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PROGRAMME OF A COMPETITION
FOR THE SELECTION OF AN ARCHITECT
FOR THE
PUBLIC REFERENCE LIBRARY BUILDING
IN THE CITY OF TORONTO.

1905

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METROPOLITAN
TORONTO
LIBRARY

General Reference

PROGRAMME OF A COMPETITION FOR THE SELECTION OF AN ARCHITECT FOR THE PUBLIC REFERENCE LIBRARY BUILDING, IN THE CITY OF TORONTO.

TERMS OF COMPETITION.

(a). For the purpose of the selection of an Architect for the proposed building the Board has established a Competition under the terms set forth in this programme.

(b). The prize of this Competition will be the commission of the design and the supervision of the erection of the proposed building under the usual terms as set forth in this programme.

(c). The Competition will be restricted to Architects who are bona fide residents and who have been practising their profession in Canada for at least six months, immediately preceding this day.

(d). A Board of six judges composed of:—

His Worship the Mayor.

A member of the City Council.

A member of the Public Library Board.

The Chief Librarian of the Public Library.

The City Architect.

The foregoing to elect the sixth judge who shall be an Architect.

These shall report upon the plans submitted, placing the first four in order of merit.

(e). The set of plans awarded second place by the Board of judges shall receive a prize of \$350.00. The set of plans awarded third place shall receive a prize of \$250.00. The best fourth set of plans shall be awarded \$150.00.

(f). All competing plans are to be delivered to the Secretary of the Board of the Toronto Public Library on or before 12 o'clock noon, on January 31st, 1906.

(g). It being manifestly impossible to secure in competition a design carefully studied out and perfected in all details and capable of execution at a definite point of cost, the Board herewith states that it desires and expects to receive in this Competition a carefully studied general scheme only, whose completed character shall be intelligibly and sufficiently indicated in the competitive drawings and whose execution would realize the requirements of this programme.

THE ARCHITECT.

1. The architect whose plans are awarded the first place shall, if requested, revise the design submitted by him and shall make such further or other drawings and sketches as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the Board and then make detailed plans and specifications. If upon tenders being received it is found that the cost of the building will exceed the prescribed limit to such an extent that the changes necessary to bring it within this limit render it no longer acceptable to the Board the plan shall be rejected and its author entitled to no compensation therefor.

2. After the plan has been finally accepted, the architect shall prepare the full working drawings and specifications, and shall supervise the work during the construction of the building. He shall have control of all matters of arrangement and design and of all alterations and changes therein, subject to the approval of the Board before the work is begun.

3. The supervision of the construction of the building should be closer than can be given in person by a practising architect and it is therefore stipulated that the Board shall have the right to place in charge a competent building superintendent or clerk of works who shall give to this work his constant supervision until the structure is fully completed.

4. For all these and such other services as shall be incident and necessary thereto the architect shall receive the

customary commission of five per centum on the total cost of the building, such commission in any case not to exceed five per centum on the cost as estimated by the architect in the plans submitted.

5. All drawings, specifications, etc., as instruments of service are to remain the property of the architect, but one copy on tracing linen of all drawings made to a scale of eight feet to an inch shall be furnished to the Board by the architect when the plans are completed, with a copy of each detail, drawn if desirable on paper and to a large scale, also a copy of each specification, and these are to remain permanently in the archives of the institution, and if and when changes shall be made in plans, drawings, or specifications, the copies to be deposited with the Board shall be from time to time as such changes are made, altered by the architect so as to conform with the originals thereof.

DRAWINGS AND DOCUMENTS.

Drawings submitted shall be made to the scale of eight feet to the inch. To be mounted on a sheet of thick white paper, twenty-six by thirty-two inches, and to comprise the following and no others :—

(a). Floor plans of each story and of the roof and basement on the scale of eight feet to an inch drawn in black and white, with the names and dimensions of the rooms lettered in each, the length and breadth, as well as the superficial area in square feet wherever space permits. The lettering and figuring is to be plain and simple like ordinary type. The walls and partitions are to be black. There is to be no indication of the decorative treatment of floors or ceilings.

(b). An elevation of the south front and also one of the east front of the building.

(c). Three sections, showing the principal rooms and staircase. The elevations and sections are to be made to a uniform scale of eight feet to one inch. The elevations are to be drawn in line with India ink, not in pencil, and to be rendered with the brush, not with the pen, the shadows being carefully

cast and shown at an angle of forty-five degrees from the left. The sections are to be drawn in line, sections of walls, etc., blackened—but to have no cast shadows.

(d). No color is to be used in any of the drawings.

(e). The above drawings and none other shall be furnished by the competing architects, and any competitor violating this requirement may be debarred from the competition.

(f). The competitors will submit, with the drawings, a type-written letter not signed, giving a brief description of the building and calling attention to any points of interest in the design or construction, or in regard to the methods of heating or ventilating it, not obvious in the drawings. This paper will also state the materials it is proposed to use, the amount of money to be employed in decoration and painting, the number of cubic feet in the building, as shown, and its supposed cost per cubic foot, and the total cost, which must not exceed \$260,000.

(g). The drawings are not to be framed, glazed or mounted on cardboard, but are to be sent flat in a portfolio. The drawings must have no device or motto nor any handwriting or other means of identification. With each set of drawings is to be enclosed a securely sealed envelope containing the name and address of the architect submitting them, and any architect who discloses his identity in any other way is to be excluded from the competition. The drawings and envelopes will be numbered as they are received and will be known by their numbers. The envelopes containing the names will not be opened until a final decision has been reached.

BUILDING.

(a). The site of the building is a plot of ground on the north-west corner of College and St. George Streets, measuring two hundred and thirty-four feet on the former and three hundred and sixty-four feet on the latter.

(b). The principal front will be towards College Street. The outer lines of the walls or any porch, portico or similar

projection must not approach nearer than twenty-five feet from either street and at least forty feet from the adjacent property to the west and north.

(c). The principal use to which the building will be put is the storing of the valuable collection of books in the present Reference Library, and of furnishing ample accommodation for all classes of readers, or students. It is also intended to be used as a branch circulating library with about ten thousand volumes, and containing ample accommodation for reading room, children's room and periodical room. The administrative offices of the Public Library service will be quartered in the building.

(d). The building is to be thoroughly fire-proof. It is to be constructed of brick, terra-cotta or stone, with all iron and steel properly protected against fire, and it is desired that it shall be constructed in a simple and dignified style appropriate to the usefulness and worth of the site.

(e). A consideration of importance in the design is the possibility of future enlargement, which is to be secured, if possible, without detriment to the unity of the structure now to be erected, that it, the building now to be erected with the funds at disposal, is to be architecturally complete but at the same time form only a part of a larger structure, also possessing architectural unity and completeness.

(f). The sum available for this building complete, including the heating plant, but without furniture, is \$260,000. This must also include all architect's and engineer's fees of whatsoever description.

(g). The building is to have a high basement not less than sixteen feet from the floor to the ceiling and must be absolutely dry. Proper trenches enclosed in masonry must be provided under the floor for all heating and other pipes, the trenches to be of a sufficient size to enable any portion of the piping to be reached without inconvenience and without cutting or injuring the floor.

BASEMENT.

The basement to have an entrance for the general public in the front portion of the building and entrances for the attendants in rear or side, the rooms to be provided in this portion of the building being as follows, the whole to have a superficial area of about 17,150 square feet:—

1. A room having a superficial area of about 7,800 square feet, which is intended to be sub-divided with railings so as to provide space for a Circulating Library, Children's Room, Teacher's Room and Room for Periodicals.
2. Secretary's Room.
3. Attendant's Room.
4. Unpacking and Packing Room.
5. Duplicate Room.
6. Bindery.
7. Stationery and Tool Room.
8. Space for Staircases and Halls.

MAIN FLOOR.

It is very desirable that the entrance to the main floor be located near the corner of College and St. George Streets.

The Main floor to have a similar superficial area to the basement and to be sub-divided so as to provide the following rooms:—

1. Main Reference Library Reading Room, about 6,200 feet area, having a width of about 50 feet.
2. Patent Room (separated from Reading Room by rail and columns, area about 1,800 feet).
3. Newspaper Room, Area about 1,800 feet.
4. Map Room Area about 900 feet.
5. Art Room, Area about 2,250 feet.
6. Board Room, Area about 440 feet.
7. Librarian's Office, etc., Area about 440 feet.
8. 5 Study Rooms, Area about 84 feet each.

9. Cataloguing Room, Area about 600 feet.

10. The balance of the space to be allotted to entrance, corridor, staircases, halls, sanitary accommodation, etc.

In addition to the space already referred to provision will also require to be made for an isolated stack room about 35 feet in width and 90 feet in length, containing 5 stories of 7 feet 6 inches in height each, two of which are to be below the level of the Reference Library Reading Room floor, and the entire stacks and framing for floors, stairs, etc., are to be of an approved design manufactured by some Company recognized as specialists in this particular description of work.

The Reference Library Reading Room is intended to be in a single story, the balance of the rooms specified for, on the main floor, to have ceilings not less than 15 feet in height, with space above forming two large rooms intended for exhibition of historical pictures and maps, etc., and a small room for photographing purposes. The boiler house and coal vaults, etc., are intended to be located outside the area of the building proper.

The counter for delivery in the Reference Reading Room should be immediately in front of the entrance to the Stack Room, and as close as possible to the Card Catalogue and Cataloguing Room, and a Book Elevator will require to be provided for in the Stack Room.

SUGGESTION.

1. The building is for a library and is to be planned for library work. It is to be essentially a work place and not a show place.

2. No convenience of arrangement is to be sacrificed for mere architectural effect.

3. Let windows extend to or nearly to the ceiling and light every part of the room, the upper as well as the lower.

4. Specify the kind of floors intended for the different rooms and parts of the building. Free use might be made of cork carpet over cement or tiling.

5. Unnecessary noise is to be provided against throughout.

6. Delivery and Information desks to have oversight of the entrance and as large a portion of open space as possible.

7. Do not spoil good shelf space along walls by service pipes or wires.

8. The erection of permanent interior walls and the location of columns to be reduced to the minimum required for proper and substantial construction.

9. Provide abundant artificial light as well as the greatest possible amount of natural light.

10. Provide Telephone connection throughout with private exchange.

11. Provide alarm bells for emergencies, and simple routine signals.



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