Architectural Theses

DESIGNS

TEXT

Architecture

B. S.

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DESIGN FOR A STATE FAIR GROUNDS

BY

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THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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

ELLSWORTH PRIME STOREY, under the direction of Professor Temple,

ENTITLED DESIGN FOR STATE FAIR GROUNDS

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.

PREPARATION.

For preparation in the study of this problem I had two long discussions with J. H. Rehm, Superintendent of Transportation of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture who was in charge of the Mechanic Arts Building at the fair at Springfield last fall. He was much interested in my projected work and gave me some very valuable information. Through him I obtained a plan of the Springfield Fair Grounds and from this, his advice, and my own observations on the ground last fall, I was able to judge of the efficiency of the areas in supplying the needs of the exhibitors.

I could see in the arrangement of the parts of this plan a lack of unity, difficulties of administration, and insufficient accomodation. These faults I have endeavored to remedy in an ideal scheme.

SITE.

The site I have chosen is a piece of flat valley land, drained by a small river winding around a low promontory, a bit of topography commonly found in all states.

PLAN.

The nucleus of the plan is three intersecting courts in the form of a double cross. The courts being formed by

buildings and wooded areas. The four large halls forming the sides of the main court are separated from all other structures by a stream forty feet wide, and from each other by a space of three hundred feet. The natural stream thus tapped and taken through the grounds affords protection from fire as well as added beauty to the scheme. The whole group of buildings is bounded on one side by the race track and on the other by the stock sheds.

BUILDINGS.

The following buildings were deemed necessary:-

1 An administration building for the offices of the executives of all departments. This edifice also forms a monumental entrance and has an observation tower.

2 An arena for judging stock.

3 A grand stand. The space beneath the seating of the two latter buildings being used for concessions.

4 A transportation building.

5 A machinery hall.

6 A building for varied industries.

7 A liberal arts building.

The four buildings last enumerated are alike in plan being simply three aisled galleried structures, differing from the usual type of exposition buildings inasmuch as the wall side of the gallery is uaed for passage instead of the inside. There are three advantages in this; first, the tourist is unable to see the unsightly tops of the pavillions on the main floor,

second, the exhibits in the gallery have the light directly in front of them instead of behind, third, the exhibits in the gallery may be seen from the center aisle of the main floor.

8 A building for the comfort of the public containing church dining rooms, broad verandas, toilet rooms, and dormitories for police and bands.

9 A womans building containing a lecture hall for demonstrations in household science, a dormitory for young women who study here, and a creche. This building is of a cloister type surrounding a long court which affords a play ground for children and seclusion, with the open air, to the young women.

10 A hall for the exhibition of pure fooods.

11 An agriculture building for exhibiting the products of the dairy, forestry, and horticulture.

12 An agriculture building for the exhibition of farm, garden, and orchard products.

13 A gallery of paintings.

14 A gallery of sculpture.

15 A house for the fire department.

16 Stock sheds, race sheds, feed barns and their accessories.

These are the buildings found necessary to make a complete state fair grounds.

DESIGN OF BUILDINGS.

There is as a basis on which to start the design, a given floor area to cover with a roof. The spacing of the roof trusses determines the position of piers which support them.

Then to close the building the intervening spaces are filled with stair towers, glass, or metal concrete.

SOURCES OF DECORATION.

Constructive features must of necessity be the chief source of interest in buildings of this type because of the expense and the large area which must be covered. Hence the absence of any applied ornament save the flag staff and bunting which is appropriate in this case. The only source of variety is in a change from flat wall surface to interesting arrangements of openings, piers with heavy offsets giving attractive shadows. These things combined with a variety of material and color are the only sources of decoration.

GENERAL.

The objects sought for in this design were unity, convenience of administration, and ample accommodation. These ends have been gained to a certain extent but in this as in all other problems in architectural design a longer study will always produce better results.

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