

The MICHIGAN ALUMNUS

The Alumni—"In a very just sense and in a very large degree the fortunes of the University are committed to your hands."—Dr. James B. Angell.

Volume thirty-four

ANN ARBOR, FEBRUARY 11, 1928

Number Seventeen

Architecture Building Fulfills Dreams

New Home of Rapidly Growing College was Designed on Campus

FROM the tip of the golden paint brush, which serves as the mast for the galleon of art weather-vane at the peak of the tower, to the rich tiles of the University of Michigan seal inlaid in the floor of the lobby, the new Architecture Building gives notice to all who pass or enter that it is the shrine of the University artists.

No other University building, built with State funds, has the artistic symmetry combined with utilitarian arrangement that is to be found in this first large building to be designed upon the Campus. Facing the garden of Martha Cook Dormitory, the Architecture Building is planned to be an artistic link between the beauty of the dormitory, with its gables, arched leaded windows, and the higher, more formal stolidity of the present block of the University High School.

To unify this group the roof line of the dormitory is carried up to and above the height of the University High School through the medium of the architecture tower; the structural material of the three buildings is the same; the slate of the architects' peaked roof harmonizes at the west with that of the dormitory, yet at the east the roof is stopped by the tower from being out of keeping with the flat top of the School of Education's unit; while the arched studio windows, with their Nile-green grills, form an easy transition

Private Gifts Enhance Charm of Structure which will be Headquarters of all on the Michigan Campus who are Interested in Creative Art

from the Gothic beauty of the girls' dormitory to the factory-like efficiency of the school's steel windows. The view from South University avenue across the landscaped garden of the dormitory to the terraced floors, rising to the fifteen-foot arched and leaded studio windows and thence carried up to the golden galleon with mast a paint brush, sail a pallet, and sea a T-square, emphasizes the desirability and practicability of making the University educational units beautiful as well as serviceable.



THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NEW BUILDING
Where the Big Windows Afford Perfect Light

Unfortunately the exterior is artistically unfinished, for the legislative appropriation of \$400,000 was inadequate to provide for the carving of the medallions and for the statue of the Goddess of Art which is to stand above the main entrance. Upon the five tiers of the northern terrace will be represented the five arts. These carvings could have been purchased at \$90 apiece, but the artists sought the beauty of a master sculptor rather than machine-made representations.

AFTER walking the length of the Martha Cook garden on Haven avenue, one enters a brick-lined vestibule where ample opportunity is given the student to clean his shoes before he steps upon the tiled floor of the lobby. The formality of the wide limestone staircase and the strength of

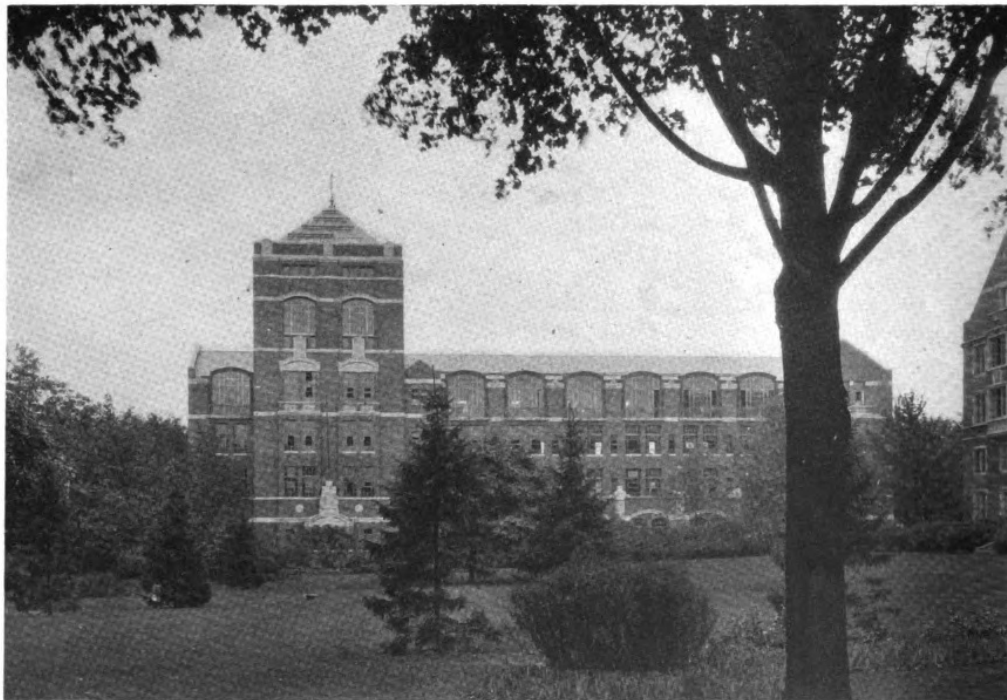
the stone columns give a monumental note to this entrance hall which forms the base of the tower. The floor is of brown tiles in which the University seal is inlaid in rich colors, a gift of the late Albert Champion of the Flint Faience Tile Company. The stairway, with its heavy ballustrade, was presented, all installed, by the Indiana Limestone Company. Here again the early visitor sees opportunity for future artistic expression; for upon the stone columns, when funds are forthcoming, figures representing the great religions of the world will be carved; and in the wall panels, at present sand colored cement, will be painted the history of architecture.

The vista through an arched doorway shows the glazed cases of the ground floor exhibition corridor with, at the moment of writing, a display of brightly colored prints, textiles, and designs in stage craft by Claude Bragdon. In these cases, lighted by windows from the inner court, next will be placed a group of drawings by Livingston E. Elder, '26, made during his year in Europe; then a collection of bronzes in small modern sculpture, then the work of the Booth Fellow, Leroy R. Kiefer, '26a. The corridors of three floors contain these exhibition cases so that the student may constantly be inspired by the best in art and design as he walks through the halls.

THE north wing is one long drafting room with one hundred old pine benches now accommodating inadequately the one hundred and thirty fresh-

men. There are similar drafting rooms upon the first and second floors, all with north light and a cross draft. Each student will have a locker in the drafting room for his materials and drawing board. The drafting rooms are faced with common red brick which gives them color and warmth and no shadows. The architectural staff has tried out eight different combinations of artificial light to avoid shadows and glare and to obtain the best light distribution without light strain, but permanent fixtures have not yet been installed in these drafting rooms. Connecting the lobby with an entrance upon Tappan avenue is a long brick corridor with windows opening upon the inner court.

Double doors open from the lobby into the lecture auditorium, in which 350 students can be accommodated. The floor with its cork inlaid aisles, is sloped gently to a lecture stage, which is backed with a smooth white wall upon which projected lantern slides will illustrate the lectures. A sliding blackboard may be lifted from the wainscoting upon which the lecturer may write. The walls of this long hall are sand colored and treated to avoid the usual echo of University class rooms. Heavy mohair curtains are drawn over the windows to shut out the light during illustrated lectures. The woodwork is of a new shade, bronze-aluminum. At the back of the auditorium is a bay windowed balcony in which the lantern will be located. The electric fixtures, like those in all other rooms of the building, are temporary, having been reclaimed from discarded material in the University storehouse.



A BEAUTIFUL VIEW

No Setting Could be more Ideal than that Afforded the Architecture Building by the Gardens of Martha Cook Dormitory

THE first floor above the ground floor contains the administrative offices, where Professor Emil Lorch has his tables and desks piled high with bricks, and plaster casts, and batiks, and bronzes, and paintings, and books, and other things; a long north drafting room; the exhibition corridor; the library; and offices for Faculty members.

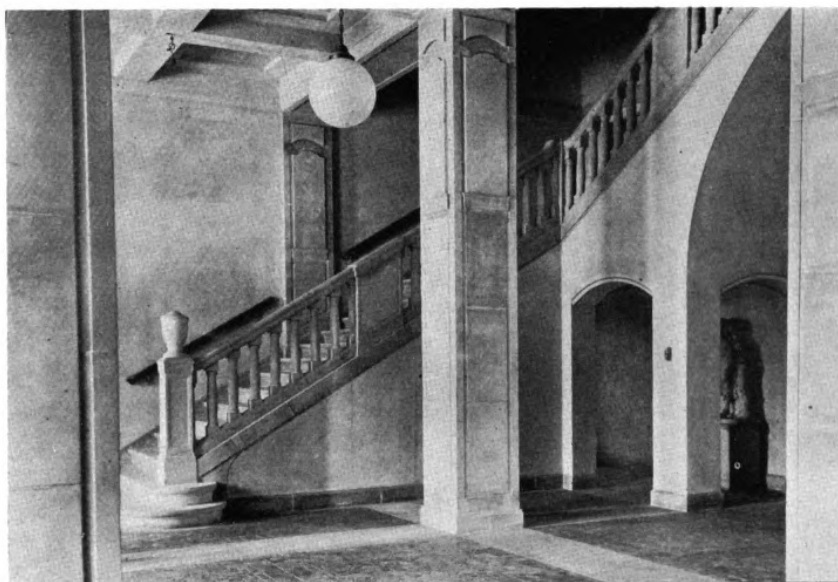
The library is the point of greatest interest upon this floor. It is an open shelf room where students may examine at their pleasure old and rare volumes. The five long pine tables were formerly dining tables in fraternity houses, the chairs are kitchen chairs, but the books make this architectural library one

of the finest in the country. There are four thousand volumes and some huge folios that lie upon their sides in individual shelves; in fact most of the architectural books are too large to stand on end. The floor of the library is cork; the windows, some arched, some square, all with small panes, lend to the charm of the room. Before the two end windows are hung racks in which are placed the lantern slides that had been used in the morning lecture so that students may come here to review that lecture. In an adjoining room are 15,000 slides with opal-glass slide tables lighted from beneath where lectures may be laid out in advance. Former students have contributed over \$6,000 to the library fund, among the contributors being Kenneth C. Welch, '10-'12, Warren S. Holmes, '10, '11 *arch.*, and Walter C. Lentz, '11 *arch.*, who gave \$1,000 each. The shelves permit indefinite expansion.

The west side of the upper floors opening upon the inner court, where the light is not good for drawing and drafting rooms, are apportioned to Faculty officers and exhibition corridors.

The second and third floors of the east wing are principally occupied by the two-story museum in which full-sized casts will be placed which will bring home to the students the scale of design of well-known monuments. All of the exhibition pieces will be wall pieces. George Booth of Detroit, presented the College of Architecture with a fund of \$10,000 for the purchase of exhibition pieces for this room. French doors with a little balcony open upon the Museum from the third floor corridor.

The north wing of the third floor is a long studio with ceiling-high arched windows admit-



LOBBY OF THE ARCHITECTURE BUILDING

Well Proportioned and Artistically Designed

ting the north light. The room is divided into four separate studios by partitions covered with burlap upon which are hung pictures and plaster models, and in these partitions are lockers holding the drawing boards of the art students. In one studio are placed a series of still life sets and innumerable easels for the young artists. In another division are large casts of famous statues for drawing models. The large windows offer a delightful view of the gardens of the dormitory with the William L. Clements Library and other buildings in the background. The angles of the ceiling present perspective problems for the freshman class. Small windows, which will be heavily curtained when funds permit, offer a cross draft in the studio, when the weather requires, and do not cause a cross light. The walls are of white limestone brick which form a light neutral background. Incidentally, the brick used in this room and in the three drafting rooms below was furnished by the manufacturers, and the bronze window casings throughout the building were supplied at the cost of steel casings, which was a great saving. Two hundred and fifty art students use this studio, and students from all the colleges of the University who desire to paint or draw gather here.

A small studio in the tower is used for the life class. Here twenty-seven advanced students gather to draw Campus athletes. The position of model is much demanded by athletic students who are working their way through the University, because it is one of the best-paid jobs about the Campus, paying seventy-five cents an hour.

The tower rooms are unfinished. One will be used ultimately by a noted visiting artist, the other as a Faculty studio for creative work. The view



THE ARCHITECTURE LIBRARY

Made Interesting by its Unusual Tables and Chairs

from the top studio is one of the best from any Campus building; looking to the west down upon the Lawyers' Club, the Union, Martha Cook dormitory, the William L. Clements Library, and Old University Hall.

this gift was intended for general use.

Indeed, this is a building designed by the University, built by the State, and aided by alumni and friends of the department it houses.

W. A.

At present only the east and north wings of the Architectural Building have been constructed. The finished plans call for a building forming a hollow square with a wing to be constructed on Monroe street and one facing Tappan avenue. However, there is at present no appropriation for the completion of the building. The square bounded at present by the two wings of the building is to be laid out in a formal garden in the spring. Pitkin and Mott will do the planting. The garden is to be so arranged that no transplanting will be necessary when the other wings are built to wall it in. A fountain will play in the center of the garden; possibly some of the \$5,000 donated by Mrs. E. E. Hartwick will be used as

Michigan Club of Schenectady Holds Its Second Meeting

THE second Michigan Club meeting held in Schenectady, N. Y., during the year 1927-1928, took place Thursday evening, January 19, at Sirkner's Restaurant, and proved to be one of the most successful ones ever held there. There were twenty-nine persons present, twenty-eight being members of Schenectady and Albany clubs and one a guest.

Dinner was enlivened by the Michigan songs

which were rendered. The few vocal remarks at the close of the dinner were short and sweet as everyone was anxious to have the new University film shown with the least possible delay. The first reel was started at 7:45 and the last one ended at 9:15. Everyone present voted the film a huge success.

The meeting closed at 9:30 with the singing of "The Yellow and Blue."

The Needs of the University

Each week *The Alumnus* will present here some single University need as presented by President Little in his *Alumni University Catalogue*.

IN THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

Six Travel Prizes—

THESE prizes to be awarded by the Faculty of the College of Architecture on the basis of competition among the advanced students in drawing and painting, in decorative design, in modelling and in architecture. The prizes will make possible a summer's stay abroad in the study of the best current and old work in the field of special interest to the student.

These prizes will correspond to the French "Bourses de Voyage" and will serve the purpose of attracting talented students. They will create a fine spirit of emulation and will help train practitioners of broad artistic culture.

Six Prizes of \$500 each

Annually \$3,000

By Endowment \$60,000