DESIGN

FOR

A STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

BY

A. L. THAYER.

THESIS FOR

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN

ARCHITECTURE.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS,

1898.
This building is to accommodate the Senate and House of Representatives, with rooms for their various officers and committees.

The number and size of the rooms, as given below, was taken from the programme of the Pennsylvania State Capitol Competition.

### ROOMS REQUIRED.

**Senate to seat 52 members.**
- Press gallery, near president's chair.
- Two public galleries accessible from public corridor.

The following rooms are to be placed in convenient relation to the Senate Chamber, but not necessarily upon the same floor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Description</th>
<th>Size (sq.ft.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Committee rooms, each</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant Governor's, suite</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President pro tempore's, suite</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coat room</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wash &quot;</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies reception room</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following rooms must be in close proximity to and upon the same floor level with the Senate Chamber.

- Public reception room, 600 sq.ft.
- Post office, 200 "

The following rooms must be in close proximity to the president's rostrum.

- Chief clerk, 300 sq.ft.
- Senate library, 600 "
- Librarian's room, 400 "
- Transcribing room, 700 "

The following rooms may be placed in a basement story.
II.

6 Committee rooms, each, 350 sq.ft.
Sergeant-at-arms, 300 "
Toilet room, 400 "

House of Representatives to seat 210 members.
Press gallery.
2 Public galleries.
6 Committee rooms, each, 350 sq.ft.
6 " " " ,
Ladies reception room, 300 "
Coat and Wash room, 700 "

The following rooms must be in close proximity to and on the same floor level with the House.

2 Public reception rooms, together, 900 sq.ft.
Post office, 250 "

The following must be in close proximity to the rostrum of the speaker.

Speaker's suite, 600 sq.ft.
Chief clerk's suite, 500 "
Resident clerk's suite, 350 "
2 Transcribing rooms, 700 "
Library, 300 "

The following rooms may be placed in a basement story.

6 Committee rooms, 400 sq.ft.
Sergeant-at-arms, 400 "
Toilet room, 900 "

The following rooms may be placed with either Senate or House group.

Caucus room, 1000 sq.ft.
Room for newspaper correspondents, 600 "

The following rooms are to be directly connected with public thoroughfare and on the principle floor.

Room for telegraph, 200 sq.ft.
" " telephone, 200 "
" " custodian, 200 "
Toilet for women employees.
The following may be in a basement story.

Restaurant and cafe with kitchen, &c., 2,500 sq. ft.
Folding and posting rooms, book room,
store rooms, janitor's room, &c.

The rooms of chief importance in this building are the
Legislative Chambers: In the design they are prominently
located on the main floor, each with its subordinate rooms
grouped around it.

The Legislative Chambers being higher than the committee
rooms surrounding them, it seemed rational to express this
on the exterior by a clearstory. The roof over the lower
rooms being hidden by a screen wall forming the attic.

A considerable space is required in a building of this
character for the use of the public. For this reason and also
to lend dignity to the design a dome is made the central
feature.

The main entrance in the principle facade leads through
a vestibule into the rotunda.

Opposite the main entrance is the grand stair way leading
to the principle floor.

The vestibule, rotunda, and stairs with the adjoining
corridors may be marble, decorated with mosaics and mosaic
inlays; the rotunda above pendentives of plaster work with
a stained glass dome through which the rotunda will be
lighted.

Each chamber is entered through a lobby of ample size,
in convenient proximity to which are the reception rooms.

A stair way convenient to the lobby and reception rooms
leads to the galleries overlooking the floor.

The Legislative Chambers with their lobbies may be de-
corated with plaster work and paintings and will be lighted
through sky lights.

The reporters rooms and rooms for telegraph and telep
phone are placed over the main entrance convenient to both
houses. The public elevators are also located as near the
center as possible.

Each Chamber is supplied with an elevator for its mem-
bers, convenient though less publicy located.

Two entrances at either end of the building supplement
the main entrance. Near each of these entrances are two stair
ways for use of clerks and assistants, thus bringing the
committee rooms into closer communication.
IV.

The corridors which connect the entrance with the rotunda may be decorated in plaster and frescoed, and paved with marble blocks. The sub-basement furnishes space for storage purposes and machinery.

A building of this character would probably be heated by steam from a central plant so that machinery for ventilation is all that would be required. The building is so arranged that it could be entirely built of masonry with steel roof and dome and steel and tile floor construction, or it could be steel and tile construction throughout.

A light buff sandstone similar to Bedford stone for exterior walls, and red tile roof with copper dome would probably make the design most effective.

Upon inquiry from the Architects it was learned that the Rhode Island State Capitol cost 35 cents per cubic ft. exclusive of elevators, wiring, painting and decorating and boiler plant; the construction is Georgia marble and brick, iron being used only in floors and roof: the finish is oak throughout.

From an investigation by Mr. Cass Gilbert State Capitols have cost from 25 cents to 35 cents per cubic foot. The estimate on the Minnesota State Capitol is 29 cents and probably will not be exceeded.