THE NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

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At the last session of the Legislature, $375,000 was appropriated for the construction of the new Natural Science Building for the University of Michigan. This will give vastly improved facilities for instruction and research in the branches of Botany, Forestry, Geology, Mineralogy, Zoology and Psychology—all of which will be housed in the new structure. Albert Kahn, of Detroit, the designer of the Hill Auditorium, has attempted to make the new building harmonize with the others on the campus, although the peculiar requirements of the new building necessitated some radical changes from the present scheme.

East Side of Building

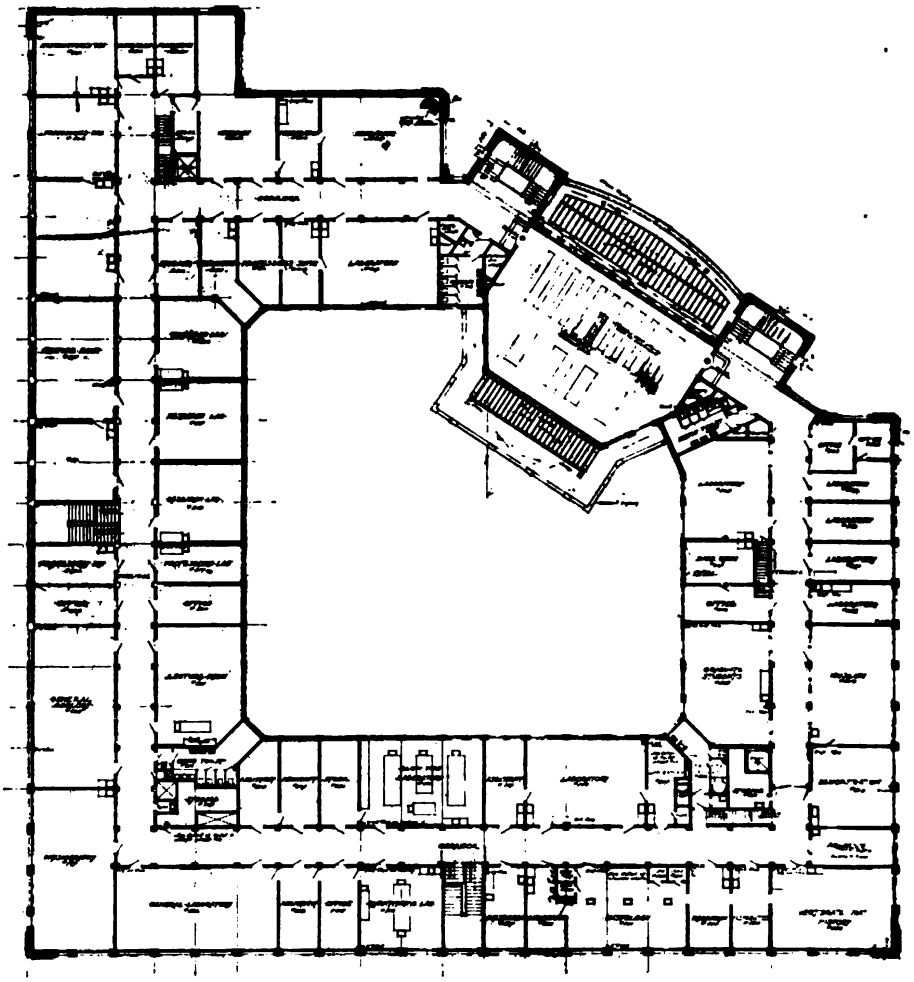
General Description.

The location of the Science Hall is to be in the space between the Law and Chemistry Buildings across from the Hill Auditorium. This required that the old frame structure housing the Homoeopathic offices and the Department of Psychology be removed. This removal has been carried out and the excavation and construction of the lower floors actively taken up. A great deal of care and thought was necessary to so place the building that it would possess maximum size for the space covered, and still not interfere with the "Holy of Holies";—Michigan's Diagonal Walk. As may be seen in the accompanying first floor plan, the problem was solved by placing the Auditorium across one corner of the building.

The size of the building is such as to make it exceed that of the present new Engineering Building, which has heretofore been the largest. The New Science Hall, when completed, will measure 262 feet, 8 inches on the East side and 149 feet, 4 inches on the West side. The North side will measure 243 feet, 6 inches, while the South side will have a total length of 117 feet. A space of 17 feet will separate the building and the diagonal walk. The court, about which the building will be erected, will measure 118 by 121 feet. There will be four floors in addition to the basement. In all there will be 155,000 square feet of floor space in the New Engineering Building.

The building proper will be constructed of red brick and terra cotta, as in the Hill Auditorium. It will differ from the conventional University building in two ways;—first, it will be constructed on the unit system, whereby the building is supported on a series of uniformly spaced reinforced concrete piers; second, it will use every available inch of wall space for win-

dows. In adopting these most modern developments of Concrete Construction, the appearance of the building will resemble to a more or less extent, the latest factories. Reference to the accompanying illustration will show clearly these schemes of construction,



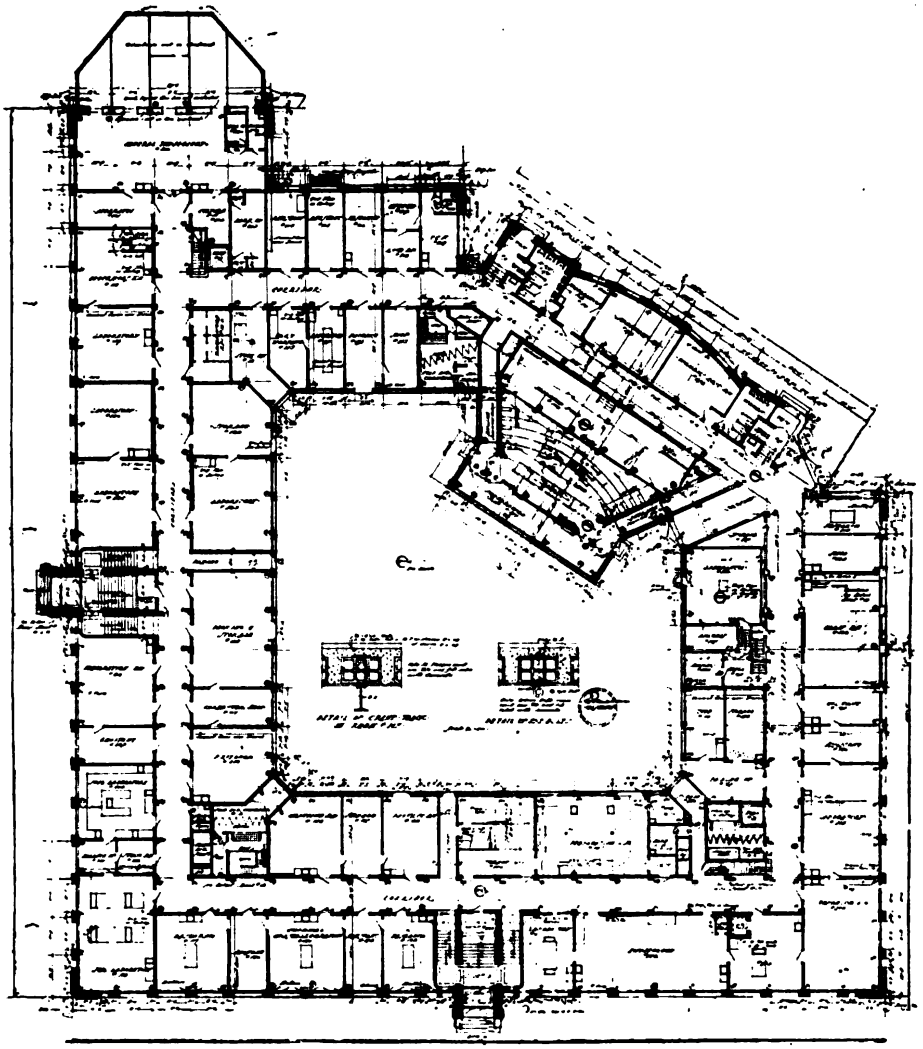
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

making a building neither severe nor fantastic, but beautiful in its simplicity. The exterior ornamentation will be carried out in terra cotta and tapestry brickwork.

The foundation, as before mentioned, will consist of a series of reinforced concrete piers spaced uniformly at a distance to allow of offices of width 11 feet, 6 inches between each pair of piers. In this way, the offices will be of this width or multiples of it. The partitions are to be merely curtain walls so that alterations may be made at any time and at little expense. The rooms on each side of the central hall will measure about 23 feet in length, leaving a passageway 10 feet four inches in width.

The interior of the building will be finished with plastered walls and cement floors. The halls will probably be finished in terazzo. There will be

but very little wood used in the construction of the entire building; the oaken doors being the only instance. The window frames will, in all likelihood be of steel instead of the usual wood, to carry out the factory scheme of getting the most light out of a given wall space.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

USES AND EQUIPMENT.

The six departments mentioned at the beginning will each be housed in a separate section of the building, running from the top to bottom. In this way the equipment and apparatus for each branch of science will be so centralized as to facilitate study and research in the most efficient way. On the South side, for the especial benefit of the Botanical department, will be built a greenhouse 30 by 60 feet. To aid in the work of the Zoological and Botanical departments, there will be four constant temperature rooms in which the temperature may be varied from 28 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

These departments will have caves in the basement for the growing and storing of plants and supplies. Some of the caves will be devoted to the study of the habits of underground animals, an extremely interesting phase of science.

The museum of the Geological and Mineralogical departments will be located in the building and will be open to the general public. This will be a great improvement over the old order of things. The Library will be the best equipped departmental library on the campus, and is designed to contain 30,000 volumes. These will be housed in double tiered racks. The Library will be lighted by the indirect system. The air used in the building will be filtered, thus ensuring health and cleanliness.

The Amphitheatre will be one of the most valuable features of the building. It will hold about 500 and will be equipped with the most modern accessories. The lighting is by means of indirect illumination. Special tables, movable and stationary, supplied with electricity, compressed air, gas and water, and furnished with the latest laboratory equipment for the performance of experiments of all kinds, will be located on the platform. Motion picture apparatus will be installed, making Michigan the first school to employ moving pictures in the actual instruction of students. There are many other new and valuable features which the New Science Building will possess but lack of space prevents a detailed description here.

As the estimated cost of the completed building is about $400,000 and the appropriation is for but $375,000, the top floor will be left unfinished for the time being. This will be left in such shape that the work may be carried through to completion at any time in the future.

The New Science Building, as it is on paper and will be in reality, will stand as a monument to the spirit of progress which permeates the atmosphere at Ann Arbor, and is but another step toward the placing of Michigan at the head of the American Universities.