

# DESIGN

FOR A

## Museum of Painting and Sculpture

BY

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THESIS

. FOR .

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DESCRIPTION OF DESIGN  
FOR A  
MUSEUM OF PAINTING AND SCULPTURE.

The problem chosen is an Art Museum for Painting and Sculpture, to be supported by the Municipality or Federal Government, and located in a large city. It is assumed to be situated in a large square or park, surrounded by beautiful gardens, terraces, pavillions and fountains. These treated in a quiet way would lend dignity and add charm to the surroundings. Convenient walks and drives would also be desireable features in making the whole composition harmonize.

In designing an Art Museum, it seems as though the most appropriate style, all things considered, is the classic; however, it is necessary to modify the proportions of the various mouldings to suit the northern climate.

The facade of the building is treated with a colossal order, in a modified Greek Doric style, but even though the style has been changed in adapting it to a modern structure, it has a strong Greek feeling.

Jointing in the stone work has been carefully avoided whenever monoliths could be used, in order to preserve the solidity of the structure.

The roof forms one of the principal features of the exterior design, being in one uninter-

rupted line it gives to the whole that noble effect so desireable in public buildings. The ends are slightly projected, which tends to give strength to this portion of the building.

The entrance is marked by a large portico, which is approached by an easy and grand flight of steps. The steps are divided by a prominent group of statuary, and flanked by two crouching lions.

On entering, the coat room is to the right and the office on the left, both being conveniently situated, so that a visitor may at once obtain a guide for a journey through the building.

The first floor would be occupied principally by the various schools of sculpture.

The rotunda is one of the principal features of the interior design, both as to size and elaborateness of decoration. This would tend to give the visitor a feeling of admiration that is so desireable when first entering a public building.

Special study has been devoted, in the arrangement of the floor plans, to making it possible for a visitor to see everything in one continuous journey through the building. Special places have been arranged for all prominent statues and rare collections, as well as for valuable fragments of ancient and mediaeval sculpture.

The central rotunda gives access to all parts of the building, and beautiful marble stairs lead from here to the different floors.

In the second story are the paintings and finer divisions of textiles, a small auditorium

calculated to seat a maximum of 250 persons. Opposite this lecture hall is a convenient and moderate sized library room, where valuable art works and current publications may be kept on file. These two rooms and the two special exhibition rooms would be lighted entirely by skylights, but all other space is well illuminated by side lights. These sidelights must, however, be carefully arranged in order to avoid any possible reflections of light to the eyes of the observers.

The finish in the second story would be best in some dark color, such as cherry or mahogany, as these colors would match best with the similar hues of the paintings.

The ceilings should be frescoed in dark tones and the walls below the pictures wainscoted in some dark Sienna marble.

The first floor finish should be much lighter in color, possibly oak or sycamore. The wall decorations should be in light colors to match.

The basement could be conveniently arranged for an art school, together with several private studios.

Minor offices, toilet rooms, repair rooms, janitor's room and the heating plant are also located in the basement.

The building throughout is assumed to be thoroughly fireproof, or as near as modern construction can make it. No inflammable or decaying material would be permitted in its construction.

In estimating the cost of this building according to the cubical contents, allowing 50¢ per cubic foot, the approximate cost would be from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000.