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Town hall for a town of several thousand inhabitants

by

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A Thesis

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Subject

The subject of this Thesis is an ^{Town} ~~Hotel~~ ^{Hall} ~~de Kiese~~ for a town of several thousand in-
habitants.

Program

The program laid down is as follows:

The building will be located on a level corner lot of 100' x 150' ^{feet} and to have an area of about 3,200 sq. ft. exclusive of porticos, steps etc.

The first floor to have ^{with an area} a ~~hall~~ of about 2,200 sq. ft. ~~including~~; including the stage; also to have dressing rooms for reception or other purposes.

The basement to have business rooms for Superiors and Board of Health, also rooms for Justice of the Peace and Constables, with four cells for temporary detention; suitable public and private toilet rooms to be provided, and one or more rooms for the janitor of the building.

The approach to the main floor to be

be by portico and steps on the outside, or by interior staircase; there shall be other stairs connecting with the stage and dressing rooms.

The comfortable seating capacity of the Hall to be carefully shown on plan, including the gallery seating if any are proposed.

The drawings to be made on three sheets of Whatman's paper, "double elephant" size. One sheet to contain the plan of first story or ground floor, Scale $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1 \text{ ft.}$ Another the principle elevation Scale $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1 \text{ ft.}$ and on the third sheet a side elevation, section and plan of instrument. All the drawings to be rendered in water color.

The Draw-
ings-

History
of
Design

The first conception of the problem was that of a classical building, the plan of ~~which~~ being a simple parallelogram. This brought the principal entrance on the less important street and shorter side of the lot. The approach to the Hall was thro' a large corridor the various rooms being arranged in wings of very slight projection. This however did not prove a satisfactory solution since it failed to comply in general principles, with the requirements.

Essentials

To arrange a building whose principal elevation is on the main street and long way of lot; to provide space on one floor for a Hall the size required, a Reception room and also room for the Board of Directors, observing still the area specified, were ob-
viously essentials that must be fulfilled in order to insure the best results.

Style

In the program the style of Architecture

was not specified. A classical building, by virtue of its style, calls for a monumental plan: on the other hand a structure that is not classical may be symmetrical, or unsymmetrical without violating the laws of design. Upon observing this fact a new light was shed upon the problem.

In passing let me say that to the beautiful Chateaux of the Loire and in the South of France are due many of the suggestions that led to the final results.

Plan adopted

After careful study a plan was arranged in the shape of an L, whose long arm was the principal facade extending east and west, the short arm running north and south. A ^{court} corresponding to the space within the right angle.

Difficulty

Before the plan was completed a serious difficulty presented itself. The area of the Hall and stage was specified to cover 2,200 square feet. This left 1000 square feet for

the Reception room, Board of Directors room
and Stairs. In order to get the desired length
for the front elevation this area must be
drawn out to very meagre proportions. The
elevator could justly be long and narrow
but to make the other rooms of similar pro-
portions would manifestly be wrong. The
following device was tried with success:-

Device
employed.

At the extreme right a bell and clock
tower was added to the plan. The base to
be pierced by a large arch, opening to
serve as a carriage entrance to the court.
By this contrivance the elevation was
simplified and the net area not increased
as the lofty port-cochere was practically
a portico, ^{in plan} or equal, in value to it.

Principal
Elevation

The principal elevation presents the
following features: Leading up to the main
entrance is a broad flight of sixteen steps
with gentle rise. Three flat arch openings,
separated by pilasters of slight

projective, ~~forming~~ the entrance. By means of perpendicular pilasters a central feature is secured, the two vertical lines of ^{pilasters} terminating in pinnacles at the roof, making at the same time a part of the doorway window.

Circular bay

At the extreme left of the front is a circular bay which emphasizes the corner of the plan. The wall surface is broken by small pilasters and their entablatures which ~~surround~~ ^{surround} the window openings. A rich band of ornament encircles the top of the bay, continuing across the main wall as an entablature, the frieze of which is a kind balustrade. A cone shaped capping forms the roof.

Octagonal bay

At the left of the entrance and making part of it, is an octagonal bay projecting several feet from the main wall. ~~Being to~~ The tall and narrow windows ^{make} the vertical lines in it very strong. A light cornice

serves as a footing for the tall spire-like roof.

Tower

At the extreme right and quite detached from the building, though sufficiently joined to it by a wing like projection, is the tower. Its plain and simple shaft, broken only at the corners, forms a marked contrast to the rich and ornamented capping. On the shaft and just below the cornice is the skeleton iron clock. It presents like faces on all four sides. The base above is covered by a bronze dome supported by ~~an~~ arcade circular in plan. Quite useless in construction but ^{important for symmetry} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ are the pinnacles on the four corners of the shaft.

Main gable.

For picturesqueness and variety of outline the main gable, which covers the body of the building, is indispensable.

Side elevation

The side elevation bears a close reser-

blance to the front, ~~excepted~~ the tower ^{excepted}.

The three arched openings are the same serving as a portico instead of an entrance. The central feature in like manner terminates in a dome. To the left an octagonal bay has the appearance of a gigantic buttress. Columns support the portico, the openings between giving entrance and light to the basement below.

First Story

Plan.

As has been stated a ~~horizontal~~ ^{grand} flight of steps leads up to the first story. Passing through the arched portico one enters the roomy corridor rich with pilasters and columns. To the right a large opening, flanked by fine columns gives entrance to the staircase which leads to the gallery above and the basement level.

Board of Directors room

Further to the right is the Board of Directors' apartment well lighted by four large windows.

Reception room

To the left of the corridor an aperture opens into the circular bay or Reception Room. Two windows furnish ample light, while a big fire place lends much to the appearance and general comfort of the room. A door leads out into a portico which joins the front and rear wings of the side elevation.

Hall

The principle feature of the building is the Hall which occupies as it does nearly the entire first and second stories. In order to carry out a scheme for the ceiling the plan

Seats.

joins the two dressing rooms. The stage itself is apsidal in form and is not planned for extensive scenery. ¹⁰ In the Hall the seats are conveniently arranged, on the sides, in tiers, one above the other and in the centre, on a gradually sloping floor.

Galleries

The Gallery is over the corridor having an overhang of several feet. The piers that support the floor and act as a dividing line between the Corridor and ^{below} Hall, ^{below} are discontinued in the second story. ^{This violates} ~~no rule of construction~~ ~~of construction is violated by this as the roof trusses depend upon the outside wall for footing.~~ The seating capacity of the Hall and gallery is about four hundred.

Seating Capacity

The room, in the circular bay at the left of the gallery may serve for any ^{desired} ~~purpose~~ ^{desired}. The door, at the right opens on to the roof which covers the Board of Directors room. This roof is enclosed by a balustrade and may be

freely used as a summer garden. From the roof access is gained to the Tower. There are stairs starting at the base of the Tower thus affording other means of entrance.

Basement
plans.

The plan of the basement floor is perhaps the most interesting as it presented the greatest number of difficulties, the chief one being that of lighting.

The entrance to this floor is by a ^{short} ~~small~~ flight of steps leading under the side portico. No attempt is made to connect the front and rear of the building by a direct interior hallway. If one enters this story by the ~~flight~~ of stairway in the front bay little inconvenience is required to pass through to the side entrance and from there to the rear.

Closets.

To the right of the front stairs are located the public and private closets. At the first turn in the hallway a door opens in to

Board of
Health
and
Superior's
rooms

The circular bay and Board of Health department. A lintel supported by two columns breaks the wall ~~is~~ between the Board of Health and Superior's rooms, thus admitting indirect light from the three windows in the Board of Health room ^{to the Superior's room} in addition to the light obtained directly from the large window at the side. From this apartment a door leads into the hall which continues, at right angles to the hallway just mentioned, dividing the story longitudinally into equal parts.

janitor's
room

Opposite a door opens into a commodious and well lighted room which is set apart for the janitor.

Justice
of the
Peace.

The hallway turns sharply to the left at the centre of the building. Right here a door opens into the suite occupied by the Justice of the Peace. Facing the windows which admit light from the court is the judge's platform. The room is fitted

up with settles and other furnishings, ~~of~~ appertaining to the place. A door at the right of the judge's stand leads into ~~that~~ a small passage which, in its turn, opens by another door into the waiting room and by another into the vault containing the cells. The cells four in number, are used simply as rooms of detention. Convenient to these and in the octagonal bay at the side is the Constable's room lighted by three windows. By direct passage running in front of the cells one reaches a spiral stairway which ascends to the stage, continuing ~~from~~ thence to the floor above.

The
Cells.

Constable's
room

The Court

There are two entrances from the court, one to the cells and another to the public and private closets. A space between the rear wall and the wall of the neighboring building permits of an entrance to the court from the side street. Carriage passengers entering the court through the tower find their way to the corridor under

the shelter of a portico.

Ceiling

In the ceiling are arranged furnace and coal rooms, also ~~stone~~^{rooms}, rooms for drying ~~bricks~~ and any other rooms that may be needed. All below the basement is lighted artificially.

Materials

The building ~~is~~ designed ^{should} to be ~~built~~^{constructed} of light colored fine grained stone, ~~light in color and close~~ ~~texture~~, in order to preserve the delicate ornamentation.

Pilasters

The pilasters on the exterior wall have very slight projection, the being dependent upon their carved panels for emphasis.

Cornices

The cornices are rich and cast sharp shadows.

Roofing

All the roof covering is to be slate of a dark color in order to contrast markedly with the light tone of the walls.

Scheme.

The thumbnail in mind and plan

My active was to design a building, rich
in ornament, picturesque in outline, with
an interior arranged to meet all the
requirements of a Open Hall.

The End