



the beauty and the beast

Nebraska's State Capitol needs help. This is the consensus of a year-long study by the UNL College of Architecture, financed by a \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment to the Arts.

Architecture professors Roger Schluntz and Tom Laging directed the study and received help from the State Historical Society, the American Institute of Architects, the Downtown Advisory Council and other state and city departments.

The study resulted in 124 pages of recommendations to be published in November, Schluntz said.

The main recommendations include:

- Refurbishing the building to its style in 1932 when it was completed.
- Landscaping the capitol grounds and neighborhood areas surrounding the building.
- Initiating a long-range comprehensive plan for future state government building needs.

Out of place

Vern Clark, state building division administrator, cited rows of metal phone booths and signs scrawled in felt tip pen as the latest additions to the build-

ing which are "totally out of place." In some areas, acoustic tile has been glued to the ceiling.

"This is blasphemy against the building and is not really necessary," Clark said. Corridors have been blocked to provide office space, but Clark said these corridors should be opened and the offices that are in the tower should be removed.

Though the tower is safe for office use, he said it was intended for storage and causes a strain on the small elevators.

Replace furnishings

Modern-styled fixtures and furnishings need to be replaced with others more compatible with the building structure, Clark said. These blights on the building's interior present an unprofessional appearance for visitors, Clark said.

Many old fixtures are still available, making it less costly to replace modern lighting, which the study found unacceptable, said David Murphy, architect for the State Historical Society.

The study also proposed preservation of a neighborhood southeast of the capitol grounds which has historical and architectural significance, Murphy said.