

Thesis 1896.

A Woman's Club House,

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Program

A Club House for the various women's clubs of Boston and vicinity, to be built on the Back Bay district in the neighborhood of the Public Garden.

The re-entrance to be let on stores and another story for offices which shall yield an income toward defraying the expenses of the building.

There must be for the use of the clubs a great hall seating not less than six hundred people which may be used by the clubs or let for parties and theatricals, this hall to be connected with parlor, dressing room and toilet; also a smaller hall seating at least three hundred people which can be used for lectures, receptions and banquets,

This hall connected with sufficient
service rooms; also a smaller hall
or reception room and tea room.

There must be a library centrally
located and always open for the
use of members and bed rooms.

Drawings — Elevation (front) scale $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$

Three plans, office
floor & two main club floors.
scale $\frac{1}{12}'' = 1'$

Section scale $\frac{1}{12}'' = 1'$

Description

This problem was chosen because the conditions were so definite and practical, because it was a city building and so would offer difficulties in lighting, arrangement and construction which are not met in a country building and because of a personal interest in the affair.

The points requiring most study were the combination of stores and office with a Club House and the arrangement of the two large halls in connection with the smaller rooms. In the solutions the most general conditions have been treated, for i.e. such a large building must be lighted from at least two sides, hence it is considered on a corner lot

on both sides of which are party walls. The lot is nearly square the longest front being a hundred feet.

It has been thought desirable to keep the business part of the building entirely distinct and separate from the Club hence the rez-de-chaussée being occupied by the stores the offices are placed on the first story and the grand stair-case runs from the grand entrance at the right of the north front to the bel étage or first club floor without communicating at all with the two lower stories, at the extreme left of the east front is the entrance and stair-way to the office story, the stores also are all entered from this side.

In order to properly light the building, especially the office and bed room stories the interior court is necessary.

The offices are arranged on either side of a long corridor the large ones fronting on the streets, the smaller ones on the court.

The story above this, the main story of the design contains a large banquet hall on the corner and running the entire length of the East front having windows its whole length and smaller service rooms lighted from the court, this hall runs up to the main cornice taking in the small oval windows in the cornice, this height including two stories through the rest of the building.

The largest hall takes all the room above the main

cornice from the east front to the court and the height is again divided through the rest of the building the full floor containing two other large rooms with toilet, dressing room etc above.

The grand oval staircase leading directly from the vestibule ascends the entire height of the building, the stair-case and two large elevators being well lighted from the court. The construction has been carefully considered

the building being practically divided into three sections by walls which run from ground to roof.

The facade is in the style of the Italian Renaissance, the heavy simple masonry of the two lower stories and the large

windows of the first denoting their utilitarian purpose. The main club story is expressed by the main feature of the facade, the arcade with coupled columns and the great window opening on balconies. The loggia in this story above the main entrance marks the library.

The rich decoration of the main cornice and the dormers and windows above it, more light and graceful than the rest of the facade expresses the use of the ball-room story. The main entrance is arched and treated to denote its connection with the club above rather than with the two lower stories in which it comes.

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