Thesis: -

Course IV (1)

A City Hall for a city of
25,000 to 35,000 people.

Submitted by
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1905.
It is my purpose to design a City Hall for the use of public officials, under whose control the management of the city lies, and for public functions, a building both stately and beautiful, a symbol of law and order, a monument which could be the pride of the people.

It has been assumed that the building is situated in the centre of a city block which slopes gradually toward a public square, which is embellished with trees and shrubs, and through the centre of which is cut a broad promenade, flanked with Horse-chestnut trees, in order to form a suitable vista, and through which may be seen the central feature of the building. Approaching the building through this esplanade one sees that in order to emphasize
its nobility advantage has been taken of the sloping ground and a terrace, pierced by a broad and monumental flight of stairs, forms the approach to the building.

The style is that of the picturesque French Renaissance, and is carried out in a warm buff colored Indiana sandstone base and trimmings, while the main second floor wall surface is of Flemish bond red brick.

The design includes a high base, in which is included the first story, pierced in the centre by three generous door ways; a tall second story, treated with three quarter attached Composite columns, to lend a dignified aspect; dominated by a steep slated French roof. The central feature is accented by a decorative sculptured ornament, which frames a clock,
and is crowned by a slender ornamental bronze cupola. A similar treatment has been carried out on the lateral and rear facades. In the latter the staircase motif is sharply defined, the whole forming an interesting composition. A picturesque aspect is given by the use of stone and brick, by placing niches for sculptured figures on plain wall surfaces, and by the many breaches and different heights given the roofs.

Entering from the front of the building one finds a large spacious vestibule executed in a buff colored freestone, imported from Caen France. It is rather heavy and majestic in appearance, owing to its low
vaulted ceiling and the sturdy Doric columns used in its architectural decoration. To lend interest niches have been placed in the four corners and are embellished with bronze statues of famous city fathers. The floor, of white Vermont marble, is suitably laid in a geometric design. One proceeds by a few steps to the first floor hall, which traverses the building, forming the principal axis. It is also decorated with Doric columns in Caen stone. This hall is terminated at either end by small vestibules at the two side entrances to the building.

Crossing the hall from the entrance vestibule one faces the broad monumental staircase
which lead to the second floor. Considerable space has been devoted to the hall and stairs in order to express amplitude and ease. The offices of the Treasurer, Auditor, Assessor, City Collector, and Water Board have been provided for on this floor with ample public space, private rooms, anti-rooms, and toilet rooms, in order that business might be more rapidly transacted with the public, who are offered easy access to the building from all four sides.

Ascending the spacious and imposing stairway, executed in Sicilian marble, and dominated by a decorative and sculptured ceiling, we enter the second
floor hall, equal in size to that of the first floor, but executed in Serina marble. At one end of the hall is the City Council Chamber, and on the opposite end is the Aldermen's Chamber, off of which are many anti rooms and committee rooms. In the centre of the building, on the front, opposite the stair landing, are doors leading to the Mayor's private reception room, or Executive Chamber.

All three Chambers are richly decorated with an architectural treatment of marble and sculptured and mural decoration. It will be noted that the broad hall between these Chambers face.
ilitates a circular movement of crowds, thus lending itself excellently to public recep-
tions to important personages, or any other great city func-
tions. The City Council Hall is arranged to receive a large number of the public on such occasions.

A gradation has been observed between the decora-
tion of the vestibule and the main stair case, the first being simply and directly treated, while the latter is extremely monumental in character, preparing the eye and the mind for the richness of the Council and Aldermen's Chambers, and the
reception room of the Mayor.

Great artistic labor and thought over the small details, as well as the large, should be put into such a building by the Architect, in order to make it the representative building of the city, as the City Hall should be.

The drawings are,

1. First floor plan; scale \( \frac{\frac{3}{8}}{\text{inch}} = 1 \text{ft.} \)
2. Second floor plan; scale \( \frac{\frac{3}{8}}{\text{inch}} = 1 \text{ft.} \)
3. Front elevation; scale \( \frac{\frac{3}{8}}{\text{inch}} = 1 \text{ft.} \)
4. Section; scale \( \frac{\frac{1}{8}}{\text{inch}} = 1 \text{ft.} \)

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