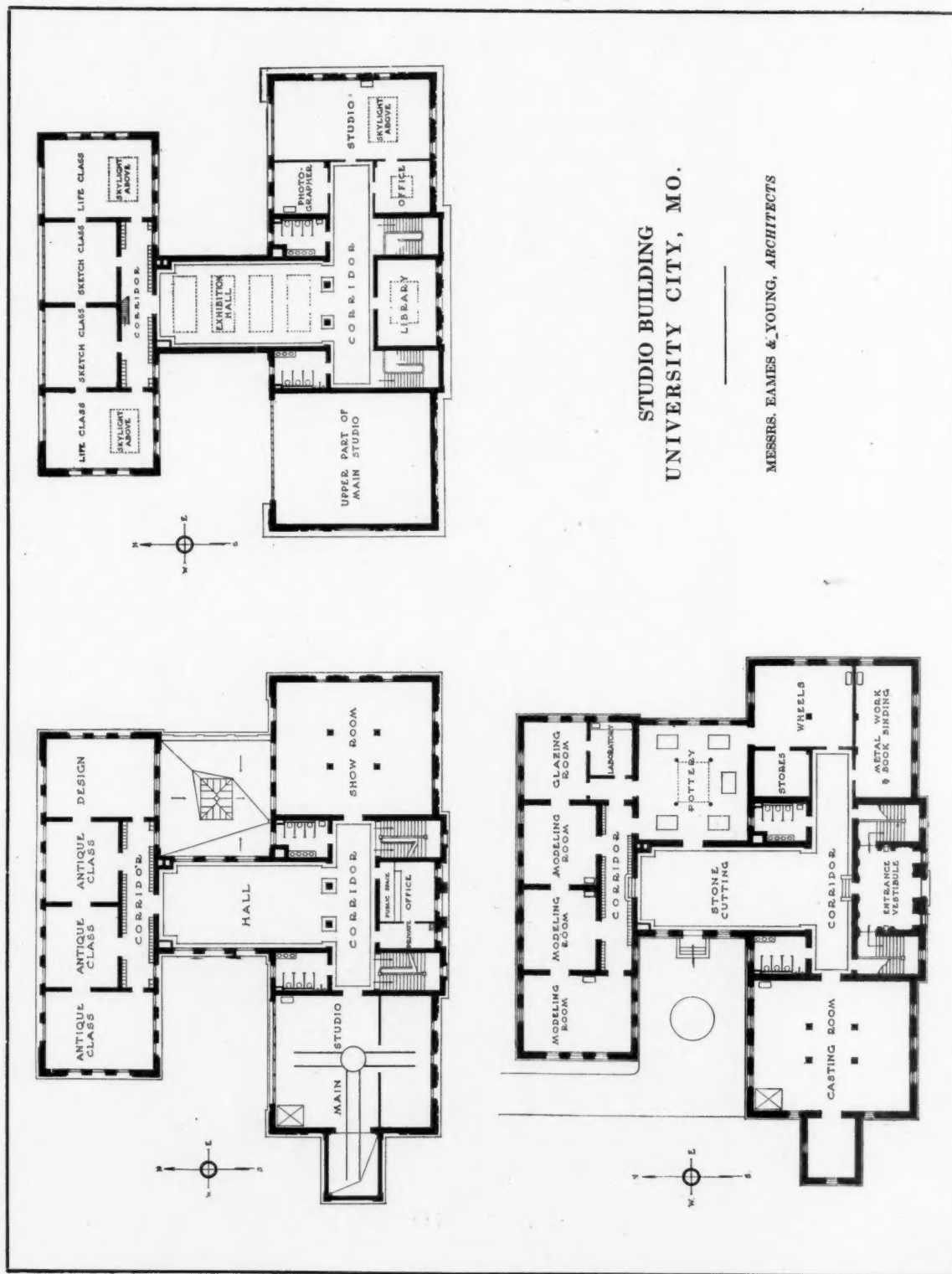
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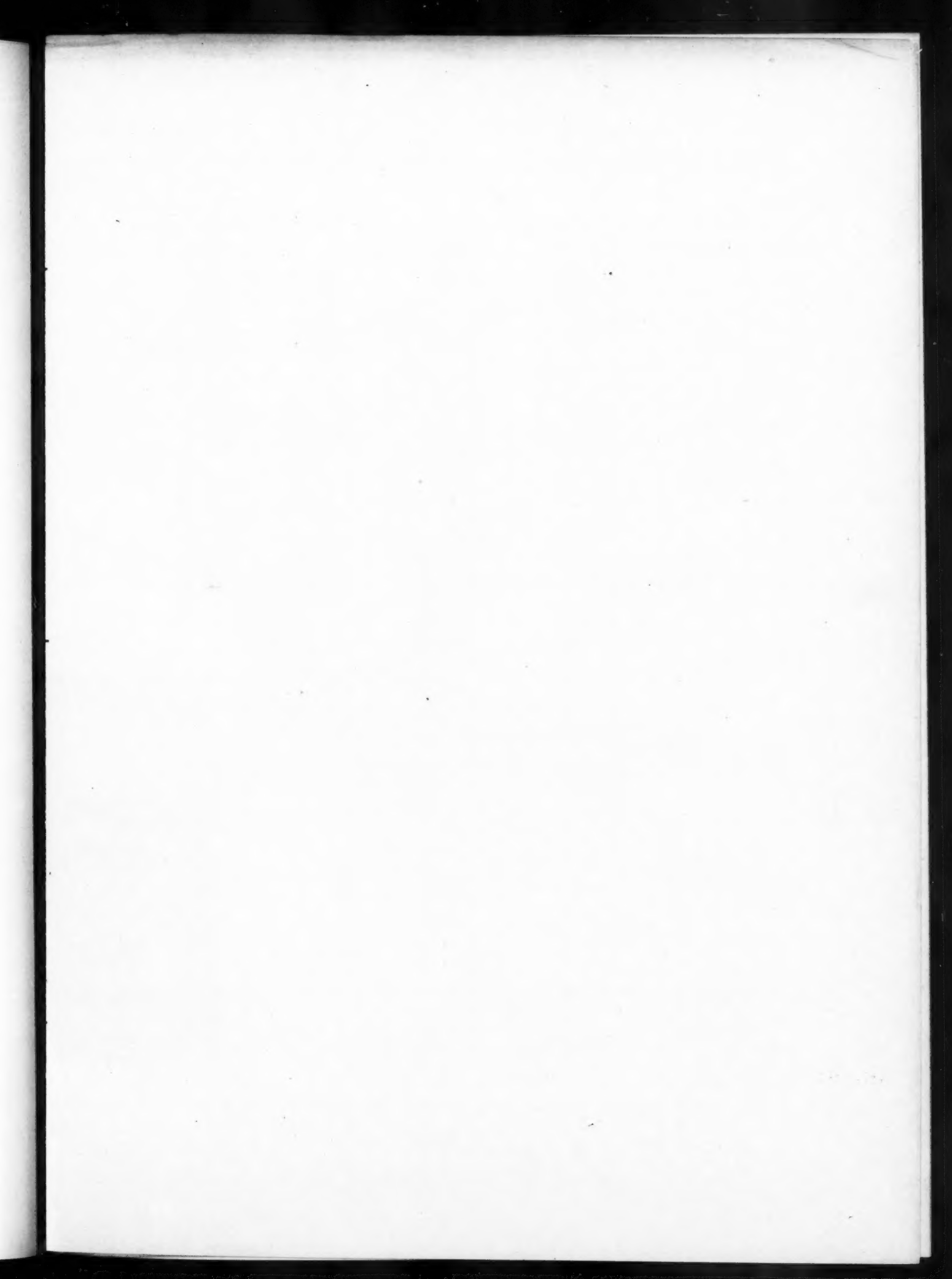
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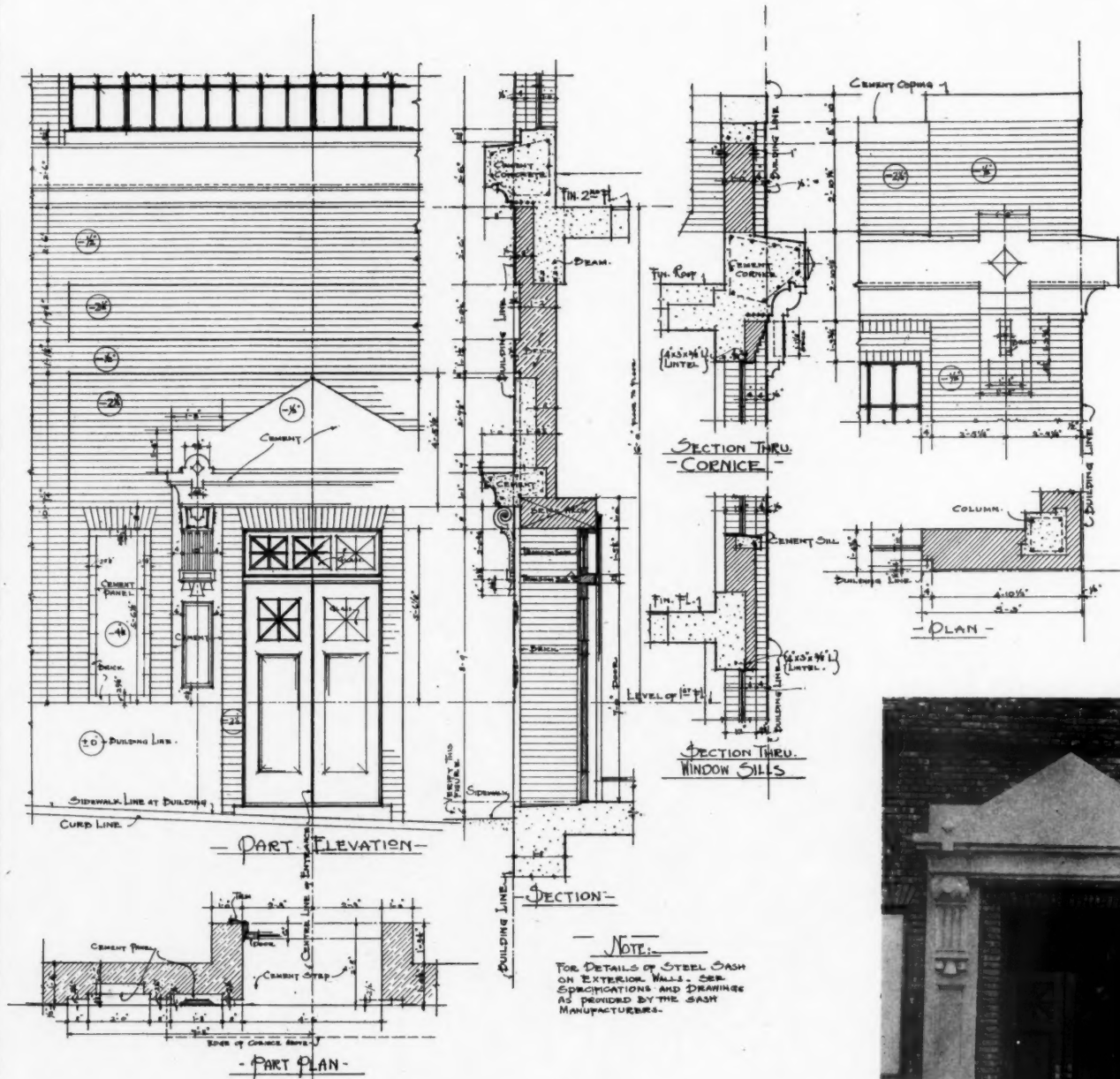




STUDIO BUILDING
UNIVERSITY CITY, MO.

MESSRS. EAMES & YOUNG, ARCHITECTS



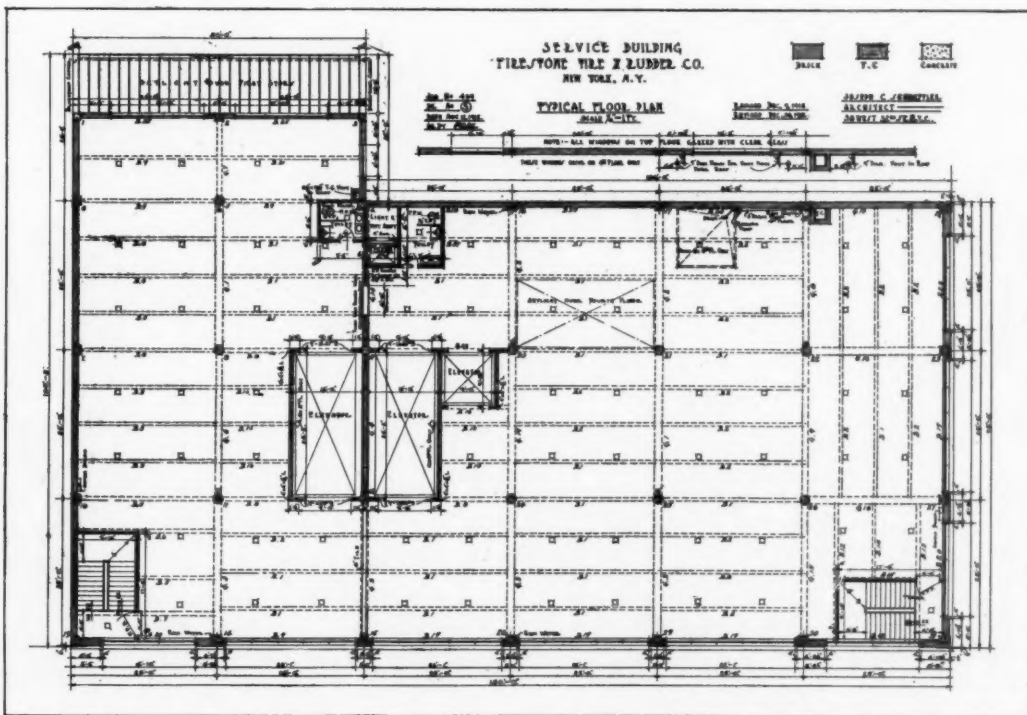
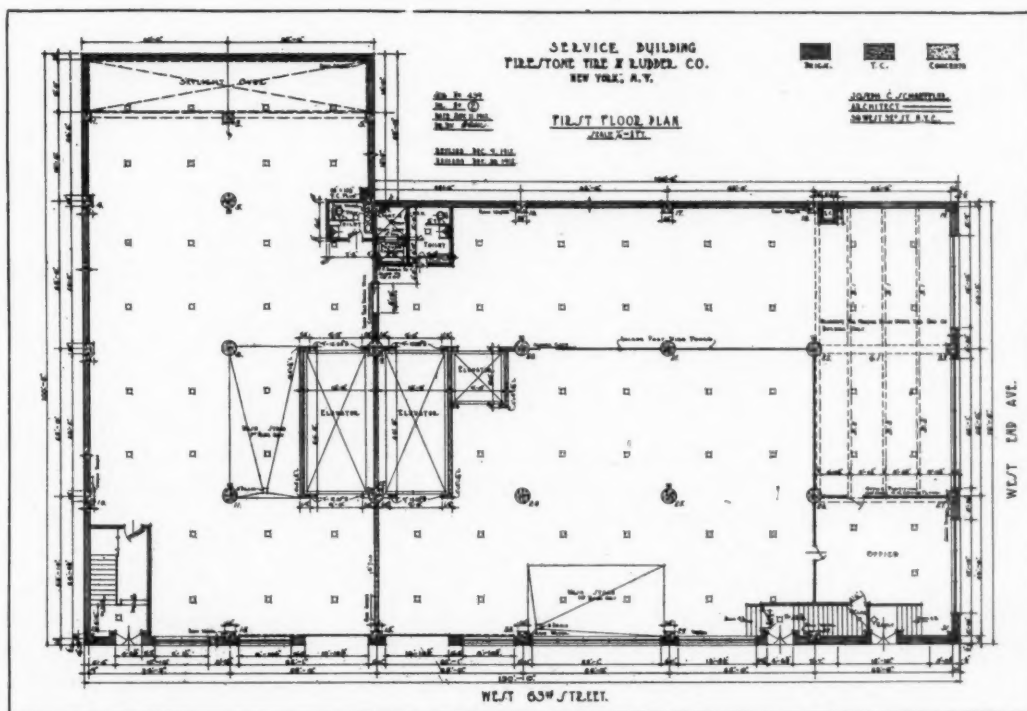
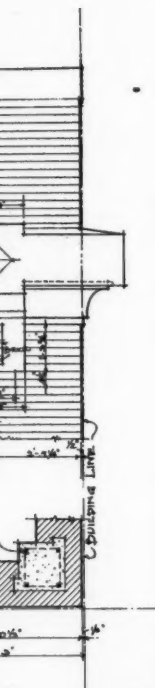


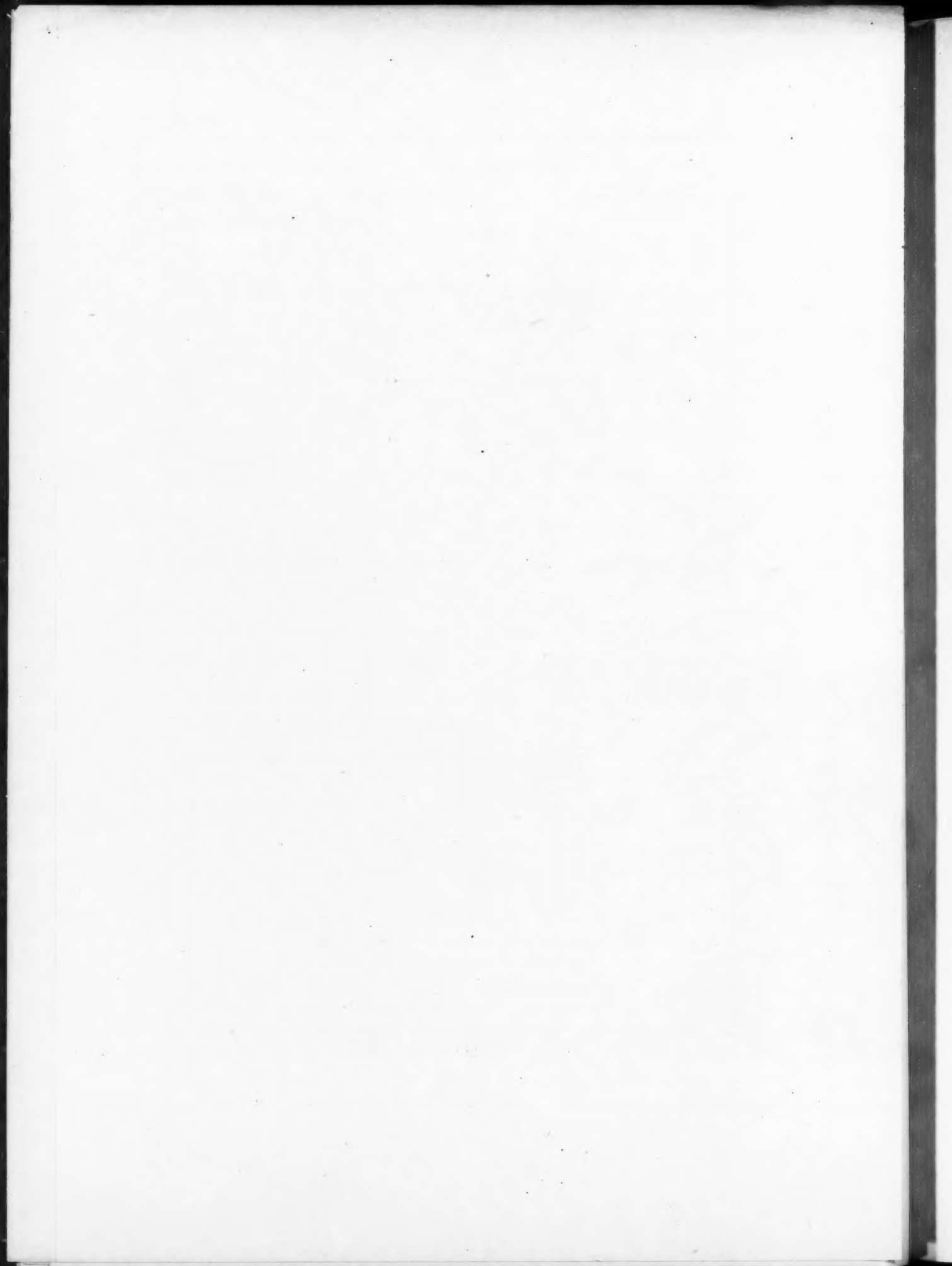
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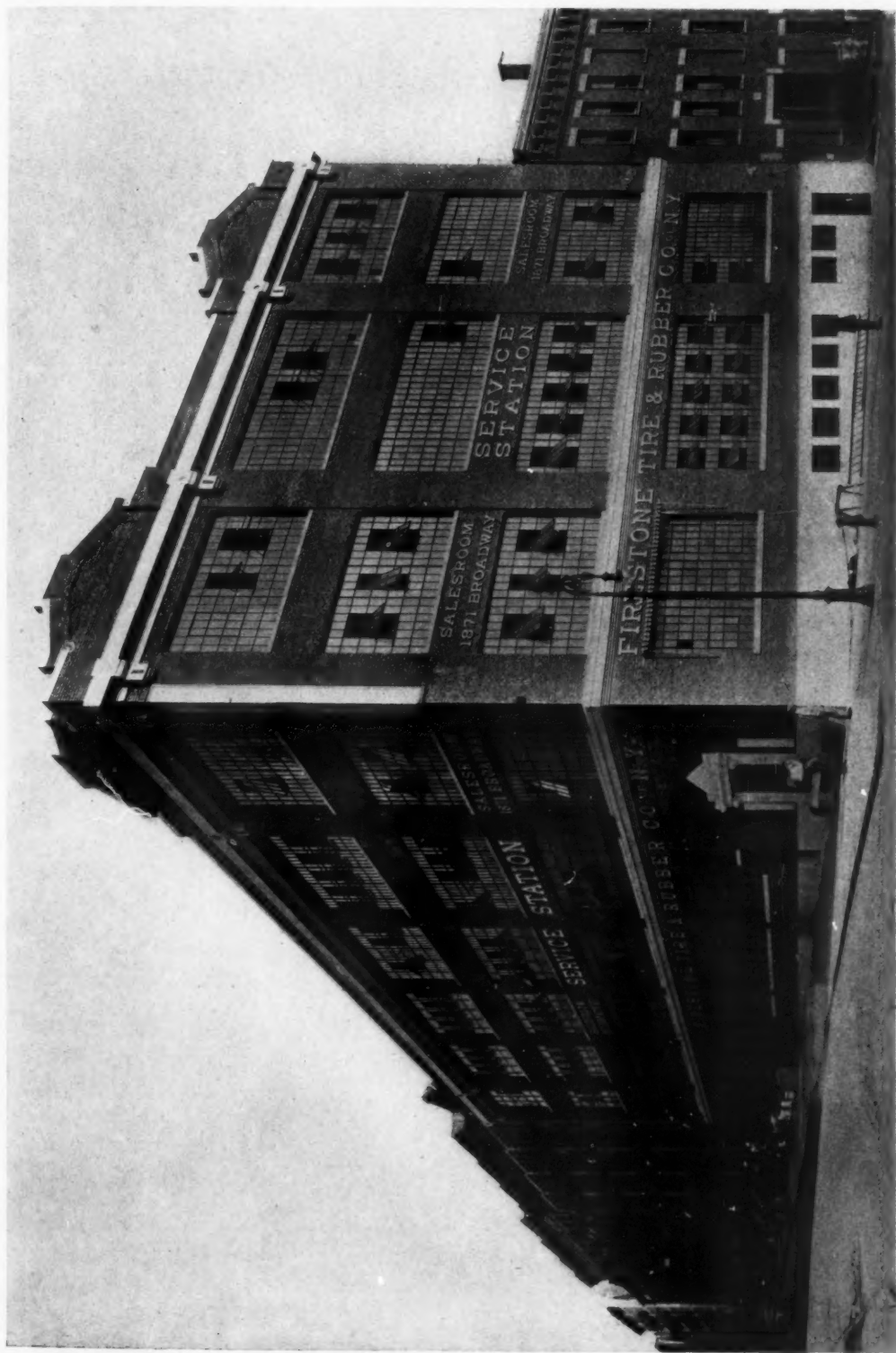
MR. JOSEPH C. SCHAEFFLER, ARCHITECT

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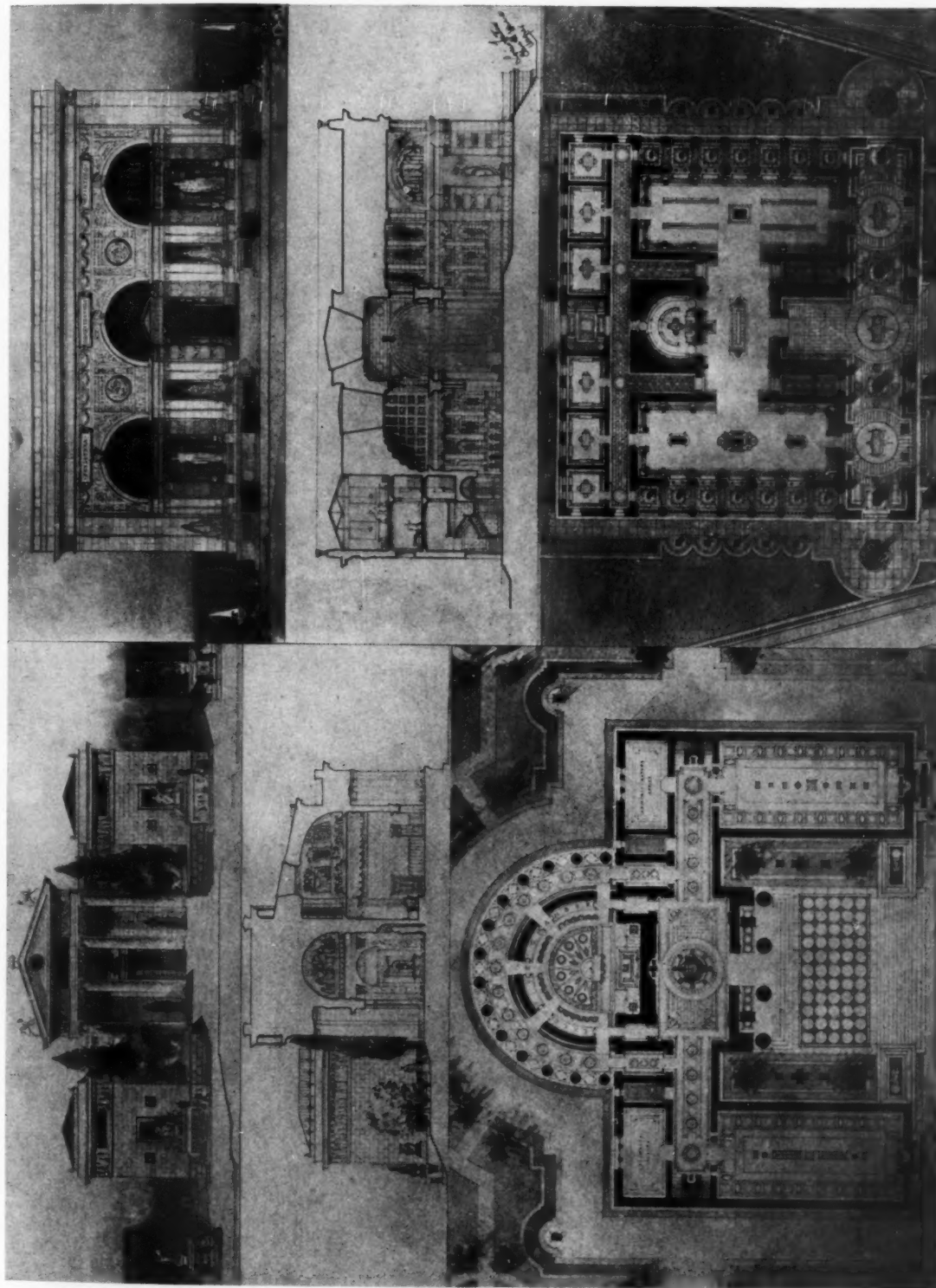






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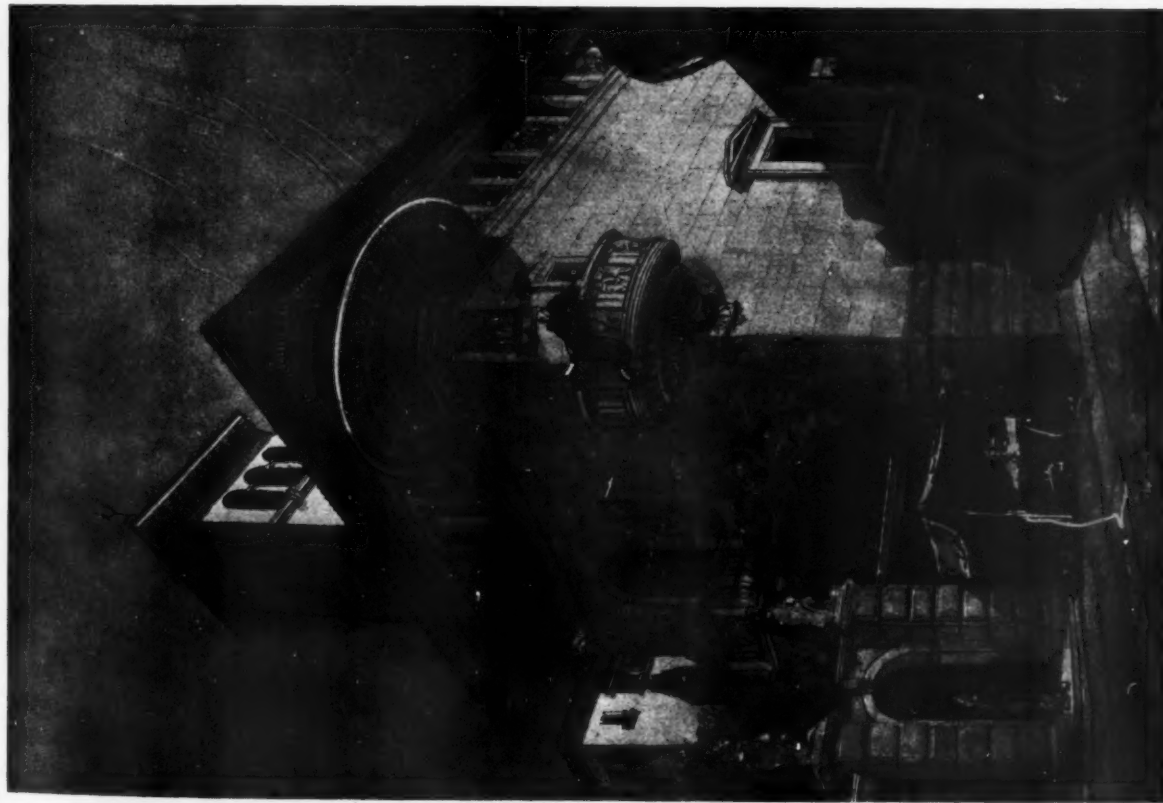
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FIRST MEDAL, H. J. BESHGETOORIAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

SECOND MEDAL, L. FENTNOR, ATELIER WARE-WAGNER

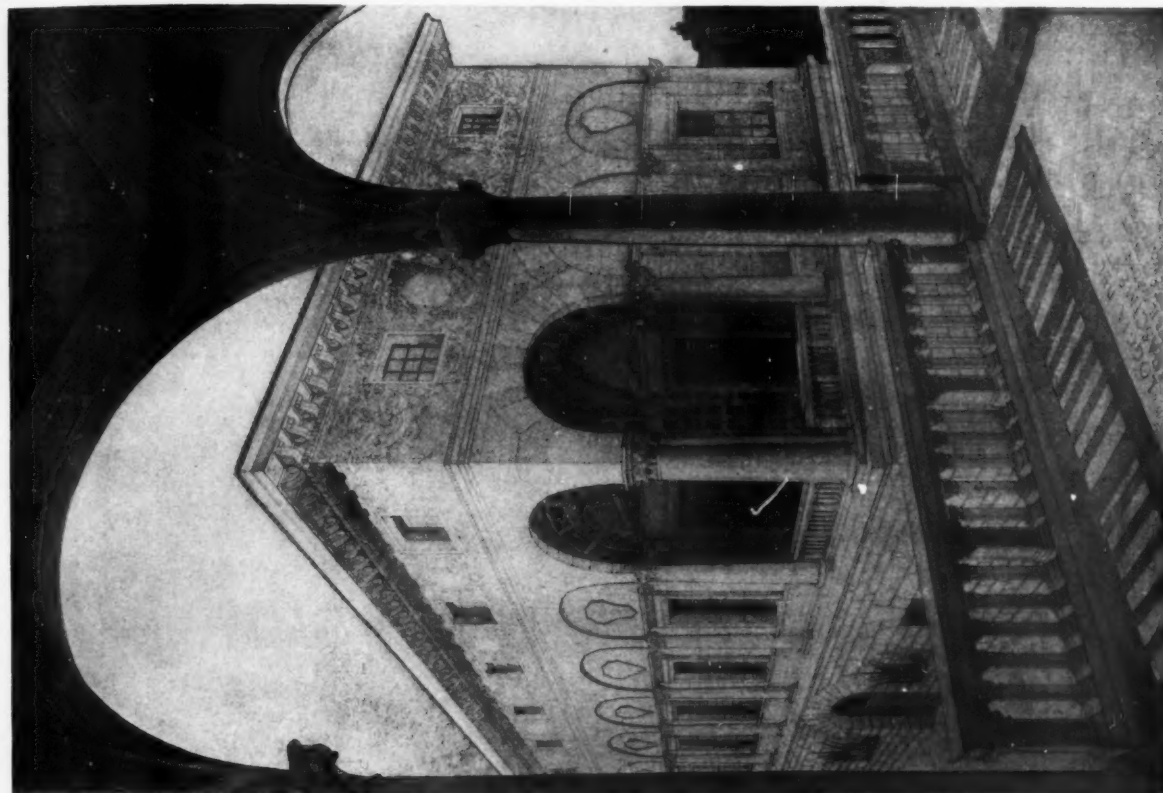
CLASS "A" — I PROJET (Problem in Design) ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FOR THE NATIONAL ACADEMY
STUDENT WORK, SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS



THIRD MEDAL, J. F. HARBESON, PHILADELPHIA ATELIER

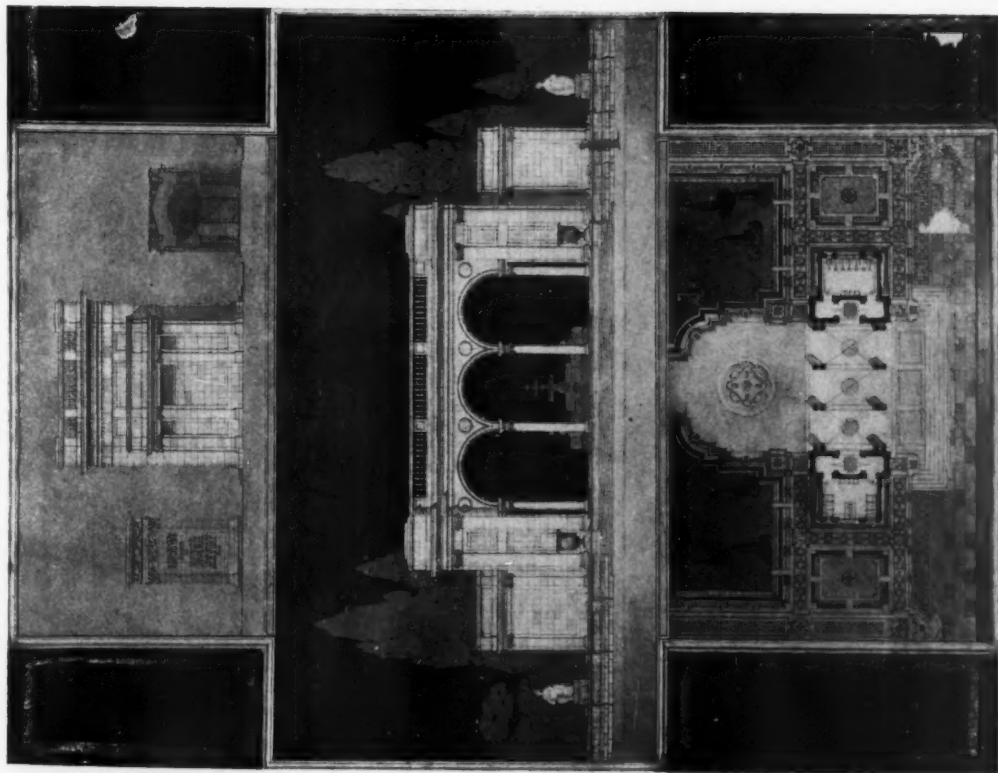
ARCHAEOLOGY—I PROJET (Problem in Design) A CORNER BALCONY

STUDENT WORK, SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS

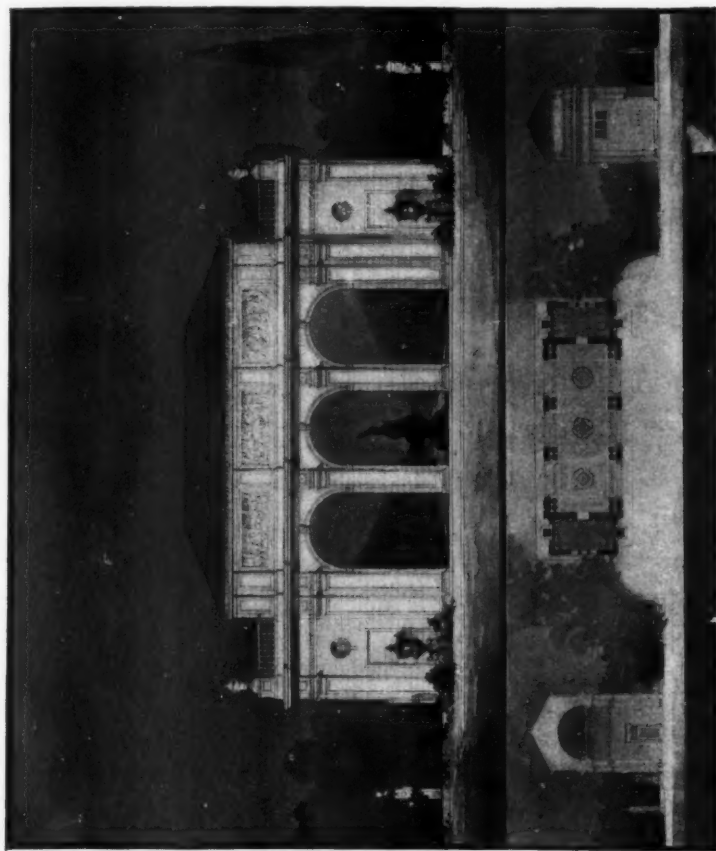


THIRD MEDAL, A. S. HILDEBRAND, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY





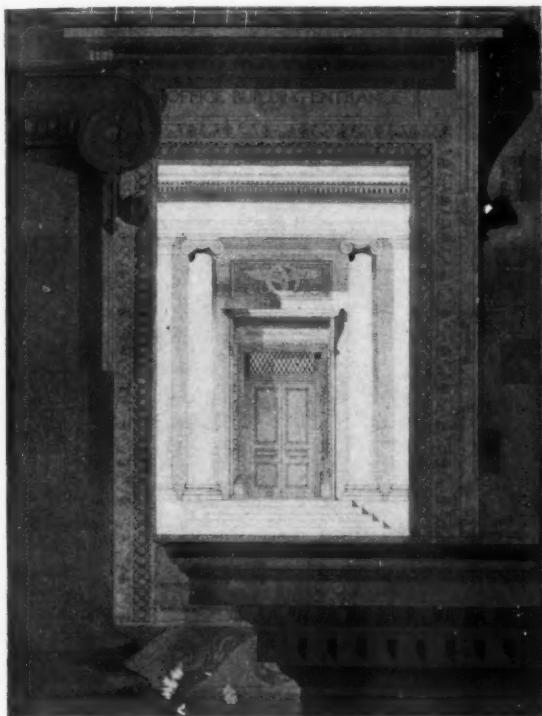
FIRST MENTION PLACED, F. BIGELOW, ATELIER CORBETT



FIRST MENTION PLACED, J. F. MAHON, ATELIER LIGHT

CLASS "B"—I (Problem in Design)
A PUBLIC COMFORT STATION

STUDENT WORK, SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS



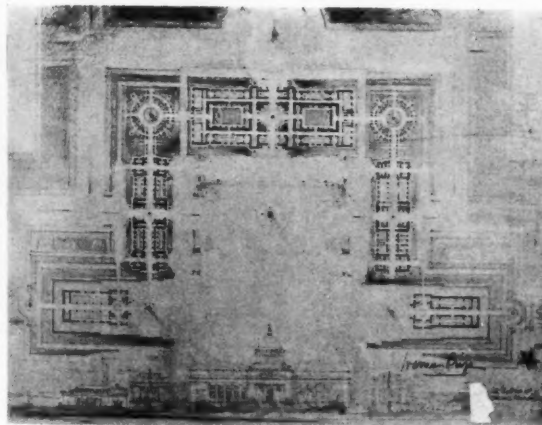
P. G. KNOBLOCH, ATELIER HIRONS

—FIRST MENTION PLACED—

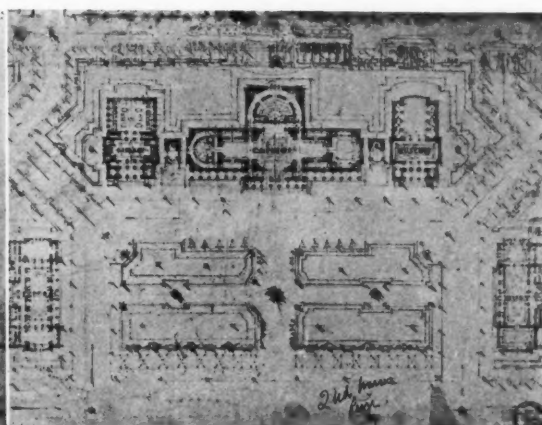


S. VOSPER, ATELIER CORBETT

CLASS "B"—I ORDER PROBLEM, AN ENTRANCE TO AN OFFICE BUILDING
STUDENT WORK, SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS



FIRST PRIZE, R. M. JOHNSON, ATELIER WARE-WAGNER.



SECOND PRIZE, T. D. FITZGIBBON, CARNEGIE INSTITUTE

WARREN PRIZE COMPETITION—"A CIVIC GROUP"
STUDENT WORK, SOCIETY OF BEAUX-ARTS ARCHITECTS

CURRENT NEWS AND COMMENT

HEIGHT LIMIT FOR NEW YORK BUILDINGS COMMISSION WOULD REGULATE COURT AREAS AND SEGREGATE FACTORIES

THE Advisory Commission of the Board of Estimate's Height of Buildings Committee, New York City, filed its report early in December. The commission, of which former Public Service Commissioner Edward M. Bassett is the head, recommends that the height of future buildings be limited along certain prescribed lines. The parent committee, which is composed of the Borough Presidents of Greater New York will study the recommendations and make its own final report to the Board of Estimate some time this month. This summary of the proposed regulations was given out:

Limit height at the street line to twice the width of the street, but such limit shall in no case be less than 100 feet nor more than 300 feet. After reaching such limit the building may be carried higher by setting the street walls above such limit back one foot for each four feet of increased height. No cornice may project into the street more than five per cent. of the street width.

Every building may cover the entire lot up to the top of the first story. Above such first story ten per cent. of every interior lot must be left vacant, and, except on a lot facing on two or more streets, such ten per cent. shall be left at the rear of the lot. No rear court is required in the case of a corner lot.

In addition, there must be a further loss of area covered by the building equal to one per cent. of the lot area for each story, except the first. Loss of area occasioned by setbacks of the front walls is included in this one per cent. This requirement is supplemented by a minimum dimension proportionate to height for main courts other than the ten per cent. rear court. Such courts must be not less than six feet and not less than the number of feet equal to one and one-quarter times the number of stories above the first story. Such courts are included as part of the one per cent. per floor. These requirements apply to corner as well as to interior lots.

Buildings erected on lots of specified shapes and sizes, and for which adequate light and air can be secured from the streets, are exempted from the requirement as to the loss in area of one per cent. a story and from all requirements as to courts.

A tower may be erected to any height, provided it does not cover more than twenty-five per cent. of the lot, and provided every part of the tower is kept at least twenty feet from the lot and street lines. In the case of a building facing a public park or water front, however, such tower may be placed at the building line.

For plots of normal size it is estimated that buildings will reach their economic height when, through the application of the court and set-back regulations, the area of the building has been reduced to about sixty per cent. of the area of the plot. This will mean that for buildings on an interior plot on a sixty-foot street the economic height limit will be about fourteen to seventeen stories. On a corner plot on a 100-foot street the economic height limit will be probably sixteen to twenty stories.

"Height limitations alone," says the report, "will not prevent deterioration

of sections owing to the invasion of inappropriate industries or structures. Real estate owners and business men of New York City have suffered enormous losses owing to a failure to protect certain districts from encroachment by factories. We believe that factories should be excluded from the neighborhood of upper Fifth Avenue. The preservation of that thoroughfare as a high-class shopping centre is essential to the business prosperity of the entire city."

The commission recommends that an act be passed by the Legislature authorizing the Board of Estimate to regulate the situation of industries and of buildings designed for specified uses, and to establish districts for this purpose, and it submitted a draft of an amendment to the Charter to carry out the recommendations.

"A general limitation applicable to all buildings throughout the city can, however, be enacted by the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Estimate under present powers," the report says, "and we earnestly recommend that such action be taken."

Borough President McAneny said he was in favor of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission and would immediately call a meeting of the Height of Buildings Committee to consider them.

THE FIRESTONE SERVICE STATION

THE new building recently erected on the southeast corner of West End Avenue and 63d Street, New York City, for the Metropolitan Service Station of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, presented a somewhat unique problem for the architect inasmuch as it required a combination of three elements under one roof, a warehouse, a factory and a garage.

The site measures seventy-five feet three inches on West End Avenue, and 150 feet on 63d Street, with an ell twenty-five feet by fifty feet behind the easterly fifty feet of the plot. A four-story building was

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erected on the entire plot, except ten feet at the rear of the ell which was left clear above the first story to insure proper light and ventilation.

After a careful study of the storage requirements it was decided to divide the building into two sections by means of a hollow tile wall fifty feet from the easterly line and extending the entire height. The garage is located to the east of this wall and the westerly section received the following assignments: first floor, administration, shipping and receiving; second and third floors, storage of tires, rims, wheel parts, etc.; fourth floor, shops. Each part of the building is equipped with an automobile elevator having a platform ten feet by twenty-four feet and capable of carrying 12,000 pounds at a speed of seventy feet per minute, and in addition to these there is also on the westerly side a freight elevator with a platform eight feet by eight feet capable of carrying 2,500 pounds at seventy feet per minute. It will be readily seen that this arrangement permits the storage of cars or commercial vehicles in the garage while the wheels are taken to the shops for the renewal of rims or tires or, if necessary, while entirely new wheels are built. It may be interesting, as an indication of the importance attached to this Service Station, to state that it provides for the storage of 20,000 pneumatic tires, 5,000 solid tires, 3,000 steel felloe bands, 2,000 sets of removable steel equipment, 12,000 quick demountable rims, 100,000 sets of wood felloes. The shops are equipped to handle 200 applications of tires per day of eight hours.

The construction throughout is absolutely fireproof, being reinforced concrete with a veneer of red brick on the exterior. Ordinary brick bonds were attached to the inside of the forms before erection so that they were cast into the concrete. After the forms had been stripped these bonds were bent down so as to lie in the joints of the brickwork thereby securing the veneer against peeling from the main structure.

The entrance to the offices is interesting mainly as showing what can be done with concrete when the mouldings are judiciously chosen. In this case the consoles were cast in a shop and set in place above

the base panels, after which forms were erected as usual and the pediment cast directly in place. The panels on either side of the doorway are of concrete and were designed to contain small signs.

The foundations presented some peculiar problems. This is a rocky site and as is usual on Manhattan Island the character of the rock varied considerably so that the allowed loadings on the footings was finally fixed at as low as four tons per square foot for some and as high as twenty tons for others. At the southwest corner a cleft in the rock was encountered and after excavating to a depth of thirty-two feet below grade without opening up firm rock, a footing designed to thrust on the sides of the rock walls was built to carry this corner of the building.

PERSONAL

Mr. Eugene V. Bathmaier, who for the past twelve years has been employed in the office of Messrs. Baker & Dallett, architects, of Philadelphia, Pa., has opened an office for the independent practice of his profession at 208 Bulletin Building in the same city. He would be pleased to receive manufacturers' samples and catalogues.

George A. Palliser and Harold H. Hills have opened offices for the practice of architecture in the Scott Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. Palliser received a part of his early training with McKim, Meade & White, New York City, and with Bliss & Faville, San Francisco, Cal. The new firm will be glad to receive samples and catalogues from manufacturers.

OBITUARY

Franklin Simmons, the American sculptor, for forty-five years resident in Rome, died there December 8th, at the age of seventy-four. He was a very prolific worker, having to his credit nearly one hundred busts and about fifteen public monuments, among which is the G. A. R. monument to General Grant in Washington, D. C. In recognition of his work in Rome, Mr. Simmons was decorated three times by the King of Italy.

SOCIETY OF BEAUX ARTS ARCHITECTS

OFFICIAL AWARDS MADE IN THE JUDGMENT OF NOVEMBER 18, 1913

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 108 Esquisses (Preliminary Sketches) and 28 Projets Rendus (Final Drawings) in the:

CLASS "A" & "B" ARCHEOLOGY—I PROJET "A CORNER BALCONY"

Author	Award	Atelier	City
Harbeson, J. F.	3d Medal	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
Hildebrand, A. S.	3d Medal	Columbia University	N. Y.
Coffin, L. A.	3d Medal	Columbia University	N. Y.
Joseph, L.	3d Medal	Columbia University	N. Y.
Giroux, L. M.	3d Medal	Columbia University	N. Y.
Robin, E. J.	3d Medal	Columbia University	N. Y.

The following students received "Mentions":—Atelier Ather-ton, Wilkesbarre: F. L. Stevenson; Atelier Bennett-Rebori, Chicago: R. N. Heer; Columbia University, N. Y.: T. C. Leon, G. Buchtenkirch, A. N. Clough, J. H. McDonnell, M. Belknap, A. H. Gentry, R. M. Hardison, A. C. Holden, C. F. Houston, G. Ruffier; Atelier Favrot and Livaudais, New Orleans: E. J. Gibert, E. M. Milnar; Atelier Hiron, N. Y.: L. Morgan, W. M. Gray; Atelier Hornbostel, N. Y.: G. DiMartino.

There was an encouraging showing in the Archaeology; more drawings than usual, and of better grade. The prevailing fault was a tendency to make a clever water color rather than a serious study of the style in question, though there was shown more general knowledge of the style than usual.

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 55 Sketches in the:

CLASS "A"—I ESQUISSE-ESQUISSE (Rendered Sketch)

"A PAVILION FOR STUDY ON AN ISLAND"

Author	Award	Atelier	City
Hildebrand, A. S.	3d Medal	Columbia University	N. Y.
Hays, J. T.	3d Medal	Carn. Inst. of Tech.	Pitts.
Stanton, W. C.	3d Medal	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
Wolff, R. G.	Mention	Bennett-Rebori	Chicago
Coffin, L. A.	Mention	Columbia University	N. Y.
Park, E. A.	Mention	Columbia University	N. Y.
Dornin, A. (Miss)	Mention	Columbia University	N. Y.
Hauptle, F. W.	Mention	Phila. Atelier	Phila.

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 98 Sketches in the:

CLASS "B"—I ESQUISSE-ESQUISSE (Rendered Sketch)

"A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS FROM OUR COLONIES"

Author	Award	Atelier	City
Van Alst, J., Jr.	1st Ment'n.	Hiron	N. Y.
Venne, J. L.	Mention	Boston Archtl. Club	Boston
Nuzum, W. P.	Mention	Carnegie Inst. of Tech.	Pitts.
Wilson, J. P.	Mention	Columbia University	N. Y.
McLachlan, D.	Mention	Hiron	N. Y.
Fuller, F. A.	Mention	U. of Pa., Sch. of Arch.	Phila.

CRITICISM

"A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS FROM OUR COLONIES"

There was a good showing of "A" and "B" Esquisse-Esquisses, the former in most cases failed to give the intimate pavilion character to their designs that the programme called for, the schemes being much too formal and monumental.

The "B" Esquisse-Esquisse programme was perhaps somewhat difficult for students of this grade but the design placed first shows excellent interpretation of the programme and a well balanced plan

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco, received 144 Esquisses (Preliminary Sketches) and 101 Projets Rendus (Sets of final drawings) in the:

CLASS "A"—I PROJET (Problem in Design) "ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FOR THE NATIONAL ACADEMY"

Author	Award	Atelier	City
Beshgetoorian, H.	1st Medal	Columbia University	N. Y.
Thompson, J. A.	2d Medal	U. of Pa., Sch. of Arch.	Phila.
Sternfeld, H.	2d Medal	U. of Pa., Sch. of Arch.	Phila.
Fentnor, L.	2d Medal	Ware-Wagner	N. Y.
Kingston, J. L.	2d Medal	Boston Archtl. Club	Boston
Elwell, S. B.	2d Medal	Cornell University	Ithaca
Barney, W. P.	2d Medal	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
Megrail, A. H.	2d Medal	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
Johnson, R. M.	2d Medal	Ware-Wagner	N. Y.

The following students received "Mentions":—Carnegie Institute of Tech., Pittsburgh: J. H. Barber, W. H. Crosby, L. C. Dillenback, G. A. Ebeling, R. K. Fleming, J. B. Hays, E. J. Hatcher, E. J. Holthausen, L. H. Persley, W. H. Kirchen-bower, V. C. Jorgensen, A. N. Steinmark, T. D. Fitzgibbon; Atelier Corbett, N. Y.: C. Menz, R. Schumacher, A. Widman; Columbia University, N. Y.: H. G. Agne, G. M. Allen, W. H. Davis, F. L. Finlayson, M. E. Freehof, C. J. Gander, H. P. Hopkins, L. Joseph, F. Latenser, G. Lindsley, S. Paterson, L. H. Schene, B. Braunstein, C. Sheres; Cornell University Ithaca: J. S. Burrell, N. I. Crandall, O. Poundstone, G. W. Ramsey; Georgia Sch. of Tech. Atelier, Atlanta: R. K. Perry, P. T. Shutze; Atelier Hiron, N. Y.: L. Morgan; Atelier Hornbostel, N. Y.: E. Wagner, R. W. Hubel; Atelier Kimball, Omaha: N. R. Brigham; Atelier Licht, N. Y.: L. C. Licht; L. Ross, care of J. Rogers, N. Y.; Phila. Atelier, Phila.: T. E. Ash, E. B. Baker, H. P. Foster, P. Getz, F. W. Hauptle, S. J. Laschenski, S. A. Love, L. V. Scherr, F. L. Hill; Un. of Pa., Sch. of Archt., Phila.: V. A. Frid, T. Bendell, E. D. McDonald, J. H. Chillman, B. F. Olson, C. M. Lovelace, D. M. Hunt, F. A. Fuller, E. H. Wigham, W. M. Stanton, H. B. Register; Atelier Ware-Wagner, N. Y.: R. Dana, Robt. Pallesen, E. H. Kleeman, L. J. Cowley.

CRITICISM

The chief criticisms of the jury in judging the "Administration Building for the National Academy" were directed against scale and lack of adequate circulation. The evident tendency was to make too large a building and to confuse rather than simplify what was a direct plan. The two drawings reproduced have avoided these defects and further present very well studied elevations.

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The Committee on Education desires to warn students to observe more carefully the fixed dimensions and to express some definite parti in their esquisses. Six or eight projets were placed "H.C." because they exceeded the dimensions or so far departed from their original sketch as to have made their work of no value.

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO S.B.A.A. STUDENTS OF AWARDS MADE IN THE JUDGMENT OF DECEMBER 9TH, 1913

WARREN PRIZE COMPETITION

"A CIVIC GROUP"

Offered for general excellence in planning a group of buildings.

FIRST PLACE, \$50.00 SECOND PLACE, \$25.00
The prize is the gift of Messrs. Whitney Warren and Lloyd Warren. Number of drawings submitted, 45.

Author	Award	Atelier	City
Johnson, R. M.	1st Place	Ware-Wagner	N. Y.
	\$50.00		
Fitzgibbon, T. D.	2d Place	Carnegie Inst. of Tech.	Pittsburgh
	\$25.00		
Thomson, J. A.	3d Place	U. of P., S. of Archt.	Phila.
Bendell, Thos.	4th Place	U. of P., S. of Archt.	Phila.

There was an excellent collection of drawings presented in this competition, the winner standing head and shoulders above the other competitors. The excellencies of his design lay in the first place, in his having an open plan as was proper for a plan facing a park. Second, in the excellent composition of the different parts of his plan in their relation to one another. Third, in the clear indication at the correct scale.

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 334 Preliminary Sketches and 226 Final Drawings in the

CLASS "B"—I ANALYTIQUE (Order Problem)

"AN ENTRANCE TO AN OFFICE BUILDING"

The following students received "First Mention Placed":—S. Vosper, Corbett Atelier; P. G. Knobloch, Hirons Atelier; G. H. Hodenpyl, Columbia University; F. I. McCathern, Hirons Atelier, and E. J. Pauli, Ware-Wagner Atelier,—all of New York.

The following received "First Mention":—W. L. Rutan, Atelier A. & M. College of Texas; R. N. Heer, Bennett-Rebori Atelier, Chicago, Ill.; R. Gallimore, Corbett Atelier, New York City; from Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburg, Pa.: E. D. Armstrong, H. L. Heilman, H. L. Smith; from Columbia University, New York City: R. E. Bowes, P. W. Dixon, G. B. Hall, G. E. Miller, R. H. Spurgeon, C. S. Van Name, E. F. Billie, J. T. Briggs, W. Frost, J. L. Newman, R. Nickel, R. M. Rice, A. J. Shapiro, E. J. Schmitt, F. J. Vreeland; H. Beppler, Hirons Atelier, New York City; E. Shinn, Hornbostel Atelier, New York City; A. P. Goodwin, Kansas City Atelier; D. Dagostino, 2 West 45th Street, New York City; A. Albrizio, care of LaFarge and Morris, New York City; T. J. Earley, Philadelphia Atelier; W. J. Ryder, Philadelphia Atelier; C. H. Buetoe, University of Minnesota.

CRITICISM

A great number of designs of unusual merit were submitted in the Order Problem as shown by the large number of "First Mentions" that were given. The defects most commonly noticed lay in ignorance of shadows, careless drawing and ren-

dering, and too much attention wasted on inappropriate ornamentation that should have been spent in the study of the Order.

The Committee on Education in New York and its Local Committee in San Francisco received 285 Preliminary Sketches and 212 Final Drawings in the

CLASS "B"—I PROJET (Problem in Design)

"A PUBLIC COMFORT BUILDING"

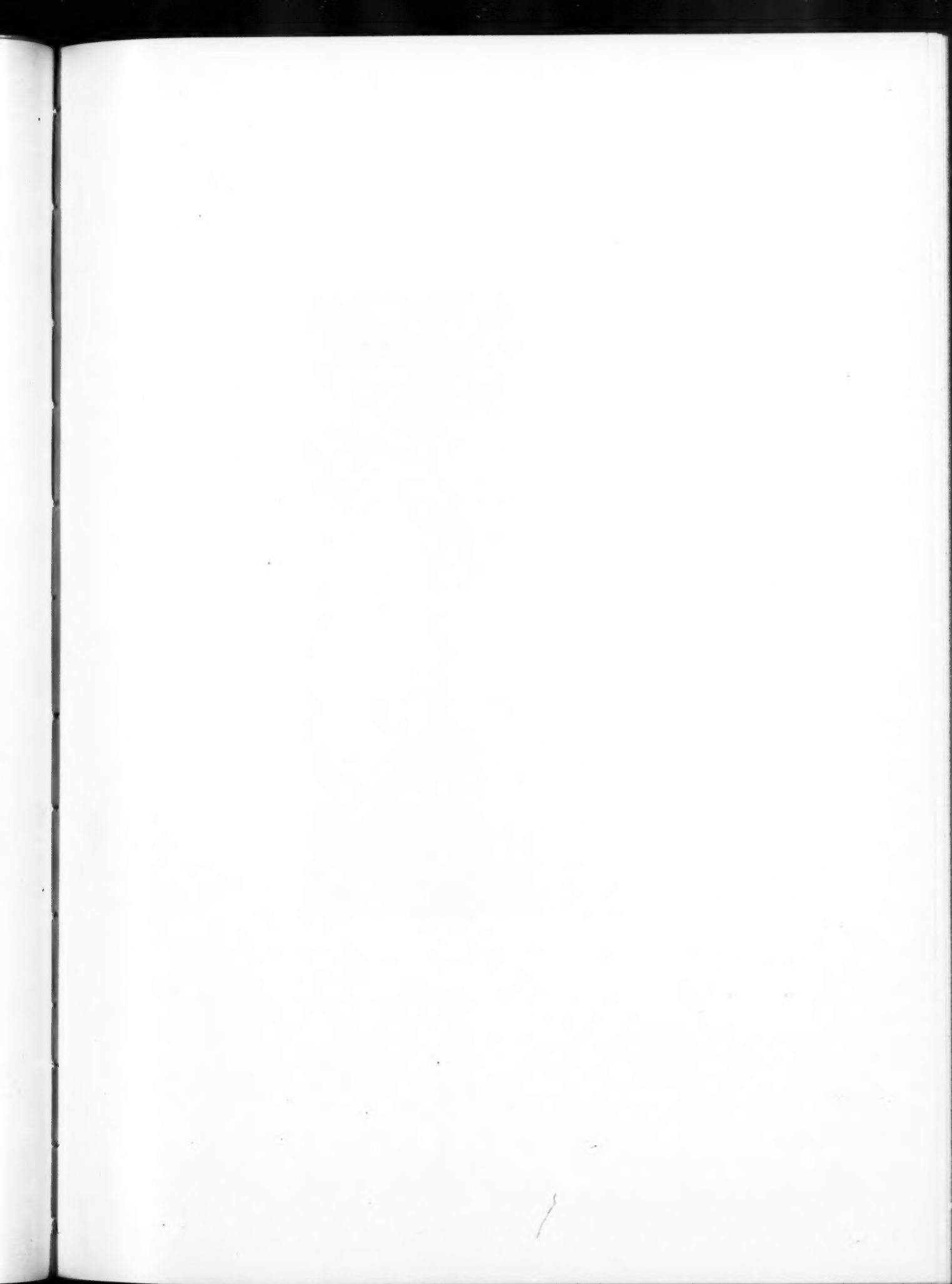
Author	Award	Atelier	City
Bigelow, F.	1st M.Pl.	Corbett	N. Y.
Mahon, J. F.	1st M.Pl.	Licht	N. Y.
Koelle, W. F. B.	1st M.Pl.	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
Roberts, F. N.	1st M.	Boston Archt. Club	Boston
Thomson, J. T.	1st M.	Corbett	N. Y.
Kronfeld, F.	1st M.	Corbett	N. Y.
Weigler, W. R.	1st M.	Car. Inst. of Tech.	Pitts.
Burton, A.	1st M.	Columbia University	N. Y.
Scholer, W.	1st M.	Columbia University	N. Y.
Wilson, J. P.	1st M.	Columbia University	N. Y.
Cook, H. G.	1st M.	Columbia University	N. Y.
Sinn, G.	1st M.	Columbia University	N. Y.
Sunderland, W.	1st M.	Columbia University	N. Y.
VanAlst, J., Jr.	1st M.	Hirons	N. Y.
Dagit, F. D.	1st M.	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
Kassman, W. T.	1st M.	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
Keyser, C. E.	1st M.	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
McGrath, H. A.	1st M.	Phila. Atelier	Phila.
Barton, G.	1st M.	Syracuse University	Syracuse
Cameron, D.	1st M.	Ware-Wagner	N. Y.

CRITICISM

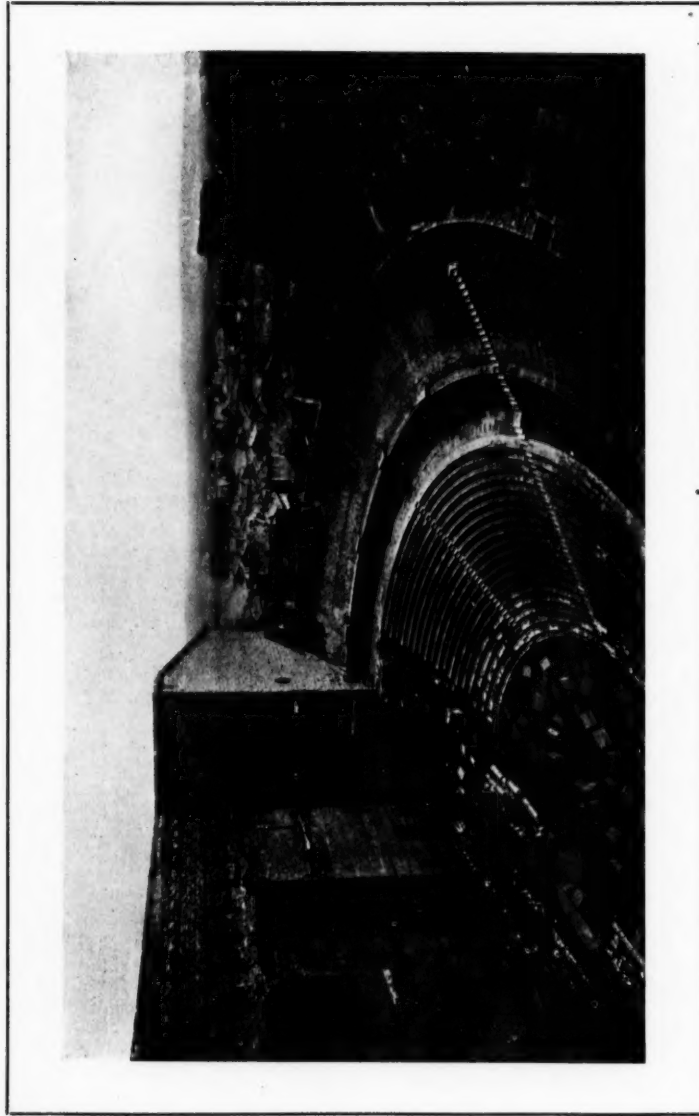
The jury for the Class "B" Projet, subject—"A Public Comfort Station," was much dissatisfied with the results of the competition. The students, generally, seem to have misunderstood the programme and, in the vast majority of cases, to have designed loggias where a passageway was distinctly called for. While due allowance can be made, and was made, for such misconceptions, there were other inexcusable characteristics of this competition. Firstly, a great deal of very careless drawing and rendering was in evidence and resulted in a very unusually large proportion of projets which got no reward whatever. Secondly, the study of the side elevations was almost completely neglected. So much was this the case that in some extreme examples the main elevation and the side elevation seemed to belong to two entirely different buildings, and certainly could not be combined with any but the most unfortunate results. Furthermore, two otherwise excellent projets were thrown "H. C." for incomplete side elevations. The jury wishes to warn the students that they must present all the drawings called for in their entirety unless it is otherwise specifically stated.

Three drawings representing logical solutions from somewhat different points of view were awarded "First Mention Placed"; the drawing and rendering in these were well up to standard. Other drawings which seemed to the jury considerably better than those given "Mentions" were awarded "First Mentions."

On the whole the jury felt that, after due allowance was made for a certain ambiguity or rather lack of definiteness in the programme, the results of the competition were distinctly below standard.



THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



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