

CORINTHIAN DESIGN IN BANK BUILDING.---Bank of Toronto Branch, Toronto, Affords an Interesting Study in Classic Architecture.---Possesses Many Noteworthy Features in Combination Bank and Office Building.---Structure is Fireproof Throughout.

CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE is probably more rigidly adhered to in the designing of modern bank buildings than in any other type of commercial structures.

The many fine specimens of buildings of this character, which have come to adorn the streets of metropolitan cities, with their massive columns, detailed capitals and elaborate pediments, have more than once arrested



ENTRANCE TO BANKING ROOM, YONGE ST. BRANCH, BANK OF TORONTO BUILDING, TORONTO. E. J. LENNOX ARCHITECT.

the eye of the pedestrian, and caused him to gaze intently at their architectural grandeur and solidity of construction.

As to whether they can be consistently regarded as being a commercial success—that is to say, bring a fair return of interest on the amount invested, is a question entirely irrelevant to their general architectural treatment and the uplifting influence they exert in bringing the public to appreciate higher ideals in building design, and it is quite possible, with the architectural development in bank buildings, that the perversion of art in design which has so characterized the commercial structures built on the continent during the past score of years, will give way to a higher aesthetic expression in buildings of this type.

What has been attained in bank building design can be seen in the accompanying illustrations of the new branch institution of the Bank of Toronto, on Yonge street, Toronto.

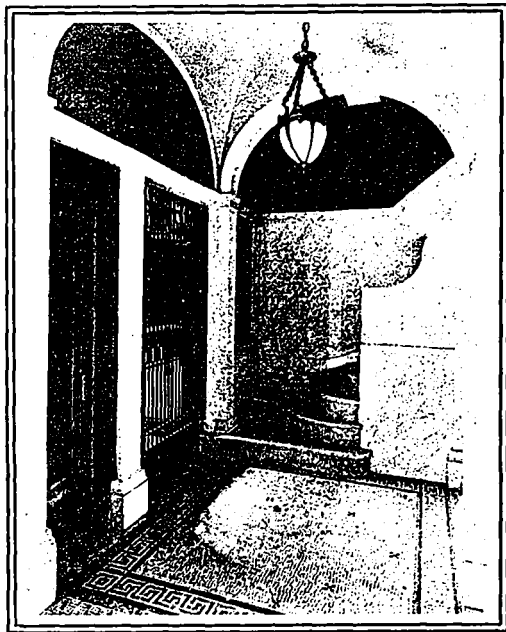
The exterior is treated in severe classic with large columns, ornate caps and enriched pediment, the whole being surmounted by a large dome. Its monumental character and dignified appearance—strongly contrasting with its surroundings—presents an interesting study in Corinthian Architecture.

The structure has a frontage of 34 feet and a depth of 122 feet. The whole exterior face is built of Indiana limestone and the building throughout is absolutely fireproof, having been constructed according to the most approved methods known to modern building science.

The interior, especially on the ground floors, vies strongly with the exterior for richness and effect. Entrance to the banking room, which is, located on this floor, is gained through a spacious hall, the walls of which are lined with Italian marble from the floor to the vaulted ceiling. On the right of the hall, as one enters, is the manager's public and private offices, while on the left are situated the marble staircase and elevators, communicating with the upper floor, and the ladies' waiting room.

The banking room is thirty-one by forty-five feet in floor area, and thirty feet high. Here the walls to the height of sixteen feet, are lined with Pavanzzo and English veined Italian marble, the marble pilasters of the four walls extending up beyond this height to the Corinthian caps, above which a moulded and enriched frieze and cornice is carried around the four sides of the room. The floor of both the entrance hall and banking room is of mosaic marble tile with enriched border.

The ceiling above the cornice is divided into three large panels, the centre one having a large enriched cove



HALLWAY SHOWING ELEVATOR ENTRANCE AND MARBLE STAIRCASE LEADING TO OFFICES ON UPPER FLOORS. YONGE ST. BRANCH, TORONTO BANK BUILDING, TORONTO. E. J. LENNOX, ARCHITECT.

carried up from top of main cornice, and having an upper cornice enclosing centre ceiling light. The two outside panels of the ceiling have also ceiling lights on the level of the main cornice. These lights are of leaded muffled glass in rich plain patterns and pale colors.

Between the marble pilasters, the wall space is panelled in form of arcade, the marble dado caps forming im-