Architectural Thesis

Designs

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Texts

B. S.

1901

# A CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

BY

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THESIS

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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June 7, 1901. 190

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Charles Earl Wetherbee

ENTITLED A Conservatory of Music

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

N. Clifford Ricker

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture.

# A Conservatory of Music.

The design is a Conservatory of Music. The problem assumed provides for a building of sufficient size to accomidate the Music School in a University with 2500 students.

The development of the problem resulted in an edifice 312 feet long by 222 feet wide and three stories high. The chief endeavor in planning has been to so arrange the divisions and rooms as to minimize the disturbances from the penetration of sound.

The main feature of the plan is a large concert hall capable of seating 1650 people and with a stage capacity of 300 besides the orchastra. The problem was to so arrange this hall as to allow of its easy access from all parts of the building, to also give it a separate outside entrance and to so place it that the sound would not penetrate to the other parts of the building. These points have been accomplished by placing the main entrance to the audience hall in the rear and by locating the hall in the center of the building with a light court on either side. These two provisions practically cut off the sound and confusion from the rest of the building but allow easy access from all points.

Besides the two main entrances there are two entrances on either side opening off the ends of the long corridors.

The general office is on the left of the main entrance, while the offices for the heads of the various departments are arranged in connection with reception rooms on the first floor.

This floor contains, besides the offices, 16 recitation rooms, varying in size, the largest being capable of seating 50 at

## A Conservatory of Music.

The design is a Conservatory of Music. The problem assumed provides for a building of sufficient size to accomodate the Music School in a University with 2500 students.

The development of the problem resulted in an edifice 212 feet long by 222 feet wide and three stories high. The chief endeavor in planning has been to so arrange the divisions and rooms as to eliminate the disturbances from the penetration of sound.

The main feature of the plan is a large concert hall capable of seating 1650 people and with a stage capacity of 300 besides the orchestra. The problem was to so arrange this hall as to allow of its easy access from all parts of the building, to also give it a separate outside entrance and to so place it that the sound would not penetrate to the other parts of the building. These points have been accomplished by placing the main entrances to the auditorium hall in the rear and by locating the hall in the center of the building with a light court on either side. These two provisions practically cut off the sound and vibration from the rest of the building but allow easy access from all points.

Besides the two main entrances there are two entrances on either side opening off the ends of the long corridors.

The general office is on the left of the main entrance, while the offices for the heads of the various departments are arranged in connection with reception rooms on the first floor.

This floor contains, besides the offices, 14 recitation rooms, varying in size, the largest being capable of seating 30 at

a private recital; a waiting room and cloak rooms. Two cloak rooms are placed near the entrance to the concert hall.

In the center of the front of the second floor and directly off of the main corridor, is a large library and reading room with book stacks arranged along the walls. Along this corridor are also the rooms for the various musical organizations with store rooms in connection. The rest of the floor and the third floor are given up to practice rooms of which there are fifty-seven.

The only special feature in construction is the use of of double partition walls made of two rows of steel channels set to leave an air space of three inches and covered with expanded metal and plaster. There is no connection between the two faces of the wall thus leaving no chance for the sound vibrations to penetrate.

The ceilings are suspended and are constructed similarly to the walls, but felt washers are used to deaden the sound at the points of suspension.