THE

606

ARCHITECTURA RECORD

VOLUME 79 NUMBER 3 MARCH, 1936

RESIDENCE OF A. W. BROWN, SCARSDALE, NEW YORK. Verna Cook Salomonsky, Architect. Photograph by Harold Haliday Costain

Frontispiece

EXHIBITION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 18 TO 29. By Edgar I. Williams

173-176

PORTFOLIO OF SPECIAL BUILDING TYPES

Railroad Station, Valley Stream, Long Island—Edgar I. Williams, Architect • Universal House, London, England—Joseph Emberton, Architect • Unity House, Forest Park, Pennsylvania—William Lescaze, Architect • Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland—Laurence H. Fowler, Architect • Tennis Shelter Built for Sherman Pratt—John Walfer Wood, Architect • Market Street Station, Newark, New Jersey—McKim, Mead and White, Architects—Boy Scout Theater Interior, Forest of Spala • Bathing Center and Week-End Resort at Ingierstrand, Oslo, Norway—Eyvind Moestue and Ole Lind Schistad, Architects • Doubleday Doran Bookshop, Chicago, Illinois—Designed by Morris Lapidus for Ross-Frankel, Inc. • Remodeled House of Mary Sachs, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania—Eleanor Lemaire, Interior Architect • Central Heating Plant, Washington, D. C.—United Engineers and Contractors, Architects and Engineers; Paul P. Cret, Consulting Architect • The Harris Building and Loan Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania—Edmund George Good, Jr., Architect • The Southeastern Optical Building, Richmond, Virginia—Lee, Ballou and Vandervoort, Inc., Architects • Café Larue, New York City—Scott and Teegen, Architects • Minneapolis Armory Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota—Major P. C. Bettenburg, Architect; Walter H. Wheeler, Consulting Architect and Engineer. Architect and Engineer.

177-229

NEWS OF THE MONTH

230-233

"LUMAR," A NEW MARBLE PRODUCT CREATED BY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

234-236

TECHNICAL NEWS AND RESEARCH:

Materials, Parts, Systems Structural Analysis Air Conditioning Control of Light Furnishings

237-244

SUBSIDIES FOR HOUSING. By Arthur C. Holden, Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee, Housing Section of Welfare Council of New York

245, 246

NEARBY OUTLOOK FOR PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING IMPROVES. By L. Seth Schnitman, Chief Statistician, F. W. Dodge Corporation

18, 20 (adv.)

MARKETING NEWS OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

24, 26, 29 (adv.)

REVIEWS OF CURRENT BOOKS

11, 12 (adv.)

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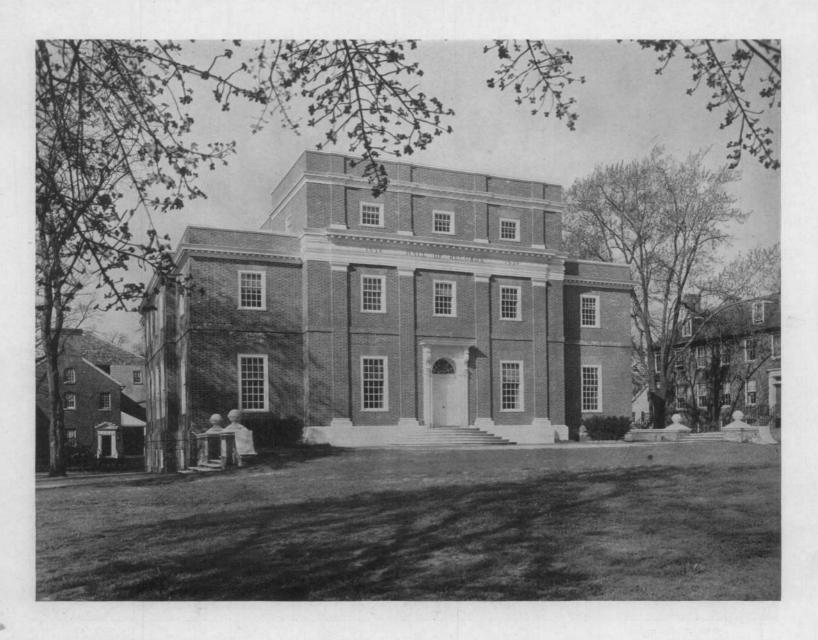
1751

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HALL OF RECORDS

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LAURENCE H. FOWLER

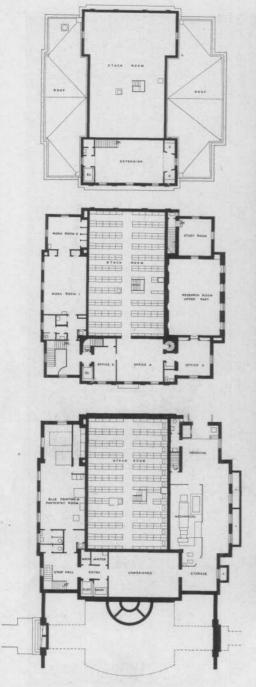
ARCHITECT

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

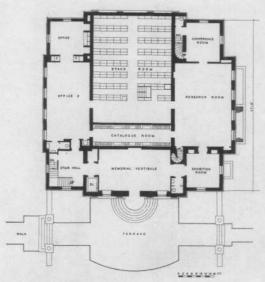
The Hall of Records at Annapolis was erected by the State of Maryland to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the province. Two hundred thousand dollars had been appropriated by the legislature for the construction and equipment of a building to house, and make available for research, all surviving documents pertaining to the history of the state; and a site had been provided at the southwest end of the campus of St. John's College.

This site, by its very nature, offered a number of problems. The campus, a tree-shaded green measuring 250' x 800', is bordered on one of its long sides by a street—College Avenue—and on the other by a row of five brick buildings dating roughly from the middle of the 18th century to the middle of the 19th, the central building (the oldest and largest) having a hip roof crowned by a cupola. At right angles to this row, closing one end of the college campus, stands the dignified little college library, designed in the Georgian manner by T. Henry Randall thirty-five years ago. The site designated for the Hall of Records, at the other end of the college campus, naturally called for a structure somewhat similar in size and position, to take its place as one of the college group and, indeed, a condition actually attached to the use of the site required that the building to be erected there should have its principal façade and entrance facing the campus. While the sloping grade of the site made this condition somewhat troublesome, a greater difficulty was caused by the fact that the building, being for state rather than for college use, had to be readily accessible to the general public. Therefore the main approach, a brick walk, had to come from College Avenue at the side, instead of from the campus in front. However, greatest of all

1751



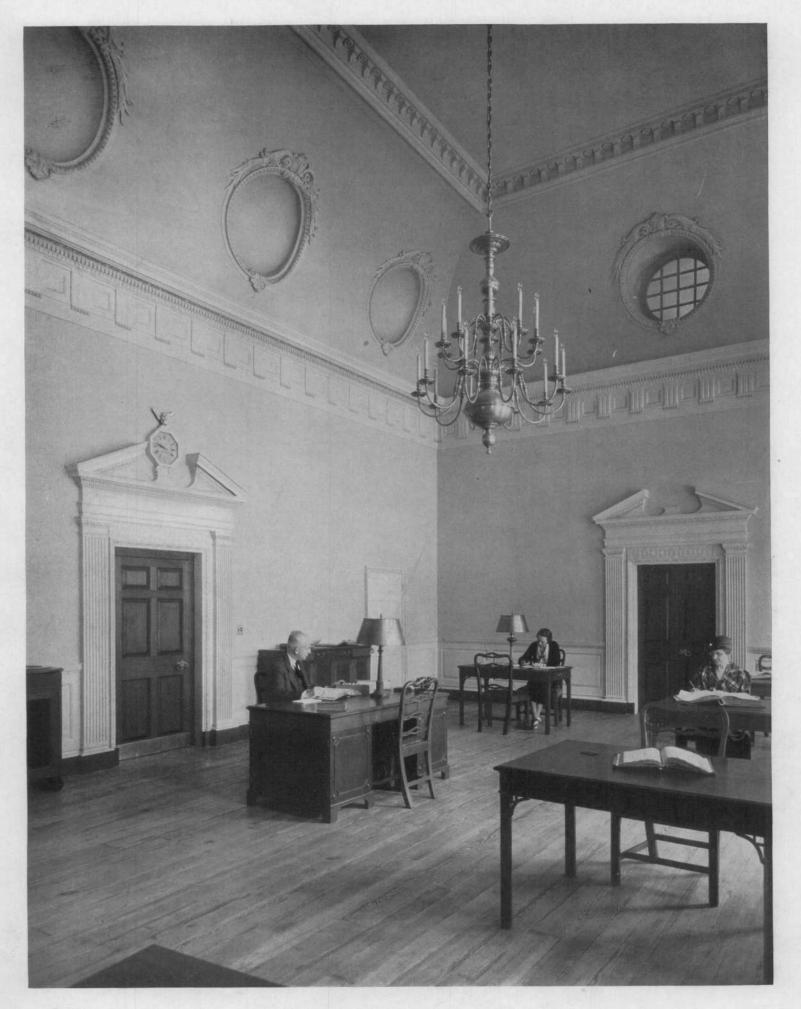




the problems presented by the site was that of size. The minimum requirements for the Hall of Records called for a building having a cubic content considerably greater than that of any other building on the campus. It became necessary, therefore, to arrive at some design which should be large enough to meet these minimum requirements, while still appearing small enough to take its proper place among the other less extensive buildings of the group. In its final form, the mass of the structure was largely determined by the necessity for it to appear as small as possible; it was therefore given a flat roof, in this respect following an English rather than the American precedent.

The construction is fireproof: brick bearing walls, steel girders, and reinforced concrete floor and roof slabs. The specially hand-made face brick—a reproduction in size, color and texture of the Annapolis Colonial brick—is laid, with tight joints, in Flemish bond. The steps, and the coping and finials of the terrace walls, are of white marble. The cornices, window frames and sash, and the entrance door are of wood, while parts particularly subject to deterioration, such as copings, window sills, and the capitals and bases of the pilasters, are of limestone; but wood and limestone alike are finished to give a uniform white painted surface.

Exclusive of professional fees, the building cost 60 cents a cubic foot. This includes furniture and all equipment except the apparatus for photographic reproduction.



HALL OF RECORDS ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

LAURENCE H. FOWLER ARCHITECT

Opposite: Research room.

Right: Room for extension work.

Below: Memorial vestibule.



