

Nebraska's state capitol building called an architectural wonder

By Betsie Ammons

Last year more than 115,000 visitors toured the Nebraska State Capitol Bldg. They came from all 50 states, and several foreign countries. What did they come to see? The building's architectural design, said Hugh Winchester, curator for State Building Services.

The capitol is one of the most modern in the nation, Winchester said. Its architect, Bertram Goodhue of New York, was a pioneer in skyscraper design, and in 1922 he designed the capitol—Nebraska's first skyscraper and one of the first in the nation, Winchester said.

Goodhue and his assistants wanted something to "stand out for the people of Nebraska," according to Winchester. Winchester's office, known to capitol employees as "Winchester's Cathedral," is full of books, design layouts and papers on what makes the Nebraska State Capitol unique among capitol buildings.

Tower is distinguishing feature

Winchester said its tower is what distinguishes Nebraska's capitol from others.

Goodhue's design marked the beginning of a different type of architecture, not only for state capitols but for all buildings, Winchester said. The typical state capitol before 1922 was a few stories high, with a short dome on top, he said.

Nebraska's capitol is "streamlined, much higher than the others," he said. It is approximately 100,000 feet high, he added.

It also was one of the first buildings to have sculpture on the outside, according to Winchester. It is made out of a type of limestone called Indiana limestone, which is no longer used in construction because of its high price, he said.

People are amazed at the cost of the building, Winchester said. Started in 1922, it cost \$10 million to build and was paid for upon completion in 1932, he said.

Today's cost \$120 million

Scott McLaughlin, architect for State Building Services, said it would cost about \$120 million today to build the capitol as it now stands.

McLaughlin said the building materials used and the construction of the capitol are "of much superb quality" that repairs are seldom necessary.

McLaughlin said the capitol's construction is comparable to that of the Parthenon in Greece, built in 400 B.C. Parts of the Parthenon are still standing and McLaughlin said he thinks Nebraska's capitol could conceivably last that long.

One of seven architectural wonders

The capitol has been called one of the seven architect-

ural wonders of the modern world, Winchester said.

A poll of American architects taken in 1932 indicated that they considered it the third wonder, behind the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. and New York City's Empire State Bldg., he said.

Persons from across the globe are aware of the Nebraska capitol bldg., McLaughlin said.

When McLaughlin worked for an architecture firm in Hamburg, Germany, he said he told them he was from Lincoln and their first comment was "that's where

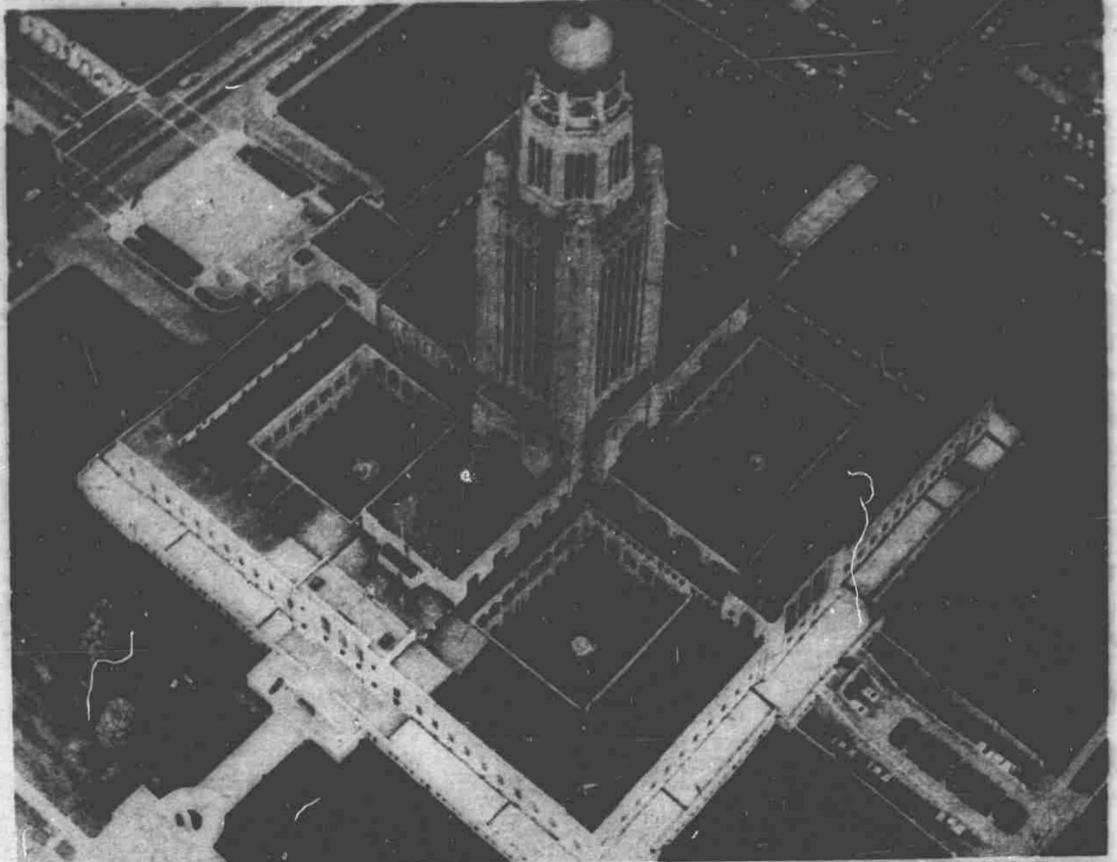
third dimension | putting Lincoln on the map

Goodhue built that building."

Architects and engineers come from around the world to study the building, Winchester said.

McLaughlin said he thinks "you could never build a building like this again." The cooperation between architects and artists who could do murals, mosaics and sculptures does not exist anymore, he added.

Joleen Huginin, Capitol Tourism Coordinator, said about 300 persons participate in the seven capitol tours offered daily.



Daily Nebraskan photo

American architects in 1932 voted Nebraska's capitol bldg. one of the seven architectural wonders of the modern world.

FOR THE TWO OF YOU

Daily Nebraskan Wedding Supplement

QIII April 8, 1976

QUALITY + PRICE = VALUE

IMPORTED FROM MEXICO

JUAREZ TEQUILA

50 PROOF

MADE IN MEXICO

GRAND OPENING

Saturday, March 13

Free drawing for Gift Certificates

Workspace, tools, supplies and trained personnel to aid in design and creation

1201 Q St.

head basket of mid-america

The Glass Menagerie

★ VALUABLE COUPON ★

COCA-COLA • QUART BOTTLES

SPRITE • BOTTLES

DR. PEPPER • 4 for \$1.00

plus dep.

Good Only MR. "B" IGA DOWNTOWN At 1020 "N" ST. (in Brandeis)

BRANDEIS Travel Service

presents

The Europe Combo

Charters

...weekly from Chicago - Special Omaha departures

Prices Start at \$315.

Eurail Passes

...unlimited Rail transportation from \$145.

You Must Book Early

For Information Call Collect 346-7171 or 391-8500