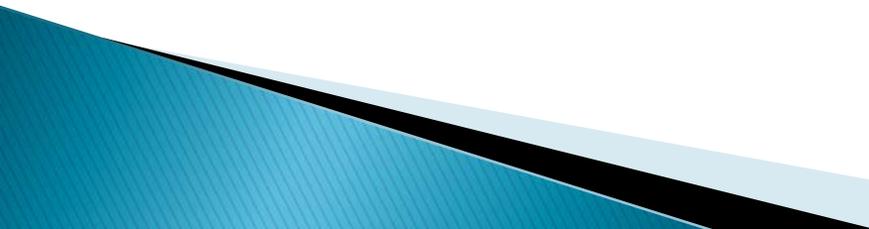


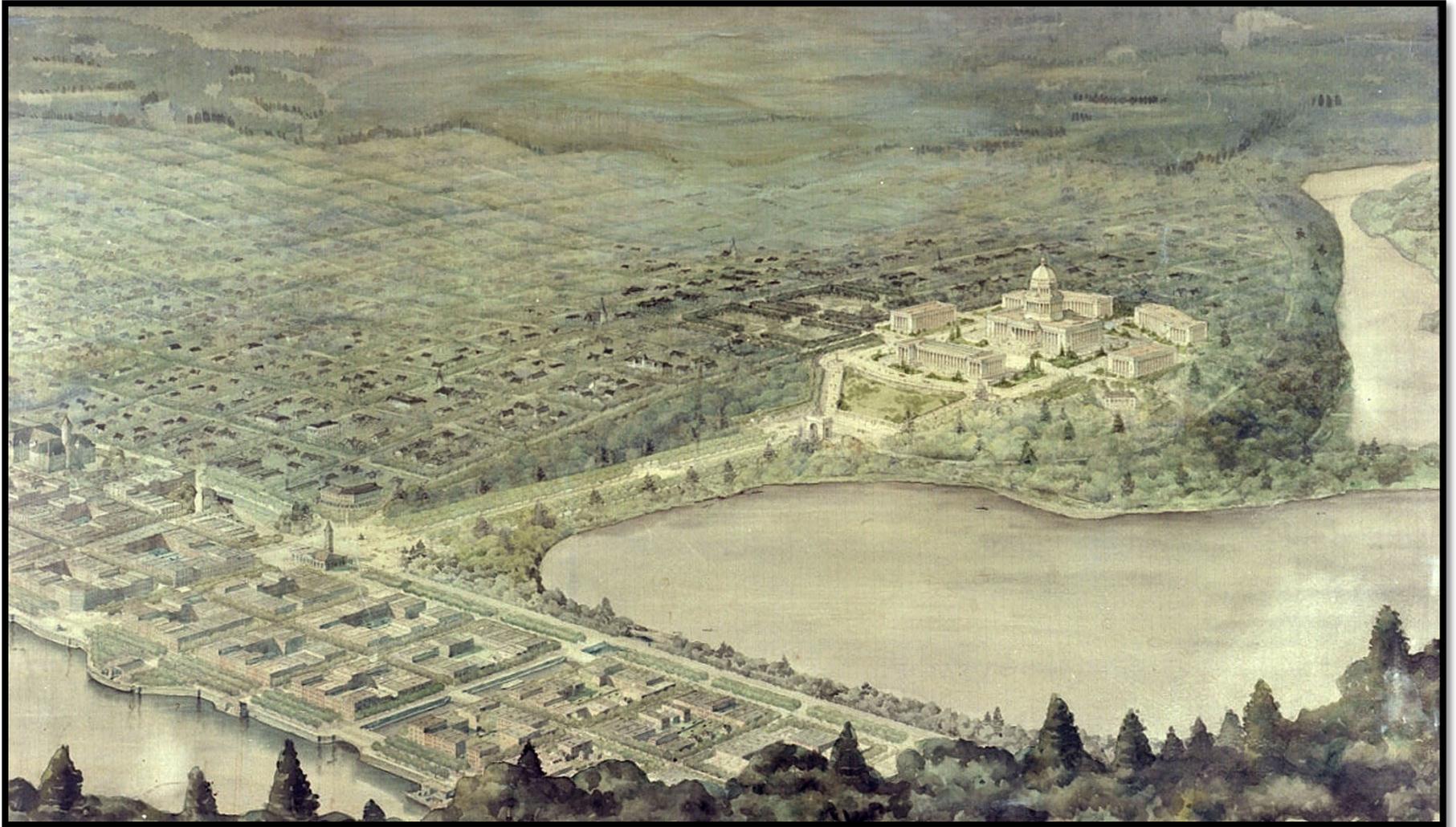
# Architectural History of Wilder & White and Olmsted Brothers Plan for Capitol Lake

**Presented by:** Allen T. Miller, North Capitol  
Campus Heritage Park Development Association

**1911 Wilder and White  
Architectural Plan and 1928  
Olmsted Brothers Landscape  
Plan**

- A. City Beautiful Movement/Revolutionary Design
  - B. Capitol Group of Buildings
  - C. Reflecting Lake (like 1901 McMillan Plan for National Mall)
  - D. Promenade to connect to Capitol Lake and Puget Sound (like 1901 McMillan Plan for National Mall)
  - E. View corridor to connect to borrowed landscapes of Capitol Lake, Puget Sound, and Olympics (like 1906 Olmsted Plan for Rainier Vista for AYP, now UW campus)
- 

*“A cluster of buildings in the woods”*



*Wilder & White 1912 Concept – Revised building group plan perspective*

# Reflecting Lake



# Report of Group Plan, August 29, 1911, Wilder and White, p. 3

“A tide lock at the Boulevard would form a lake and the whole effect would be visible from most parts of the city as well as from the Sound.”



The American Architect, Vol. CVIII, No.  
2088, November 24, 1915, Wilder and  
White, p. 346

“To the south of the boulevard skirts the edge of a proposed fresh water lake secured by tide locks across the head of the Sound and will be a great addition to the city park system.”



## Washington's Audacious State Capitol and Its Builders, Professor Emeritus, Norman J. Johnston (1988), pp. 33 and 124

“The late 1940's were to include the beautification of the expanse at the base of the Capitol group site to its north and west. The partner's plan saw this area as a grand water feature . . . [to replace the] plane of mudflats. . . The project also included the construction of a dam, the ensemble thereby creating a permanent body of water, Capitol Lake. Substantially completed in 1951, this new visual and recreational amenity became an appropriate setting for the acropolis of the Capitol group which it now so handsomely supported.”





# Temples of Democracy, The State Capitols of the USA, Professor Henry-Russell Hitchcock (1976), pp. 257–259.

“It was at Olympia, Washington, that the American Renaissance in state capitol building reached its climax. . . . Such a collection of Classical buildings on a plateau surmounting a green hill 117 feet above sea level proved an irresistible vision. It would be a spectacular monument, with Mount Rainer in one direction, the Olympic Range in another . . . all mirrored in the blue water below. The City Beautiful, a concept of perfection evolved for dense urban scenes, seemed destined to achieve its finest expression in the natural landscape of the Pacific Northwest. No architect or dreamer could have asked for a more splendid setting.”











## Capitol Lake Recreation



# Promenade to connect to Capitol Lake and Puget Sound



# Heritage Park Area 1990



0 100 200 400 Feet



g:\proj\gen\map\app\pdm\Heritage\_Plan\_1990.mxd



**DISCLAIMER**  
This map is for general planning purposes only. Huron Regional Planning District makes no representation as to the accuracy or completeness of the information for a particular purpose.

# Heritage Park Area 2009



0 100 200 400 Feet



**View corridor to connect to  
borrowed landscapes of Capitol  
Lake, Puget Sound, and  
Olympics**







The North Capitol Campus – A shoreline of statewide significance.

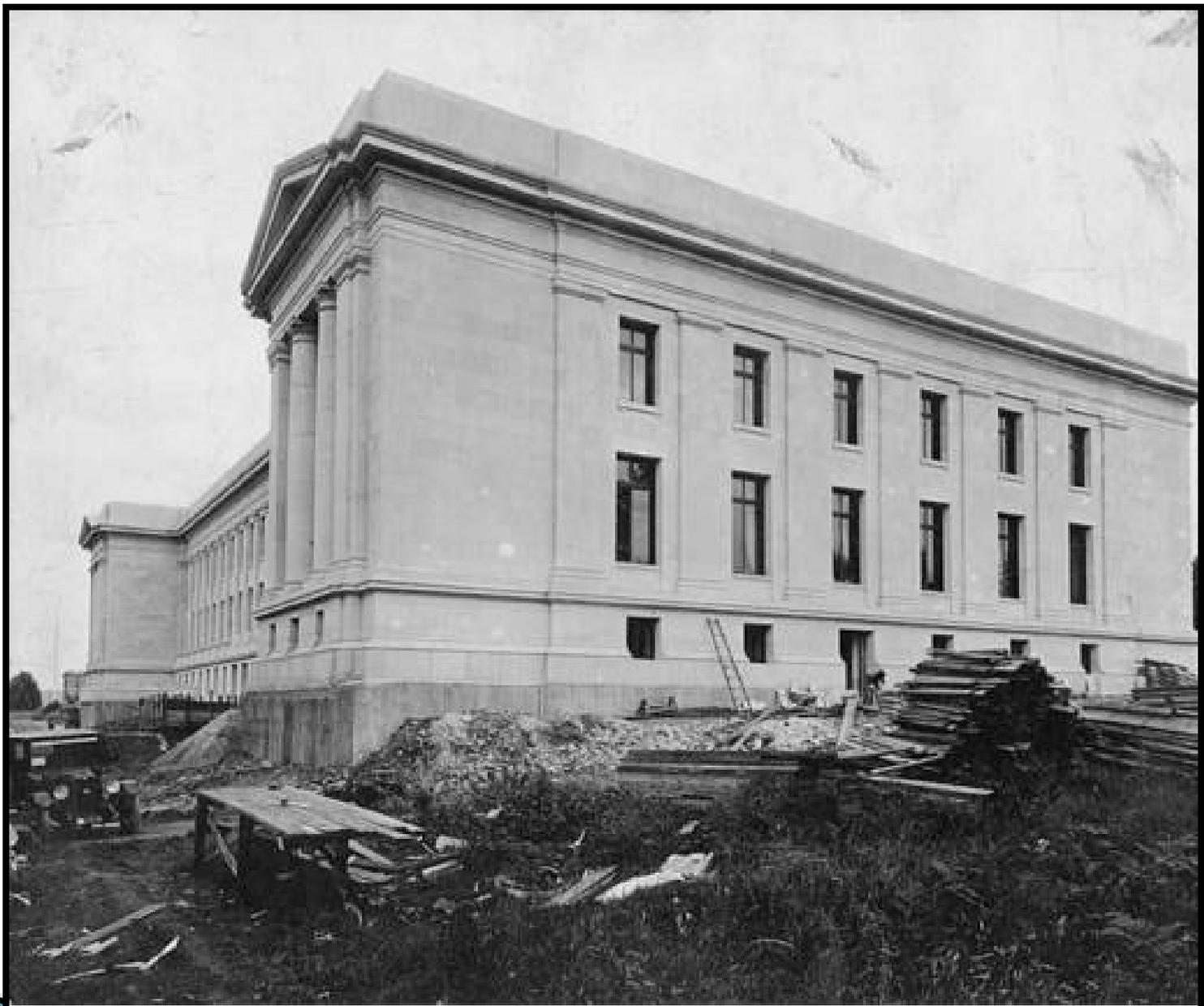




*Proposed Olympia Isthmus Park*

# **Wilder & White and Olmsted Brothers Plan for Capitol Campus Phased in Over Decades**





Property of University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Division



c. 1928 at Low Tide



(01-22D-15) (3-26-30-10A) (2-500)

STATE CAPITOL OLYMPIA WASH.





4924

SHINGO CITY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0674648

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 10 1979

JUN 22 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Washington State Capitol Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Capitol Campus

**2 LOCATION** *State Capitol and environs*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Capitol Way

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd-Donald L. Bonker

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Thurston

CODE

067

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT              | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION        |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                   |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Washington

STREET &amp; NUMBER

State Capitol Committee

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington 98504

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington State Department of General Administration

STREET &amp; NUMBER

General Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

November 1974

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

## RCW 79.24.720

### Department of enterprise services' responsibilities.

- ▶ The department of enterprise services is responsible for the stewardship, preservation, operation, and maintenance of the public and historic facilities of the state capitol, subject to the policy direction of the state capitol committee and the guidance of the capitol campus design advisory committee. In administering this responsibility, the department shall:
  - ▶ (1) Apply the United States secretary of the interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties;
  - ▶ (2) Seek to balance the functional requirements of state government operations with public access and the long-term preservation needs of the properties themselves; and
  - ▶ (3) Consult with the capitol furnishings preservation committee, the state historic preservation officer, the state arts commission, and the state facilities accessibility advisory committee in fulfilling the responsibilities provided for in this section.

## Section 106 [16 U.S.C. 470f — Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, comment on Federal undertakings]

- ▶ The head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking in any State and the head of any Federal department or independent agency having authority to license any undertaking shall, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license, as the case may be, take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The head of any such Federal agency shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation established under Title II of this Act a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking.



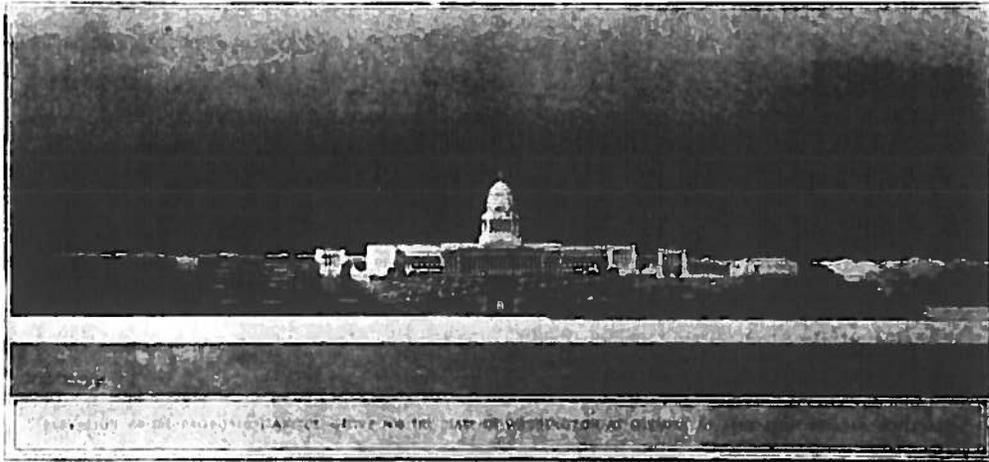
Questions?

# THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOL. CVIII

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1915

NUMBER 2088



ELEVATION, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

## CAPITOL GROUP AT OLYMPIA FOR STATE OF WASHINGTON

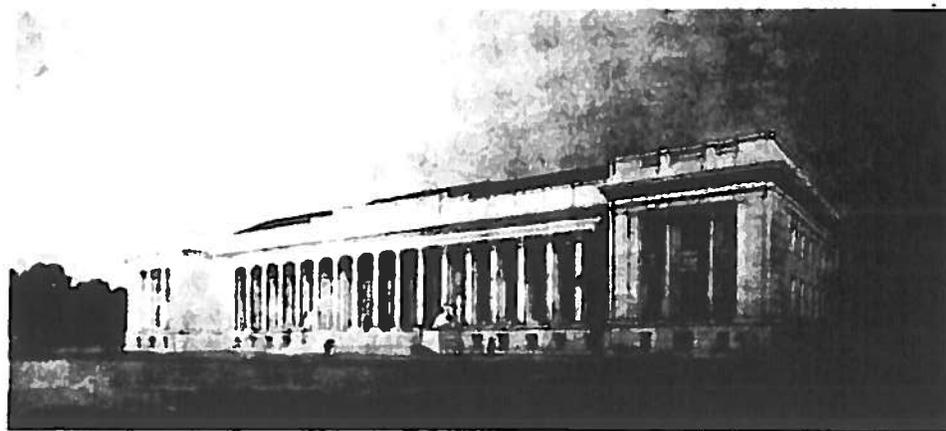
MESSRS. WILDER & WHITE, *Architects*

**M**ORE fortunate than her sister states in the East, Washington has been independent of direct taxation in providing funds for the suitable accommodation of her administrative officers. Under her original charter, certain government lands lying within the state were set aside for specific purposes and among them were those to be devoted to the purpose of erecting public buildings at the state capital. These lands, most of which are covered with fine timber, have each year through the development of roads and railways become more accessible, while the exhaustion of private timber tracts has constantly enhanced the value of the timber belonging to the state. This had proceeded so far that in 1913 a conservative survey fixed

the value of the lands and timber at nearly six million dollars, sufficient without the certain yearly increment, to provide not only for the erection of her capitol buildings and the proper development of the grounds, but also for their maintenance.

Husbanding these resources, the state authorities contented themselves with quarters in a temporary capitol building formed by additions to the county court house at Olympia, but by 1909 these quarters became so congested that relief in some form was imperative. The Legislature in that year accordingly appointed a State Capitol Commission, whose function was to be the care of the Capitol Building Lands. They were empowered to sell these lands at their discretion and to use the funds so ac-

## THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



TEMPLE OF JUSTICE, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON  
MESSRS. WILDER & WHITE, ARCHITECTS

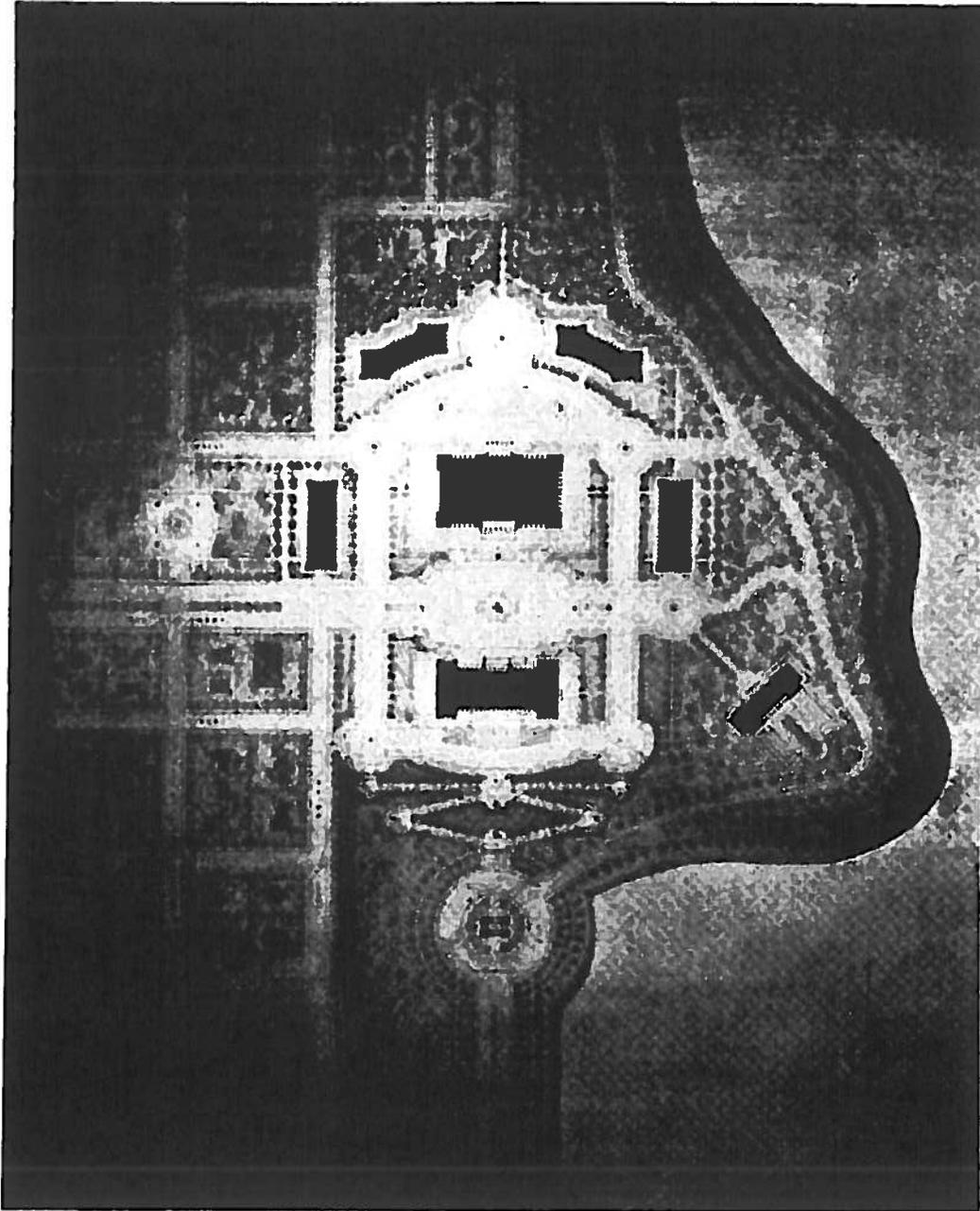
quired in the erection of a Capitol Building upon the foundations constructed some twenty years earlier, when the first steps toward providing a Capitol Building were taken.

The Capitol Commission, upon mature consideration, reached the conclusion that the erection of a single capitol building was not an economical proceeding. Judging from the experience of other States it was impossible to foresee either the extent or character of the accommodations that in the future might be required for the proper and convenient transaction of the affairs of state. In practically all of the older States, additions to the original buildings, necessarily, more or less incongruous, were being made and the only alternative was the erection or use of other buildings which it was manifestly impossible to group as a dignified or convenient whole. This development was in some cases so rapid that in at least one of the newer States the requirements of administration outgrew the accommodations provided almost before the new capitol building was completed and to endeavor to anticipate such growth would involve the immediate erection of a structure out of all proportion to present requirements. The erection of such a building for the State of Washington would have been peculiarly unfortunate, for the temporary capitol building afforded adequate quarters, provided the Judicial Department could be housed elsewhere, and the forced sale of the state lands in sufficient

quantity to provide the necessary funds for a building large enough for all time would have involved a great sacrifice with no commensurate return.

The Capitol Commission reported their conclusions to the succeeding Legislature of 1911 and in consequence an Act was passed authorizing the Capitol Commission to take the necessary steps toward securing a comprehensive Group Plan, providing for the erection upon the capitol site at Olympia of not less than four separate buildings. These were to consist, first, of a central or Legislative Building, which should be of a suitable monumental character and provide adequate accommodations for the two Legislative Chambers and for the Governor and the chief executive officers; second, a building of similar character for the Supreme Court, containing suitable court rooms, the state law library and proper offices for the judges, the attorney general, the librarian, the court clerk and other officials connected with judicial department; and third, at least two buildings of a more simple character to house the various Commissions and other departments whose functions are of an administrative character. In addition there was to be an executive mansion, but this was not an integral part of the group. By providing for a Capitol Group in contrast to a Capitol Building, the Legislature avoided the difficulties of expansion to meet future growth, as the functions of the legislative, executive and judicial departments remain practically

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT



GENERAL GROUP PLAN, AS ADOPTED  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDINGS, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON  
MESSRS. WILDER & WHITE, ARCHITECTS

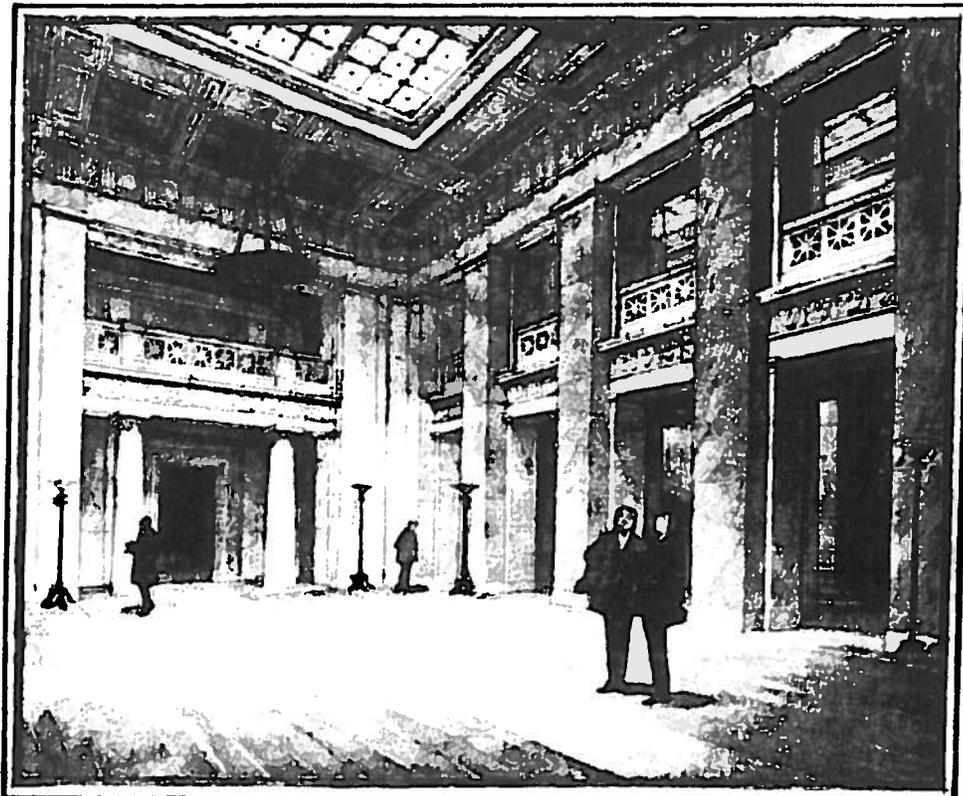
## THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

constant, and the increase in the requirements of the administrative departments could be met by the erection of additional buildings as the need developed. The question of initial expense was solved at the same time by authorizing the Capitol Commission to proceed with the immediate erection of one of the units of the group, namely, the building for the Supreme Court, or, as it is called, the Temple of Justice. Thus, for an expenditure not involving any possible sacrifice of the Capitol Lands, the congestion at the temporary Capitol would be relieved and the first step taken toward the final Capitol Group, to be carried further as funds permitted or needs required.

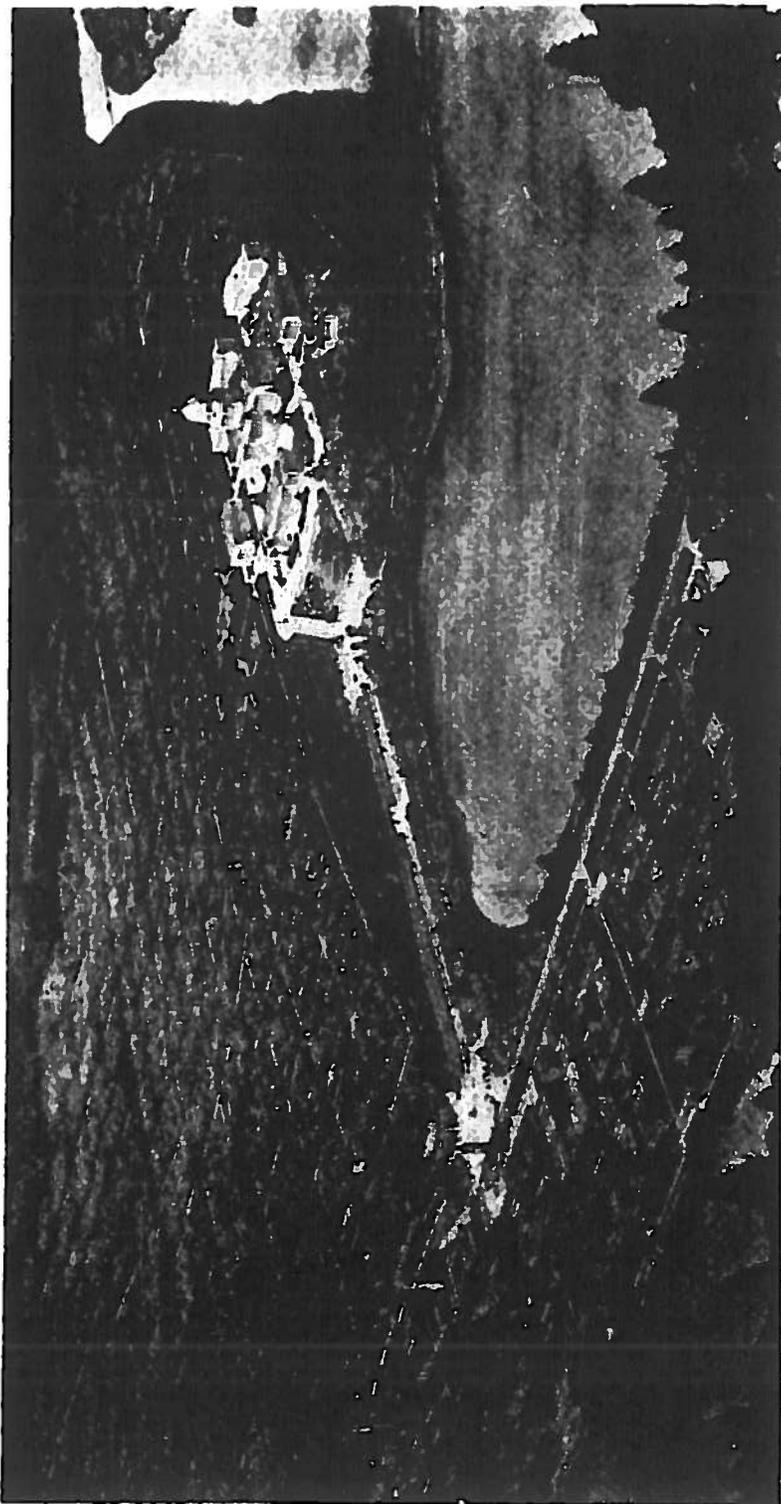
Following the passage of this Act, the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects urged the Capitol Commission that, in view of the importance of the work to the citizens of Washington for all time, the selection of the architect be deter-

mined by competition, and further, that such competition be not limited to the architects of Washington alone, but that it be open to the architects throughout the country. This suggestion and its subsequent adoption by the Capitol Commission is noteworthy as having inaugurated the first competition ever held for a State Capitol under the auspices of the American Institute of Architects, a precedent still more firmly established by the similar action of the authorities of the State of Missouri a year later.

In accordance with the above, the Capitol Commission appointed Mr. Charles H. Bebb, F. A. I. A., of Seattle, as its professional advisor and with his assistance a program for the competition was duly drawn up and issued. In reality there were to be two separate competitions, one for the selection of a Group Plan to govern in the design and location of future buildings and the other for the selection of a design for the Temple of



MAIN ENTRANCE HALL



BIRD-EYE VIEW

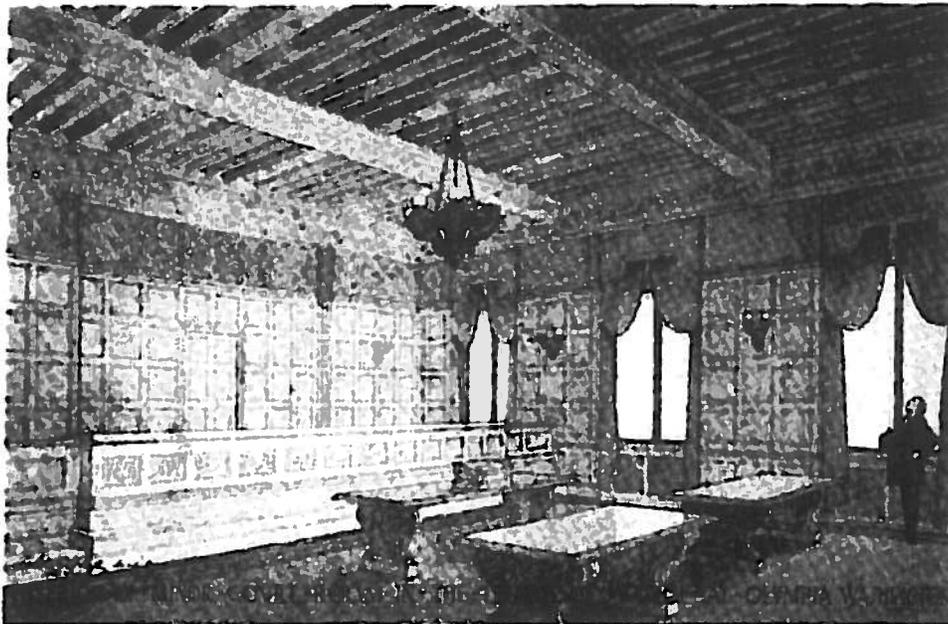
STATE CAPITOL BUILDINGS, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON  
MRS. WILDER & WHITE, ARCHITECTS.

## THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

Justice. In both of these competitions the designs of Messrs. Wilder & White were placed first and they were accordingly appointed the architects for the Temple of Justice, while their Group Plan, with such modifications as a detailed study of the site suggested, was formally approved and adopted by the Capitol Commission.

Their Group Plan, illustrated on another page, is somewhat reminiscent of the Acropolis at Athens, and indeed the natural conditions surrounding the capitol site at Olympia are in many ways quite similar to those

mountains to the north. Even in the architecture there is a similarity in the combinations of small units, no one of which has either size or importance sufficient to completely dominate the others, while the City of Olympia, lying as it does on three parallel ridges, affords distant views of the Capitol Group from every direction just as does Athens of the Acropolis. One might even compare the purposes of the two, one a sacred place set apart from immediate contact with the city, yet a place of frequent resort by the city's inhabitants; the other a seat of

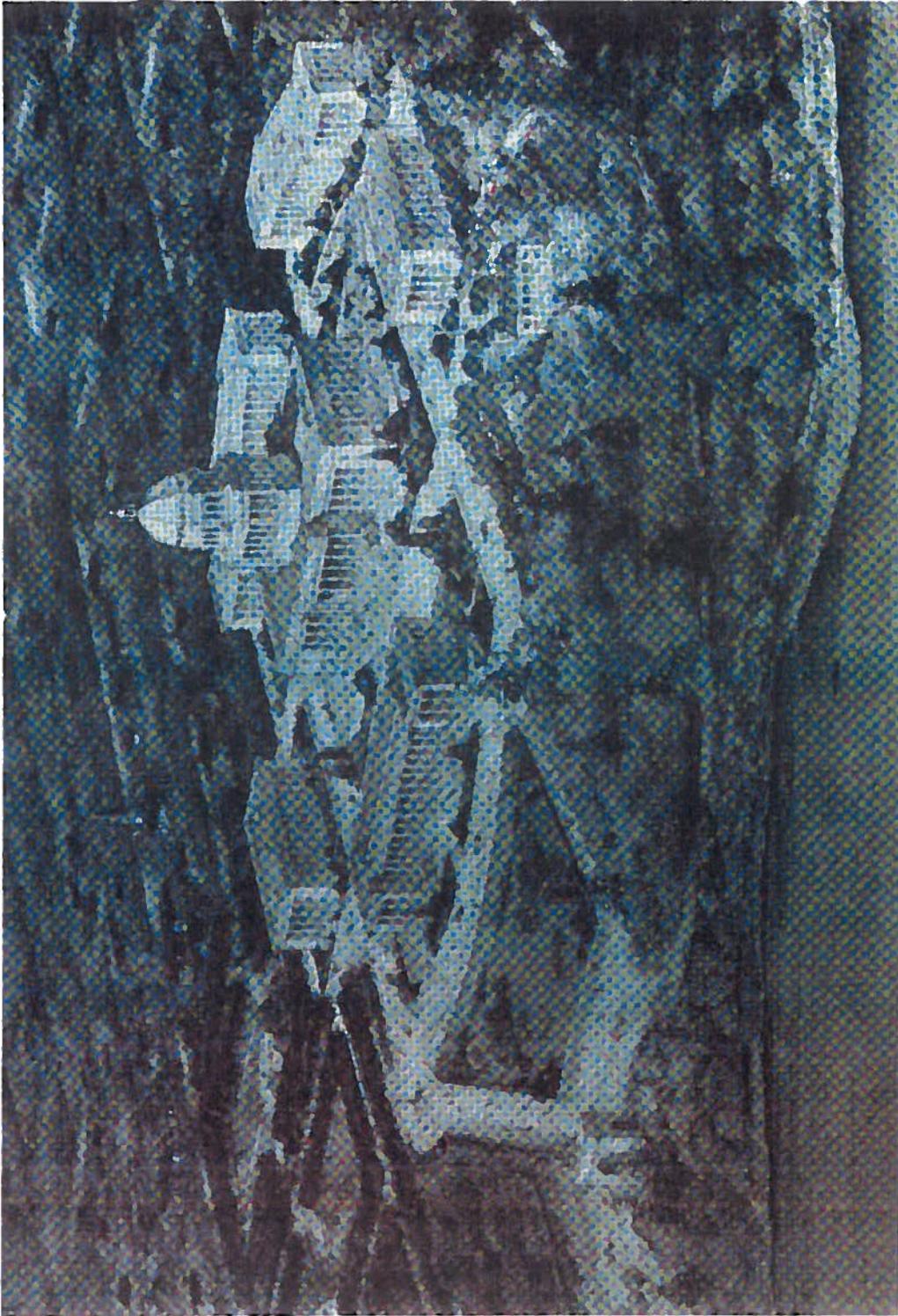


MINOR COURT ROOM

of the Acropolis. The capitol grounds consist of a promontory projecting into the upper end of Puget Sound, and while accessible to the east at a level grade from the adjoining streets, on all other sides rises abruptly from the water as does the Acropolis from the surrounding plain. Just as at Athens the eye sweeps over distant views in all directions, but is most firmly held by the expanse of water and mountains to the west, so at Olympia a wide range of beauty, including Mt. Rainier to the east, fails to hold the attention long, from the panorama of Puget Sound and the magnificent Olympic

government for the State, properly isolated to some degree from the city in which it is placed, yet easy of access therefrom.

In its mass it is apparent the Group Plan responds primarily to the necessity of so arranging a collection of small units that they may combine to give the effect of a single structure when viewed from a distance and from all directions. Hence, the Legislative Building, slightly larger than the others and surmounted by a lofty dome, occupies the center of the group. The Temple of Justice is directly north across the Court of Honor and the four Commis-

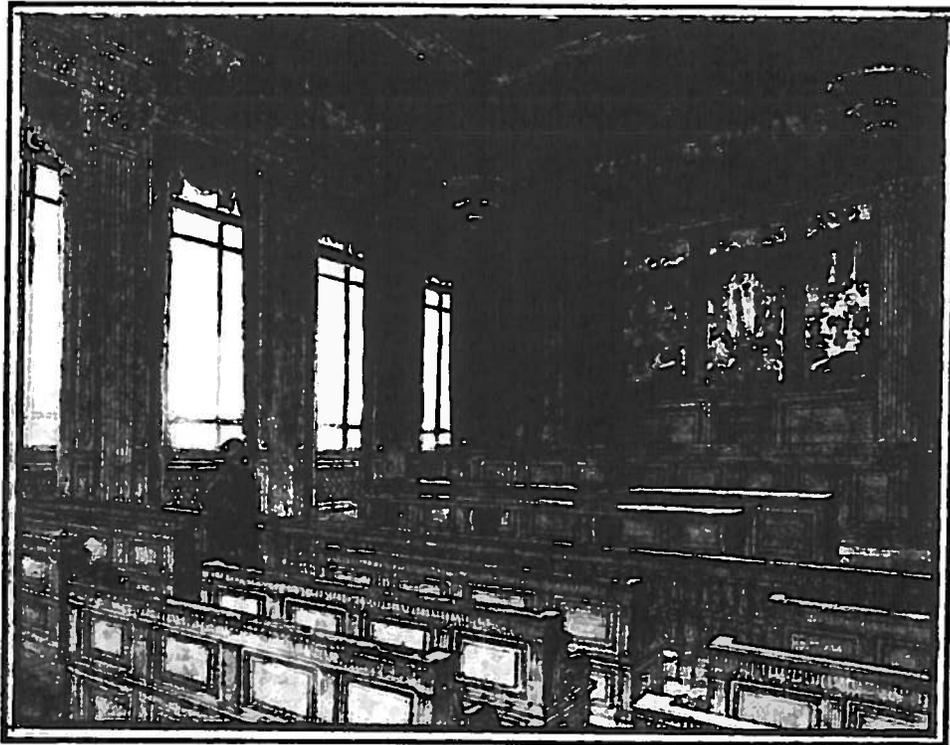


BIRD'EYE VIEW  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDINGS, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON  
MESSRS. WILDER & WHITE, ARCHITECTS

## THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

sion Buildings are grouped on either side and to the south. The simple colonnaded treatment of these surrounding buildings will from a distance tend to make them appear as a single broad base to the central dome, while the location of the different units adequately expresses the relative importance of the departments they accommodate. Architectural terraces increase the apparent size of the two main buildings and emphasize their importance, while ample

evidently been considered by the architects. To the east lies one of the principal residence streets, and the level approach on this side has been treated with a formal parkway. By masking this approach somewhat in the planting the risk of making the Capitol appear a mere civic center has been obviated with no interference with convenience of access, while the greater natural interest of the north axis has been accepted as marking the direction on which to develop the main

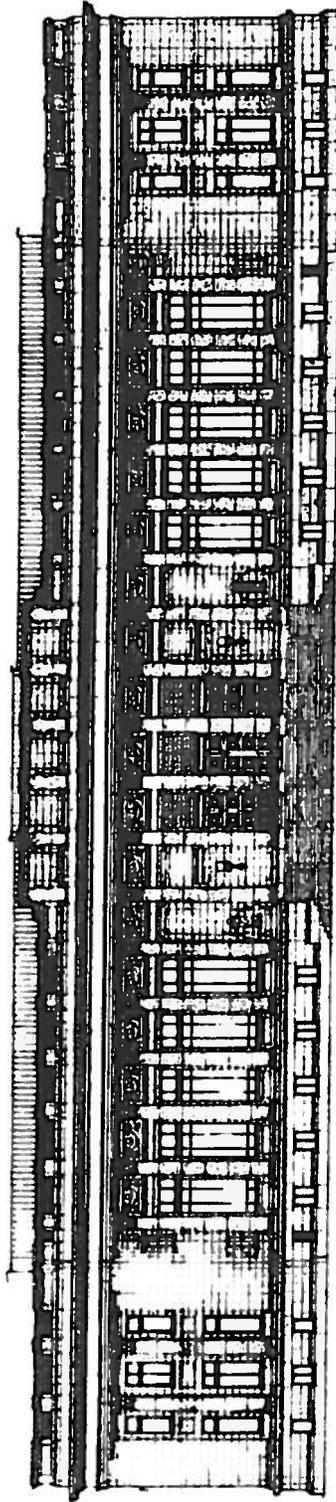


SUPREME COURT ROOM

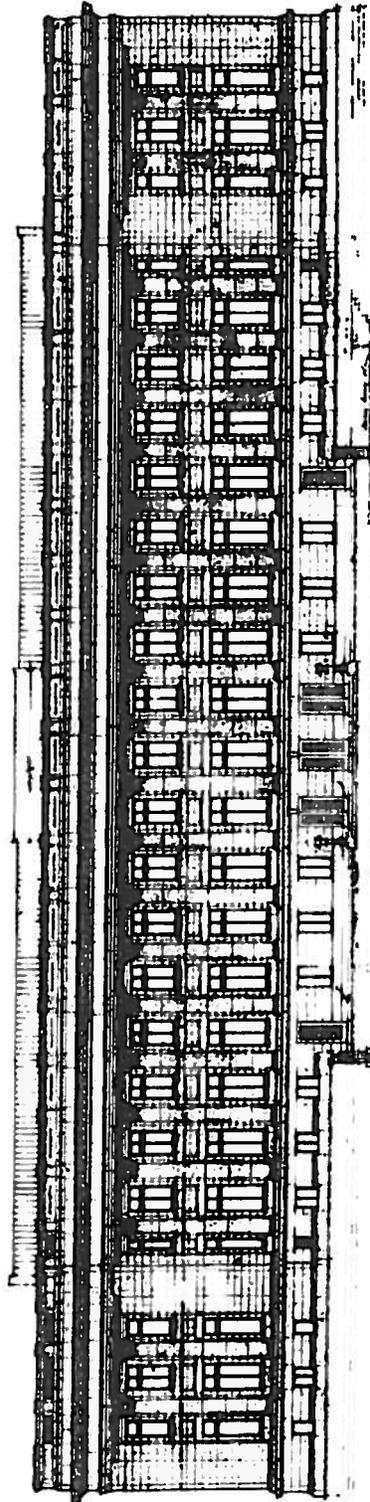
roadways connecting the Court of Honor with the smaller court at the south and the esplanade at the north afford easy means of communication between the separate units. In addition, underground passages will provide access to each building from the others and possibly from the plaza at the lower level.

In the development of the approaches to the site both the isolation as a part of the State and the necessity for direct access have

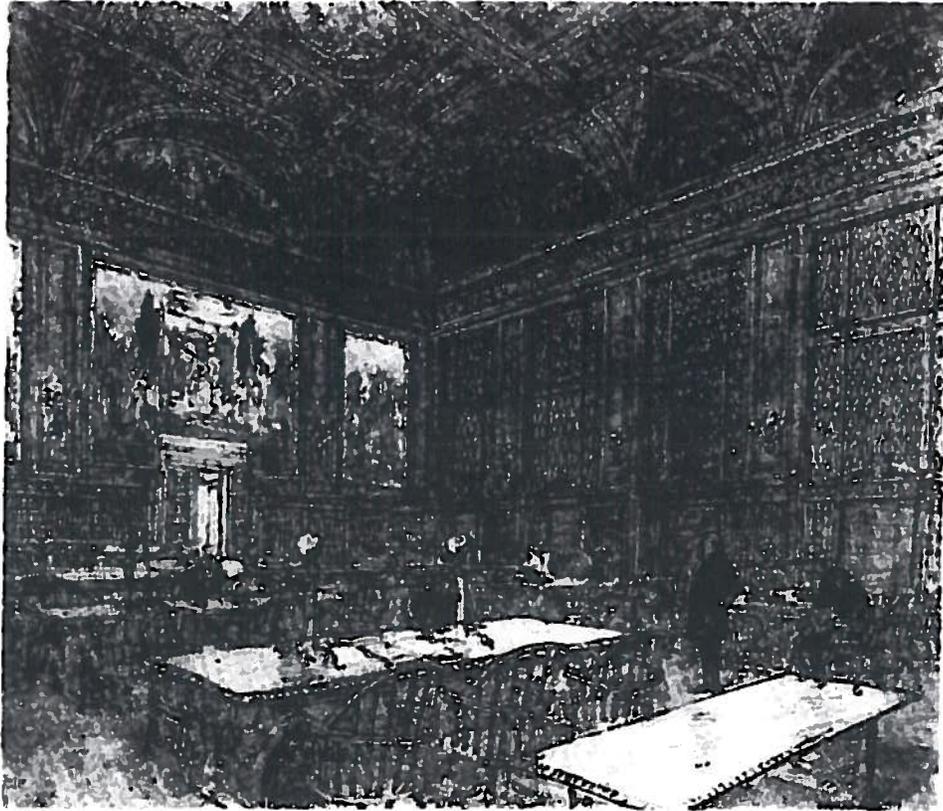
approach. The importance of the architectural units has been preserved by treating this approach with simple broad ramps leading to the esplanade north of the Temple of Justice from a plaza at the base of the slope. This plaza affords an appropriate setting for an arch or other monumental feature, and from it is planned a formal boulevard leading north to the new railroad station and the heart of the business section of the city.



FRONT-ELEVATION



ELEVATIONS: TEMPLE OF JUSTICE, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON  
M 88 8 WILDER & WHITE, ARCHITECTS



LIBRARY

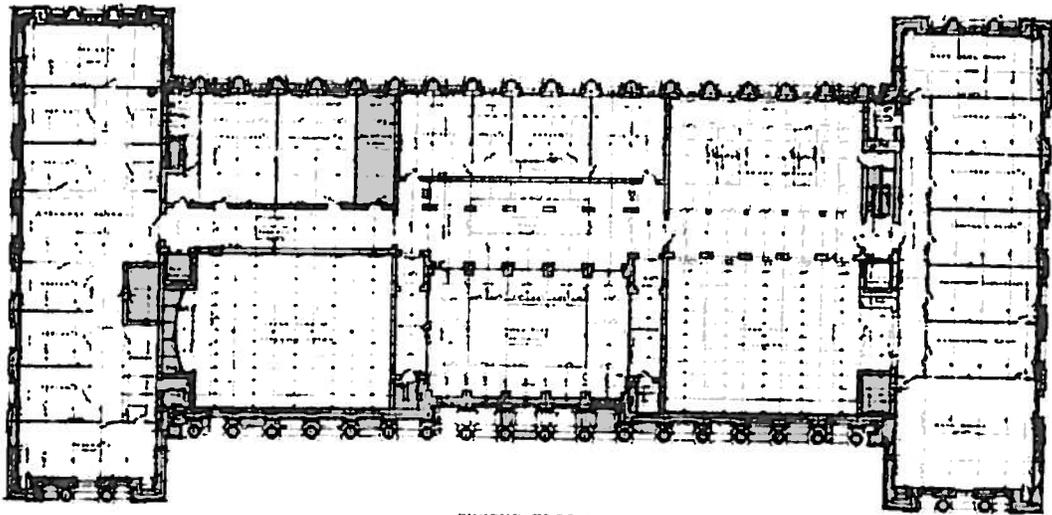
To the south of the boulevard skirts the edge of a proposed fresh water lake secured by tide locks across the head of the Sound and will be a great addition to the city park system. From this boulevard a driveway winding up the hill affords access for vehicles to the Court of Honor on the higher level and similar access is provided from the business section by means of Water street on the axis of one of the Commission buildings.

In the treatment as a whole, the relative importance of the two main approaches has been carefully expressed by the architects, the one from the east being the approach to the Capitol from the City of Olympia, that from the north the approach from the State of Washington.

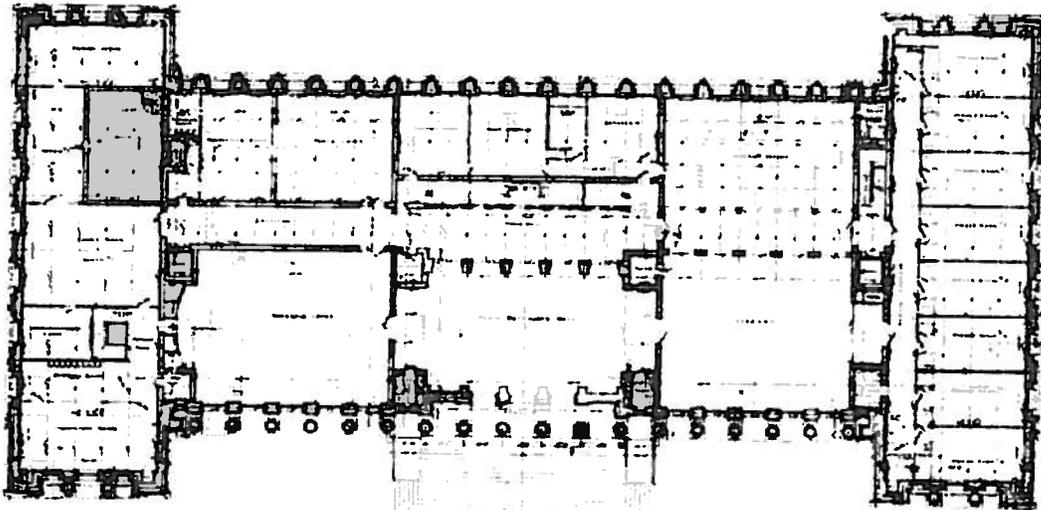
The first of the buildings of the Capitol Group to be erected is the Temple of Justice, providing quarters for the Supreme Court, the judges and other officers in that

department of the State Government. As shown by the accompanying illustrations, this building is simple in outline and mass in order that it may form a part of the broad base for the dome of the Legislative Building when seen from a distance. At the same time its relative importance to the Commission buildings has been recognized by giving a greater variety to its form by projecting wings and the long unbroken colonnade across its north façade adds suitable dignity. Its character as a State edifice has been emphasized by the employment of the Corinthian order as expressing grandeur, and this order will presumably be followed in the other buildings. The main entrance is indicated by a broad flight of steps with sculptured groups on massive plinths at either side. The attic above the entablature is also raised at this point and embellished with six sculptured figures, while the wall back of the

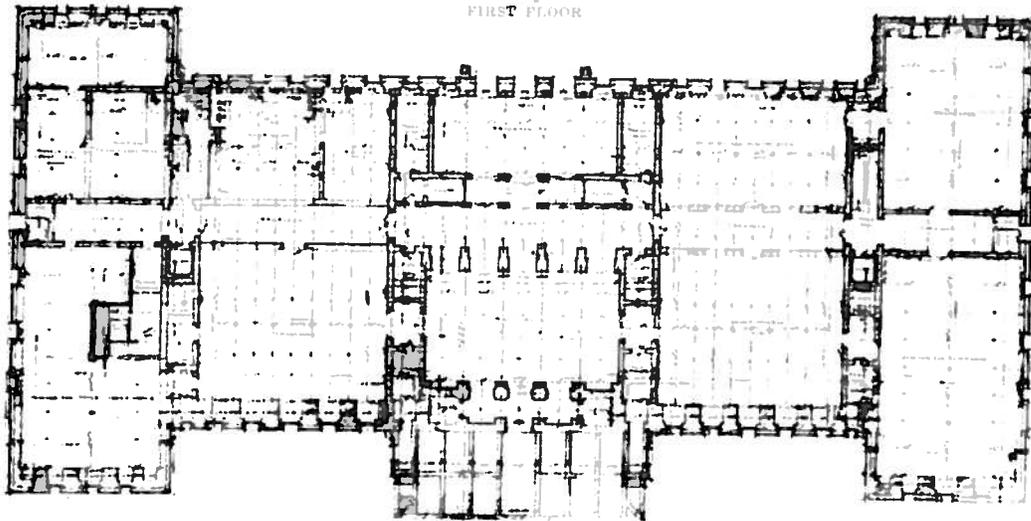
*(Continued on page 850)*



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



BASEMENT

FLOOR PLANS, TEMPLE OF JUSTICE, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON  
MESSRS. WILDER & WHITE, ARCHITECTS

## THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

### Capitol Group at Olympia

(Continued from page 346)

colonnade is recessed to form a shallow portico.

On the north façade the treatment is similar to that on the south, but the columns here are not free standing, while at the ends the more simple pilasters are used. Secondary entrances at the basement level are provided at the rear and each end, while a broad terrace, level with the Court of Honor at the

front, but some eight feet high at the north, will give the building a suitable setting.

On the interior the interest centers on the Entrance Hall, the State Law Library to the right and the Supreme Court room to the left, all of which are shown in the accompanying illustrations. Across the Main Corridor is the Minor Court room, treated in a simple manner, the balance of the building being devoted to offices for the Supreme Court Judges, the Court Clerk and other officials of this department of the government.

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## CURRENT NEWS AND COMMENT

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### New York State Board of Examiners Organization and Measures to Provide for Issuance of Certificates

The Board of Examiners for Registration of Architects held its first meeting, in Albany, October 22, 1915. Dr. John H. Finley, commissioner of education, called the members together during the annual convocation of the University of the State of New York, and after a conference with President Finley and Dr. A. S. Downing, assistant commissioner for higher education, the board of examiners effected a temporary organization and took measures to inaugurate the work of issuing certificates to all persons qualified to practice under the title of architect.

The New York state registration law, which went into effect on April 28, 1915, places in the hands of the board of regents, who perform the same office for the medical profession, the fixing of standards of education for architects, the conduct of examinations of those who desire to practice and the issuance of certificates admitting to practice all entitled to assume the name of architect. The law does not interfere with the right of engineers, contractors or others who make drawings and engage in building work, but requires everyone who wishes to practice as "architect" to obtain the regents'

certificate. The conditions under which such certificates can be obtained are as follows:

First.—Possession of a diploma or satisfactory certificate from a recognized architectural school or college together with at least three years' practical experience in the office of a reputable architect or architects.

Second.—Registration as an architect in another state or country where the standard of qualifications is not lower than that required in New York state.

Third.—Practice exclusively as an architect for two years previous to April 28, 1915.

Fourth.—Practice exclusively as an architect for one year previous to April 28, 1915, providing application for certificate be made before April 28, 1916.

Every person applying for examination or certificate of registration shall pay a fee of \$25.00 to the board of regents. No annual fee is required.

The board of examiners, within a few weeks, will mail application blanks to all architects whose names appear in directories of architects. All others who desire to secure certificates by examination or otherwise should write with request for application blanks to

Board of Examiners for Registration of Architects, State Department of Education, Albany, N. Y.

REPORT OF GROUP PLAN.

To the State Capitol Commission,  
Olympia, Washington.

Gentlemen:-

In accordance with your request, we have studied the existing conditions as carefully as was possible in the limited time at our disposal, in order to render an intelligent report upon the questions involved in the Group Plan, particularly with reference to the existing foundations and the north and south axis.

In the consideration of any State Capitol, there is more at issue than is at once obvious and the important points may be briefly summarized as follows:;

First. Was the original selection of the Capitol City of sufficient wisdom to warrant its being considered permanent and thus to justify present plans for large future expenditure?

Second. Has the state any special character demanding consideration, and does the city offer opportunities for its expression?

Third. Can the growth of the city be so directed as to enhance the importance of the state, thus avoiding the conditions existing in most of the older capital cities where the state represented by the capitol buildings is often a more or less insignificant feature, and does not the selection of a city as the capital place it under obligations to the state to make the necessary sacrifices to that end, and will not such sacrifices promote the ultimate prosperity of the city?

Taking these general considerations in their order our present acquaintance with Washington is, unfortunately, too limited to enable us to base our opinion of the selection of Olympia as the capital upon more than general considerations. On such basis,

however, the choice seems admirable, in that in a coast state, an inland capital would be an anomaly, and its inability by its location to compete with the neighboring cities in commerce will tend to relieve it from petty jealousies, and leave it free to assume its proper dignity as the political center of the state.

It is more in the possibilities that it contains for expressing the character of the state, that the city in general as well as the site for the capitol is remarkable, and we believe careful development of these possibilities, will result in an effect unequalled by any capitol in the world. The natural beauties in their combination of water, land and mountains is nothing short of superb, and the growth of the city up to the present time has been so scattered, and of such character that no problems of excessive cost are to be confronted.

It is obvious that the site itself, bounded on three sides by water is too small to ever permit of great magnificence of itself, and it is only by taking advantage of its height above the water, and by so directing the growth of the city that everything shall enhance the importance of the capitol that the fullest results can be obtained.

The alternative to the axis laid down in the programme is one running east and west, making the principal approach from Main Street. Not only has the latter nothing but an accidental importance, starting nowhere and ending indefinitely, but an approach to the capitol only two short blocks long would be insignificant and its prolongation east of Main Street would have no reasonable justification. Moreover, a group facing east would turn its back upon one of the most beautiful sections of the city, present its side to all distant views from the Sound, and from all other points have a sense of detachment from the city itself, which is diametrically opposed to any larger scheme of improvement. A more serious objection is that from the Main Street approach no view

whatever would be obtained of the water, and with the level grade the effect would be little better than could be obtained in any inland state. From the site itself the natural beauties would be apparent, but without an intimate connection between the capitol and the water, the present ugly development of the waterfront would be continued until the foreground became the eyesore usually found in waterfronts in most cities.

The result to the city would be a growth in the section possessing the fewest natural beauties to the exclusion of these which make the city what it is, and especially of the waterfront which gives the dominant character.

The north and south axis on the other hand while lacking in apparent cohesion at the moment, presents infinite possibilities and in a general way the outline of development to be followed would include, first of all, a fine boulevard approximately on the line of Fourth Street connecting the three distinct ridges contained in the city limits, and giving access to the coast towns. On the axis of the capitol a fine approach from this boulevard to the foot of the steps would be made with a carriage approach on either side, and a boulevard to Tumwater along the water's edge there connecting with the proposed Pacific Highway. The steep bank at the lower end of Water Street could be regraded and the whole of this section made like a park, furnishing a fine setting for all city and other public buildings. A tide lock at the Boulevard would form a lake and the whole effect would be visible from most parts of the city as well as from the Sound.

Capital cities are more and more becoming desirable for permanent residence and any sacrifice made by the property owners in the city for the sake of its beauty, will be well repaid in the class of new residents such beauty will attract. New buildings such as the post office can be so located as to do their part, and the city assume an importance unequalled by that of mere commercial activity. Other boulevards should be laid out to develop the out-

lying sections and bring them all into harmony with the scheme, and an enlightened public opinion throughout the state will greatly aid in enforcing restrictions as well as furnishing the necessary funds.

The sacrifice on the part of the city would, in our opinion, be trifling compared to the advantages that would accrue from them, while the developments outlined would facilitate the natural travel through the city and direct it past the most beautiful portions. The present park, a naturally charming spot, should be brought into close relation with the scheme, and from it would be obtained one of the most magnificent views of the capitol itself.

In light of these considerations we are of the opinion that in respect to the north and south axis, the restrictions of the program were well made. The use of the existing foundations involves two questions:- First, will the axis definitely fixed by them permit of proper development upon the lines described; and second, will they serve for the foundations of a building that will take its proper place in the group.

We appreciate the expense the state has incurred in their erection but the amount is insignificant compared to the ultimate expenditure, and to let the final result be marred by parsimony at this time would be most unfortunate. A proper answer to these questions can only be made after a detail study, and, in our opinion, there is urgent need of a carefully prepared plan showing the whole of the city, which can be constantly referred to, and form a guide in the design and placing of all public or important private edifices. The location of the Temple of Justice will naturally be dependent upon such a plan, while the filling in along the waterfront and the location of the new post office building are both matters of vital interest in connection with any proper development and should not be allowed to proceed without proper study.

The jury of architects in their report suggested the advisa-

bility of employing Messrs. Olmstead Bros. to consult with us in the development of the site, and we understand that your commission has this under consideration. An effective grouping is perhaps of more importance to the state than excellence in the individual buildings, and we will take great pleasure in doing all we can to further an immediate as well as satisfactory solution.

Awaiting the further instructions of your commission, we remain

Very respectfully yours,

WILDER & WHITE

Olympia, Aug. 29, 1911.