DESIGN

FOR A

SMALL CITY LIBRARY

BY

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THESIS

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DESCRIPTION OF A DESIGN FOR A LIBRARY IN A SMALL CITY.

The building is so located that the grounds surrounding it may be made very effective by the artistic disposition of walks, fountains and grass plats.

In arranging the plan, the general reading room was given the most desirable location, for it is the most important room in a library building. The two points to which chief consideration was given in arranging this room, were to have it well lighted and so disposed as to avoid disturbance to readers by those coming and going. The problem of lighting was solved by the use of large triple windows, in which the glass area is somewhat in excess of one-fifth the floor area. In order to distribute the readers as much as possible, and also to lessen the difficulty of lighting, the room was arranged in the form of a long rectangle 100 X 20 ft.

The attendants desk is somewhat removed from the general reading room, thus avoiding any disturbance of persons in the reading room by those transacting business at the attendant's desk. The distance between the desk and the reading room is not objectionable, because the desk is between the main entrance and the general reading room.

The book stacks are spaced 4½ ft. between centers and are made in sections of 3 ft. in length. The stacks will contain 100,800 volumes.

The cataloguer's room and librarian's room, are placed on opposite sides of the stack room.
and are accessible from both stack room and central hall.

The newspaper and periodical rooms are placed near the stair landing and are also near the attendant's desk. In these rooms the same requirement for lighting was observed as for the general reading room. The newspaper room is 20 X 46 ft. and the periodical room is 20 X 18 ft.

In the lower story the office for President of the Board, and the check room are placed at the opposite ends of the vestibule, where they are readily accessible. The special medical library and the Board room will be used by only a few persons, and so have been given places of minor importance on the plan. The toilets for the public are placed with reference to the ease with which they can be found, and at the same time so as to be as inconspicuous as possible. Since the lecture room will be used only periodically it has been placed in the rear.

A large central hall, which is suited for elaborate decorative treatment, has been made a prominent feature of the building. It is 58 ft. on a side and left open, as far as possible, through both stories. It is covered by a coved ceiling with a circular skylight in center.

The entire exterior below the roof is of stone of a light color. In designing the exterior a special effort has been made to have it, as far as possible, explain the interior. The second story is emphasized by engaged columns, large windows and considerable decoration, which indicate at once that it is the more important of the two. On the side elevation the columns are so grouped as to mark the principal internal divisions.

The extreme dimensions of the building are 100 X 120 ft.