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Dicta Editorial Board

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REPORT OF NEW COURT HOUSE COMMITTEE

THE following is the report of the New Court House Committee of the Denver Bar Association:

Immediately following the appointment of the committee conferences were held with Mr. Robert K. Fuller, president of Allied Architects, and with Mayor Begole, who cooperated with the committee. On August 1, 1931, the general contractor had completed less than one-half of the work to be performed by him. The committee was therefore able to arrange for some changes in the interior of the building which it considered it advisable to make at very little additional expense. Changes which the committee, with the efficient and cordial cooperation of Mr. Roland L. Linder and of Mayor Begole, are as follows:

The jail was eliminated from the new City and County Building. A canvass of attorneys and citizens showed practically a unanimous opinion that the jail should not be included in the new court house. Some of the objections to the jail being in the new court house are that it brings to the building and to the Civic Center an undesirable class of people, necessitates a frequent clanging of bells by the Police Department vehicles, necessitates the serving of food, the use of disinfectants and other things causing objectionable odors, and that the City Jail should eventually be placed near the County Jail on the square occupied by the County Jail and the West Side Court Building in connection with a police administration building housing all of the Police Department's activities and Police Courts. The elimination of the jail has allowed the center portion of the west wing of the fourth floor to be reserved for future use.

The Juvenile Court, under the previous plans, was located on the fourth floor at the southeast end of the building, necessitating the large number of people, many of them children, who use this court, to go through the central portion of the building, use the elevators, then to the end of the building to the quarters of the Juvenile Court. The committee was of the opinion that the class of people using the Juvenile Court could be more conveniently served with much less

traffic within the building by placing the quarters of the Juvenile Court in the southeast portion of the building on the first floor, thus affording them the use of three outside entrances near such quarters, one of them at the south end of the building adjoining the rooms to be occupied by the Juvenile Court, and eliminating the necessity of their having to go through other portions of the building.

The south portion of the fourth floor, which was to have been occupied by the Juvenile Court, law library and part of the jail, has been devoted to rooms properly finished for an art gallery, thus substituting an art gallery for the rogues' gallery. These quarters will accommodate the Junius Flagg Brown collection of paintings which was bequeathed to the City of Denver, providing that it be suitably housed within ten years from the time of his death, which time expires June 5, 1932. The gallery is finished and ready for the collection. The museum portion of the building will also provide for the Walter Mead collection of Chinese and Japanese bronzes, ceramics, paintings, furniture and embroideries, the Willis A. Marean collection of Chinese and Japanese bronzes, ceramics and paintings, and will suitably house other collections which may be given to the city. It is estimated that the museum quarters are of sufficient size to care for art museum purposes for approximately ten years, allowing for such period of time for the erection of an art museum near the Civic Center.

The law library was changed from the southwest corner of the fourth floor to the third floor. On the fourth floor have been constructed two commodious jury's dormitories with accommodations for jurymen remaining on duty over night. These were not included in the original plans.

The office of the Clerk of the County Court and the County Court room were, under the previous plans, located on the fourth floor, the Clerk's office being on the north curved portion of the front, with the windows so high, and with the granite balustrade in front of them, as to hide any view of the outside except the sky. The quarters seemed quite out of keeping with the needs of the office. Consequently the office of the Clerk of the County Court and the County Court room were changed to the second floor by the following arrangement: The east portion north of the center of the building on

the curve, which had been allotted to the Clerk and Recorder has been changed to offices for the Clerk of the County Court. These offices were equipped for photostatic copy work with the necessary dark rooms and plumbing and the Clerk's office of the County Court will be equipped for photostatic work in the new building as facilities will then be available for such operations. Adjoining the general clerk's office, to the north, is a spare room for use of attorneys and adjoining this room will be an office for the Clerk and one for the Auditor with a reception room space in front of the two offices. The court room on the northeast corner of the second floor will be used as the County Court room.

The auditorium was eliminated and in its place has been constructed the Clerk and Recorder's office on the second floor and a record room and law library on the third floor above the Clerk and Recorder's office. Some of the reasons for eliminating the auditorium are that it seemed inadvisable to have convention meetings, musicales, lectures and the like which were intended to be held in the auditorium during the time the courts are in session on the same floor, that it is inadvisable to open the building at night in order to use the auditorium, that there are many auditoriums of the same size available near the City and County Building, that the City Council chamber, which will accommodate two hundred and fifty people, can be used for Bar Association meetings and other meetings accommodating approximately this number, and that there was no real need for an auditorium caring for approximately one thousand people in the City and County Building.

On the first floor, in the southwest corner, space has been utilized for an extra Justice of the Peace court room with division clerk's office, and to space for the Election Commissioner with a considerable increase in size over present quarters. On the first floor, opposite one of the Justice Court rooms, has been constructed a room for a general Clerk of the Justice Courts. This space is to be reserved in the hope that the City Charter may be amended to allow for one or two extra Justices of the Peace and a general clerk for all Justice Courts. These arrangements were not included in the original plans.

The law library, thirty feet by seventy feet on the third floor, with a stairway leading from the second floor, is finished in walnut with book stacks from floor to ceiling on all of the wall space around the library room. Adjoining the room near the entrance is a separate room for dictating so that attorneys may use this room for conference or dictating without disturbing the general reading room. The library will be equipped with four eight foot tables with four chairs at each table. This is a most beautiful library room. The windows are high and the entrance doors have translucent glass so that the library room will be private and quiet. It is, in the opinion of the committee, a beautiful and suitable room and will allow for an extended expansion of our present law library.

By the changes in the plans as herein mentioned, the lawyers' work is principally confined to the first and second floors, the first floor housing the Justice Courts and Juvenile Court and the second floor housing the Clerk of the District Court, Clerk of the County Court, five District Court rooms, County Court rooms, two spare court rooms and the Clerk and Recorder's office. It also brings the law library close to the courts. The efficiency of this plan in saving the time of lawyers we trust will be easily appreciated.

On the fourth floor at the north end of the building there are three finished court rooms for future growth and use.

The first floor west wing is devoted to the Fire Chief's office, secretary's office and Fire Prevention Bureau with the driveway for the Chief's vehicles directly in front of his offices.

The efficiency of the use of the building can be realized from the fact that of the 409,140 square feet of total floor area 300,000 square feet is used for what is generally termed rentable floor area.

The cost of the building is \$4,656,104.36; and of the ground, \$500,000.00; of the furniture and equipment to be installed at this time \$200,000.00; and approximately \$200,000.00 of furnishings and equipment are to be added, making the building, grounds and equipment eventually cost over five and one-half million dollars. The building will be considered one of the architectural jewels of America and has the additional virtue of being usable throughout with very little waste space.

It is expected that the courts will open the September term in the new building. We are confident that attorneys will be pleased with the arrangements for access through a lobby to the court rooms, judges' chambers, division clerk's offices and court reporter's rooms. The court room fixtures, the furniture in the court rooms, judge's chamber, Mayor's office, City Council chamber and law library, have been especially designed by the architect. The City Attorney's office will be moved into the new building this month (May, 1932) and various departments will be moved during July and August. The entire building will be ready for occupancy during September.

The present Public Library is to have the south side changed and faced with an entrance to the building from the Civic Center. A tunnel is to be constructed between the present library and the northeast end of the court house so that the tunnel and some of the basement of the present building can be utilized for the storage of little used volumes of the library. A companion building to the present library is planned for the south side of the Civic Center for use as a regional library, the Carnegie Foundation being interested in the establishment of a great library to serve this district comprising a number of states.

The heating plant of the building is situated in the block south of the new building so that the fire, smoke and dirt will be distant from the building. The building is as nearly fire-proof, both from the standpoint of construction and of position, as possible.

Your committee wishes to commend former Mayor Stapleton and the Allied Architects for the general plan and architecture of the structure, and to express its appreciation to Mayor Begole and Roland L. Linder, architect, for the utmost and cordial consideration which they have given the suggestions and requests of the committee. Both have been patient and efficient in the extreme to work out the interior of the building, to make it suitable and adaptable for its purposes and for the utmost convenience of the Bench and the Bar.

The detail of the work involved in making these changes has been enormous. The committee has been untiring in its effort and attention to endeavor to assist in working out the

changes mentioned for the permanent benefit of the public, officials, employees, the Bench and the Bar. We trust that our work meets with the approval of the Bar as the committee has been unanimous in every decision we have made.

Our incoming president, Mr. Gould, has announced that the committee will be retained, and we shall proceed with our work until the building and the courts are dedicated with proper ceremonies.

The Fine Arts Committee of the City Club is endeavoring to arrange for a plan of decoration and ornamentation in connection with the new building and the Civic Center which can be carried out by gifts to the city in which work the Bar can be of great assistance. Mrs. Robert W. Speer, widow of former Mayor Speer, is donating the clock with Westminster chimes for the tower. The Speer Memorial Committee is renewing its efforts for the erection of a beautiful piece of sculpture work and pedestal.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRY C. DAVIS.
 CHARLES A. MANTZ.
 JAMES D. PARRIOTT.
 GEORGE P. WINTERS.
 FRANK L. FETZER,
Chairman.

DICTA DISSERTATIONS

Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt, crept in; forget them as soon as you can.—*Emerson.*

What men want is not talent, it is purpose; not the power to achieve, but the will to labor.—*Bulwer Lytton.*

Good impulses and good intentions do not make action right or safe. In the long run, action is tested not by its motives, but by its results.—*David Starr Jordan.*

Contentment comes neither by culture, nor by wishing; it is a reconciliation with one's lot, growing out of an inward superiority to our surroundings.—*J. K. McLean.*