

Besides this, Architecture takes on a national expression which the educated observer cannot help feel but which he cannot very well express in words.

Having thus briefly considered the nature of Architecture, we will turn to the Architect. Who is he? and what is he for?

We found that Architecture was the art of building. The Architect is the master builder. Everyone cannot be an Architect but the Architect must be everyone. In other words, he must be capable of putting himself in sympathy with all the wants and requirements of every other trade and profession. he must know the laws of nature and acquaint himself with the peculiarities of mankind in general.

In designing churches he must consider the differences in belief and religious customs, in designing school houses he must consider both teacher and pupil, in commercial buildings the requirements of the different trades, in dwelling houses the likes and dislikes and varieties of tastes of human individuals themselves.

Above all he must possess that power of concentration of thought and that power of insight which will enable him to see his ideal in all its completeness, so that when he prepares the foundation wall he may conceive the roof and all the various parts in their different relations, so that all things may work together for good and to the best advantage.

He must be an educated man, having a knowledge of mathematics and physics, the basis of all architecture; of mineralogy to know the values of certain compositions for building; of chemistry to know the effect of climate and climatic changes on certain materials; of political economy in order to select his labour and materials; of law in order to be familiar with the decisions of the courts; of draughting in order to formulate his contracts; a literary training is necessary for the preparation of specifications; he must be a designer in order to work out his details, and a student of classics, history and philosophy in order that he may use the proper details in the proper places.

This is quite a programme but it is one that all might do well to accomplish. As for the Architect, when he has accomplished this he is just in a good position to begin the real training for his office work, for all this knowledge put together will not make an Architect.

It was Vitruvius who said that handicraftsmen without literary training are unable to give any reason for what they do, while those who trust only to theory and book learning without practical training, seem to grasp at a shadow and not a reality.

The architectural student in order to be successful must forsake his office and his books and make himself acquainted with the practical side of his profession.

It is not necessary for him to become a real Balbus and build a wall or to handle the carpenter's plane and saw, but he must become acquainted with the materials generally used in building so that