



A NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF  
AMERICAN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

By

Hugh Lyon McMath

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OF  
AMERICAN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

THESIS

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By

Hugh Lyon McMath, M. S. in Architecture  
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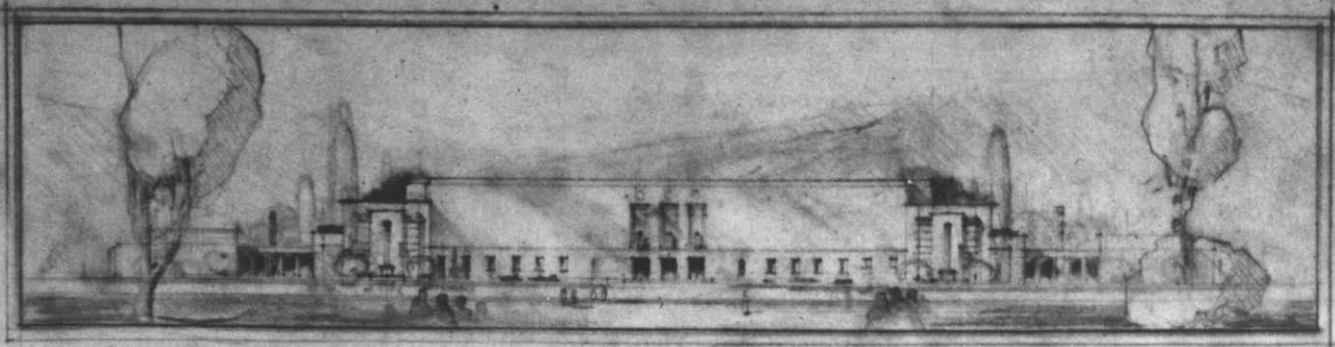
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• ELEVATION •

TO MONUMENTS

TO MONUMENTS

• LIBRARY •

• HALL OF THE AMERICAN •

• PLAN •

• SECTION •

• A NATIONAL MUSEUM •  
OF  
• AMERICAN ART & ARCHEOLOGY •

*Arch. L. Mumford*

SCALE • 1" = 120'-0"

## PREFACE

This thesis is offered as a study in the correlation of research in Architecture and in Archaeology. It is, in the main, the result of the author's interest in the aboriginal American and his contributions to our present-day civilization, particularly in the fine arts -- architecture, sculpture, painting, literature, music, and the drama. The author has sought to write a program and present a solution that will properly fulfill the requirements for such a structure.

By "American Art and Archaeology" is meant the cultural products of the peoples of North America, Mexico, Central and South America antecedent to the Spanish colonization or what is generally known as the "Pre-Spanish era".

The author is indebted to the Library of The University of Texas for the valuable resources used in the development of research for the requirements of the program and the design.

December, 1935

Hugh Lyon McMath

## INTRODUCTION AND PROGRAM

The aboriginal American has contributed an incalculable amount to the spiritual and material life of our present day through his arts and agriculture. His cultural achievements have exhibited an adjustment to conditions and a virility that have never been obliterated. In recognition and in appreciation of the American Indian's beneficence to mankind, the author proposes as the subject of this thesis--

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It is assumed that Congress has provided funds for the project and that the city of San Antonio, Texas has been selected since this locality is proximate to the center of archaeological development in the Americas. The site slopes very gently towards Brackenridge Park and has a frontage on the Pan-American highway of 1000 feet and a depth of 1500 feet along two major avenues intersecting the highway.

The function of the museum will be two fold; first, as a background and shelter for rare archaeological specimens; and second, as a center of instruction and archaeology.

The composition in addition to the museum building shall include adequate landscape development and provision for outdoor exhibition of sculptural and architectural fragments, replicas and restorations of large monuments; a botanical museum and garden for the cultivation and display of American Indian plant life; and a small outdoor theatre for pageants and ceremonials.

The museum, exclusive of its steps and approaches, shall not exceed 750 feet in its greatest plan dimension and shall include:



I.

A MAIN ENTRANCE VESTIBULE affording controlled access to

II.

A GREAT HALL lighted from above and used for the exhibition of monumental pieces of architecture, sculpture and painting and as a monumental foyer to

III.

AN AUDITORIUM seating 800 people for public lectures and scientific gatherings. Anterooms for lectures, storage rooms, and provision for projection equipment.

IV.

TWO SMALL LECTURE ROOMS each seating 100 people and used for public and group lectures.

V.

TWO SMALL GALLERIES for travelling exhibits and recent accessions and located convenient to the Great Hall. They are 750 square feet each.

## VI.

THE GENERAL OR PUBLIC MUSEUM divided into two major departments consisting of two galleries each of 7000 square feet and equipped with dioramas and display cases to illustrate the habitats and cultures of the following areas:

### A. North America

North Atlantic  
South Atlantic  
Iroquoian  
Mississippi-Ohio  
Great Lakes  
Plains  
Pueblo  
California  
Columbia Basin  
North Pacific Coast  
Arctic  
Canadian

### B. Mexico, Middle And South America

Northern Mexico  
Central Mexico  
State of Oaxaca  
Yucatan  
Panama  
The Antilles  
Columbia  
Ecuador  
Peru  
Chili  
Atlantic Highlands  
Patagonia

## VII.

TWO GALLERIES for the exhibition and sale of contemporary arts and crafts of; North America; Mexico, Middle and South America. Each gallery to be provided with a sales department and office. The galleries may be independent of the museum building proper. 7000 square feet each.

### VIII.

SIX GALLERIES for rare and special collections of paintings, sculptures, ceramics, basketry, metalwork, carving and textiles, and placed so as to be easily accessible from the main entrance vestibule and Great Hall. 2000--2500 square feet each.

### IX.

THE TECHNICAL OR STUDENT MUSEUM for the classified storage of specimens. 40,000 square feet total. Twenty adjacent studios of 250 square feet each, for student and professional designers. Artificial lighting may be employed in these elements. Sales rooms for drawing and modelling supplies.

### X.

A LIBRARY to include:

1. General reading room and delivery. 14,000 square feet.
2. Special reading room with assistant librarian's office and workroom. 2500 square feet.
3. Photography collection with librarian office and workroom. 2500 square feet.

4. Librarian's office. 500 square feet.
5. Archivist's office. 500 square feet.
6. Stack space for the ultimate storage of 1,000,000 volumes devoted to archaeology, anthropology and ethnology.
7. A number of carrels convenient to the reserve collections.

XI.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES. 2000 square feet to include:

1. Director's office and reception room.
2. Comptroller's offices.
3. Board room with secretary's office.

XII.

STAFF OFFICE. 2000 square feet total.

XIII.

PRINTING SHOP for the preparation of books and pamphlets. 350 square feet.

XIV.

SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC to include:

1. Restaurant - 3000 square feet.
2. Kitchen - 3000 square feet.
3. Lounge - 900 square feet.
4. Rest rooms and toilets - 4500 square feet total.
5. Information desk, check rooms, desks for sale of guide books and pamphlets, and booths for telephones.

XV.

SERVICES FOR THE PERSONNEL to include:

1. Guard rooms.
2. Lockers.
3. Showers and toilets.
4. Janitor's closets.

XVI.

SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF EXHIBITS -

40,000 square feet total area to include:

1. Receiving room.
2. Examination.
3. Cataloging.
4. Photography.
5. Repair shops.
6. Vault.

XVII.

AIR CONDITIONING PLANT to provide for a  
central-fan heating system. 5000 square  
feet.

SCALE OF DRAWINGS:

Plans, sections and elevations at the scale of 1/32" to the foot.

Detail of principal entrance at the scale of 5/16" to the foot. (10 times scale of drawings)

Detail of the Sun-Worshiper at the scale of 5/8" to the foot. (20 times scale of drawings)

GENERAL CONDITION:

Since most museums are developed from basic elements by additions of units from time to time, the scheme should show the ultimate development and indicate the flexibility of the design.

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