

DESIGN FOR A CAMPUS

For

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY,

Evanston, Ills.

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The recognition of the value of architectural and landscape ensemble is today exemplified in the efforts of various Universities to frame a consistent scheme upon which the future physical growth of their institutions may proceed in orderly fashion.

This is as it should be, for the chief function of the University is the implanting of ideals.

These ideals should include in addition to scientific accuracy, literary discrimination, sound and profound philosophic analysis, so much cultivation of the aesthetic sense as may be necessary to appreciate and perpetuate that part of the life of mankind which finds its expression in the various forms of Art.

Aside from its School of Music, its School of Architecture or the Fine Arts, this ideal may be so embodied in the concrete form of its external arrangements, that every student with his conscious mental equipment, shall receive out of his daily passing to and fro the subtle influence of well

ordered harmony. A student will revere the associations of his college days. What a duty, then, does the University owe its children that even the external surroundings of the college life it offers shall be beautiful !

How can such ideals be expressed in the plan of a modern University ?

Northwestern University presents a typical example of such a problem.

For the uses of its non-professional undergraduate departments, it possesses a strip of land about four thousand (4,000) feet long, with an average width of seven hundred (700) feet, between Lake Michigan and Sheridan Boulevard. The natural beauty of the site lies in its position along this noble inland lake, and in the remnants of the primitive forest of which many single specimens and some considerable groves remain. It has numerous good buildings, placed near the southern end of this tract; Fayerweather Hall of Science, University Hall, of pleasing architecture and hallowed traditions, Heck Hall, a dormitory for Biblical students, Garrett Memorial Hall, the Orrington Lunt Library, and the Dearborn Observatory, the only building of importance on the north half of the Campus. To these it is proposed to add other buildings and such entrances and means of approach and inter-communication as shall complete such an ideal scheme of educational

opportunity as is conveyed in the following program, preserving as far as possible the integrity and traditions of the existing buildings and furnishing such accessories as vistas, recreation grounds, gardens and groves, wherever appropriate.

The buildings of a University may be divided into four classes:

Group A. Of general character.

Administration Building,
Chapel
Library
Music Hall
Museums
Fine Arts Building.

To such a group of somewhat public character and interest, ready access should be provided for the general public as well as for the student body.

Group B. Such buildings and accessories as are primarily for students' use.

Dormitories,
Commons
Gymnasium
Y.M.C.A.
Students' Gardens
Recreation Grounds.

Group C. Departments of Instruction.

1. Humanities,
2. Physical Science and Engineering
3. Biological Science
4. Oratory
5. Music
6. Fine Arts
7. Astronomy.

Group D Athletic Field,

The University possesses a separate athletic field, the only requirement of this problem, being the provision of practice courts.

Dearborn Observatory needs no further consideration than the arrangement of proper approaches and a sufficient space between it and other buildings and passing traffic. The School of Music now has a building devoted to its uses on another campus in connection with the Womans Dormitory.

To make it more accessible to the whole student body, provision is made in this design for a Music Building to contain a Hall for Chamber Concerts, offices for the Director and faculty and music practice rooms; and in accordance with our conception of its proper relation this building has been placed in Class A.

The School of Oratory possesses an attractive and suitably located building of its own near the Lake, midway between the buildings for instruction now at the South end of the grounds and the new group which this design provides.

This new group of buildings of Class A should aim to express in its architecture and in its disposition, the largeness of spirit and opportunity of the University.

It should be so placed that to each building may be given its due importance and individuality, each being far enough away from every other, to be appreciated from every

point of view, and yet so related that the unity of composition shall be unmistakable.

In this design, this group composed of Music Hall, Fine Arts Building, Library and Chapel, surrounds an open plaza immediately north of the Lunt Library, with an encircling drive and an entrance of ample proportions from Sheridan Boulevard, retaining this fine Library building as an integral part of this motive.

This is accomplished by the comparatively simple expedient of placing its principal façade upon the side opposite the present entrance, the architecture of the building fortunately lending itself to this treatment.

The shape and location of this building, therefore, determines the position and character of this open space, compelling the choice of an oval, with its long axis in the direction of the long diameter of the ground, and the minor axis opposite the entrance terminating in a colonnade overlooking the Lake.

To the north of this group of semi-public buildings, I have placed an open quadrangle of dormitories on an axis nearly at right angles to the long axis of the oval, uniting them to the oval by a broad parkway flanked by drives and walks and lined with stately trees, making this entire group the important central feature of the composition.

The vista through the Parkway is stopped at each end respectively by an Administration building, masking the rear of Memorial Hall on the south; and on the north, by a Gymnasium building of ample proportions with swimming pools and locker rooms for men and for women, within easy reach of the group of dormitories.

Just beyond, in direct communication with the locker rooms are the tennis courts and garden overlooked by the circular balconies at either end of the Gymnasium.

In the dormitory group, the attempt has been made to express the intimate character of the life of the student body, without suggesting cloistered seclusion; hence, the dormitory rectangle is large and open; communicating freely with the Parkway leading to the public buildings to the south and the departments of instruction, beyond, and generously open to the Gymnasium and territory to the north.

Students' gardens for recreation and a pathway through the ravine to the Lake are here. Additions to the Chemistry and Physics wings of Fayerweather Hall of Science with the new buildings placed near them form a new centre of interest within the Campus, with an enclosed area permitting the introduction of a garden. This group forms a unit in a larger element of the design comprising a new Engineering building, Swift Hall, a new building for the department of Philosophy, Heck

Hall and University Hall. Through this part of the design, somewhat irregular owing to the present disposition of the buildings, pass the two approach roads, uniting beyond Heck Hall in one drive establishing interior communication with the central group. The treatment of this southern portion of the Campus remains informal and appropriately so.

Beyond the Gymnasium the treatment becomes again informal with one drive skirting the bluff and the other leading to a building to be devoted to the Biological Sciences.

It seems logical to place the various departments of instruction in the Humanities and Physical Sciences in connection with the buildings already devoted to these subjects.

It seems equally logical to take advantage of this open area beyond the Gymnasium unobstructed by buildings except the Dearborn Observatory, for the departments of Natural Science and to introduce in connection with the building as an integral part of the landscape a small Botanic garden. Enough typical species of the hardy trees, shrubs and perennials can be introduced in the proper sequence of genera, at the same time preserving an artistic arrangement, to furnish abundant material for the botanical student, and a source of interest and delight to the general student body.

Care has been exercised in the planning of the drives and walks around this building to further this object, and their arrangement provides most happily for the result proposed.

Beginning at the north entrance with the Ginkgo, the members of the Pine family will furnish desired shelter at the northeast part of the grounds; Grasses, Willows, and Poplars will skirt the pond devoted to Aquatics; Hickories, Birches and Beeches will frame the vista east of the building; Oaks will protect the drive as it approaches the Lake.

The Rosaceae will furnish abundant material in hardy *Crataegus* for screens, *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Spiraea*, *Amelanchier* and *Rosa* to fill with interest the space around the eastern tennis courts; *Robinia*, *Cledrastis*, *Gleditzia* and *Wistaria* around the Observatory. *Buxus* in the garden north of the Gymnasium, *Rhus*, *Ilex*, *Euonymus* in low planting north of the west tennis courts, Maples in variety enclosing the south entrance to the north Campus, *Ilexes*, Ashes and *Catalpas* with low planting of the shrubs of the intermediate orders bring us to the point of beginning and complete an illustrative sequence.

This opportunity seems a great one and I can imagine this feature made a most effective contribution to the cause of botanical science and a source of interest and pride to the citizens of the larger community of which the University is a part.

At the extreme north end of the Campus, there is room and opportunity for a Medical School building with Hospital and other accessories, if in the future the trustees should see fit to move the Medical department to Evanston and de-

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vote the more expensive city property to income producing
uses.