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# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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## REPORT UPON THE VI<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS HELD IN MADRID, SPAIN, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup>, 1904.

*To the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects.*

GENTLEMEN: As delegates appointed by you to the Sixth International Congress of Architects, held in Madrid, April 4th to 13th, 1904, we have the honor to submit the following report:

The Congress was held under the protection of the government of His Majesty Alfonso XIII, King of Spain, and on April 4th His Majesty graciously tendered a reception to the official delegates of the Congress at the Royal Palace, receiving them in person, expressing his interest in architecture and his best wishes for the success of the Congress.

The preliminary opening session of the Congress was held at 9 A. M., April 6th, when the following officers to represent the United States were elected: Vice-Presidents of Honor, Messrs. Francis R. Allen, William B. Ittner, Frederick A. Russell, James K. Taylor, and George O. Totten, Jr.; Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. W. S. Eames and Glenn Brown.

At 3 o'clock the inaugural session was held in the great paranymphe of the University under the presidency of His Excellency the Minister of Public Instruction, assisted by the Minister of Public Works, the Civil Governor, the Mayor of Madrid, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, delegates of Associations, Academies, national and foreign delegates, members of the Congress, and invited guests.

The President of the Congress, M. Velazquez, made an address of welcome, followed by a report by the Secretary, M. Cabello y Lapedra.

The Minister of Public Instruction welcomed the members of the Congress in the name of His Majesty the King.

An official delegate of each of the countries represented was then called upon. Mr. Totten responded for America.

and accepted conditions usually governing such matters which, in the opinion of this Chapter, will prevent the city of Oakland from securing the results most desired; in fact, will cause members of the profession of standing and recognized ability to refrain from entering the competition, and thus leave the field open for practitioners who desire to obtain commissions in any way and by any means, to the final detriment and injury of both owner and profession; and

Whereas, the professional ability required to formulate a series of plans and design as required by said program must be of a high order, and the amount of labor necessary to this end is great, involving a large cost, which even in the unsuccessful designs must indirectly accrue to the benefit of the city of Oakland; and

Whereas, three premiums or prizes are customarily awarded, going to the first, second, and third most meritorious designs, in part payment for and recognition of this ability and cost; and

Whereas, the requirement that a bond of 5 per cent. of the estimated cost of the building be exacted from the successful competitor, "that he will at any time within six months after submitting his plans furnish the Board of Education complete working plans, specifications, and details ready for contractors' bids," is an extortion, inasmuch as the Board of Education will have, by its own act, acquired the ownership of plans and designs worth many times the one (1) per cent. which it offers to pay for this acquisition; and

Whereas, the Board of Education, under the terms of its "Notice to Architects," may or may not call for working drawings, and may select its own time and manner of advertising for bids, without the aid, concurrence, approval, or direction of the author of the design, thus subjecting him to the hazard of the detrimental effect of strikes, of a rise in the labor and material markets, of combinations and other untoward circumstances, all of which is contrary to the customs of the profession and humiliating and detrimental to his professional standing; and

Whereas, the Board of Education reserves the right in accepting any plan or plans to alter and change such plans without provision for adding to or deducting from the estimated price for such changes and alterations without approval and consent of its author; and

Whereas, the Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all plans, notwithstanding that all the terms and conditions of its "Notice to Architects" may have been complied with; and

Whereas, the State of California issues certificates to practice architecture to those who are entitled to practice that profession; and

Whereas, the Board of Education allows less than two months within which to formulate, complete, and deliver six different designs, involving an expenditure of approximately six hundred thousand dollars, any one of which designs would, if given adequate study and attention, require much more than the allotted time; and

Whereas, no provision is made in the program whereby the name of the author of any design or designs shall remain unknown until after the selection and award; and

Whereas, no provision is made for professional architectural expert advice or infor-

mation to the Board in judging the merits and demerits of any design or designs, and in making an award; and

Whereas, the interests of the city of Oakland and the dignity of the architectural profession may be adequately safeguarded in this matter by other and more usual and customary conditions; and

Whereas, the American Institute of Architects has formulated a series of rules and regulations to govern in competitions, which have been tried and found to eventuate in satisfactory results, both to the owner and to the profession, in the selection of an architect, now in use by the Federal Government; and

Whereas, it is unprofessional for any practitioner to enter any competition not governed by such sanctioned rules and regulations: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That a copy of the Code for the Conduct of Competitions, as approved and adopted by the American Institute of Architects, be transmitted to the Board of Education of the city of Oakland with the request respectfully made, that the program issued for the competitive plans and designs for school houses in the city of Oakland be modified to conform with said American Institute Code: And be it further

*Resolved*, That the services of a member or members of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects be hereby tendered, free of compensation, to the Board of Education of the city of Oakland to aid and advise said Board in formulating a program for competition in conformity with the customary and usual practice of the profession: And be it further

*Resolved*, That it would be detrimental to the interests of the city of Oakland if any but certificated architects were admitted to compete: And be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Board of Education of the city of Oakland, to every certificated architect in the State, and to each Chapter in the United States.

LIONEL DEANE,  
*Secretary, S. F. Chapter, A. I. A.*

## OBITUARY.

H. P. McDONALD, F. A. I. A.

Mr. H. P. McDonald was born at Romney, Va., in 1847. He was graduated from the Washington and Lee University in 1870 with the degree of C. E. Later he turned his attention to architecture, and in 1880, together with his brothers, Donald McDonald and Kenneth McDonald, practiced architecture in Louisville, Ky., under the firm name of McDonald Brothers. Among the works executed by this firm are the West Tennessee Insane Asylum; Southwest Virginia Insane Asylum; Kentucky Branch Penitentiary; Kansas State House; St. Paul's and Calvary Episcopal Churches, Louisville, Ky., and St. Paul's Episcopal Church of New Orleans. He died February 18, 1904. He was elected a Member of the Western Association of Architects in 1885, and by act of consolidation became a Fellow of the Institute in 1889.