

PREFACE

better conditions. To attempt to write a book on the subject of architectural drawing and claim for it originality, is simply out of the question; for very little that is original can be said, indeed very little is wanted to be said, for the literature now obtainable seems to cover every point and every phase of the subject.

It may be asked then: "Why make another book on the subject?" This seems a just and reasonable query, and one that deserves a well considered answer, and I will, to the best of my ability, endeavor to make such answer. First, then, while admitting that all that need be said on the subject has been said, and better said than I can say it, yet, it is so scattered and broken up, a bit here, and a bit there, that the student for whom this work is prepared would require to own a gold mine to be able to purchase all the works containing just what he requires; secondly, as this work is specially designed for active workmen who have no time to wade through ponderous tomes to find what may be a simple matter after all, they would probably be forced to forego the knowledge if it could not be obtained in a cheap and handy form, therefore, it is thought that by gathering together, and putting within reach of those who want them, a