THE GUARDIAN BUILDING



CELEBRATION

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Welcome to 90th anniversary celebration of the Guardian Building. This event highlights one of the world's most famous art-deco buildings and a defining splash of color on the Detroit skyline since 1929.

We take great pride in being stewards of such an iconic building. We are committed to operating it as efficiently as possible while keeping it open to the public and preserved for generations to come. A debt of gratitude is owed to the countless workers, tenants and owners who have maintained this building over the years. A big thank you is also owed to the sponsors who made tonight possible. I hope you enjoy this evening as we celebrate the . Guardian Building.

Sincerely,



Warren C. Evans Wayne County Executive

























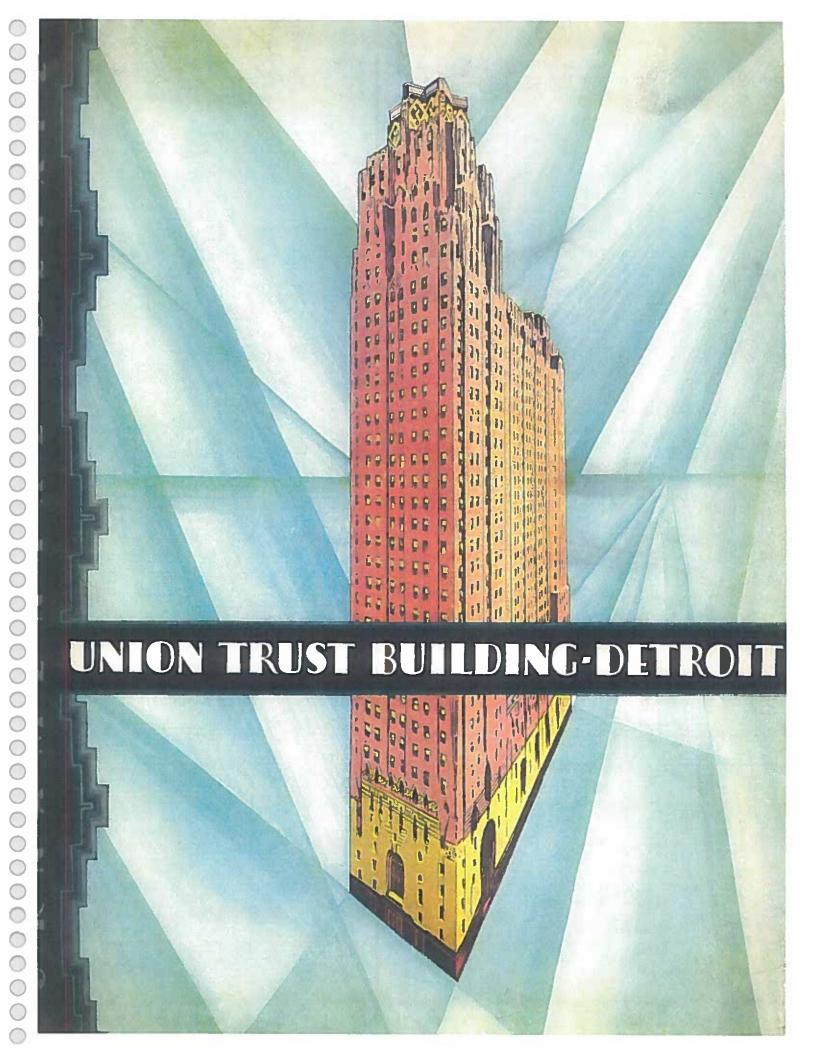














ORNAMENTAL DETAIL

The New UNION TRUST BUILDING DETROIT

Smith, Hinchman & Grylls
Donaldson & Meier
W. E. Wood Company
Halsey, McCormack & Helmer, Inc.
Ezra Winter

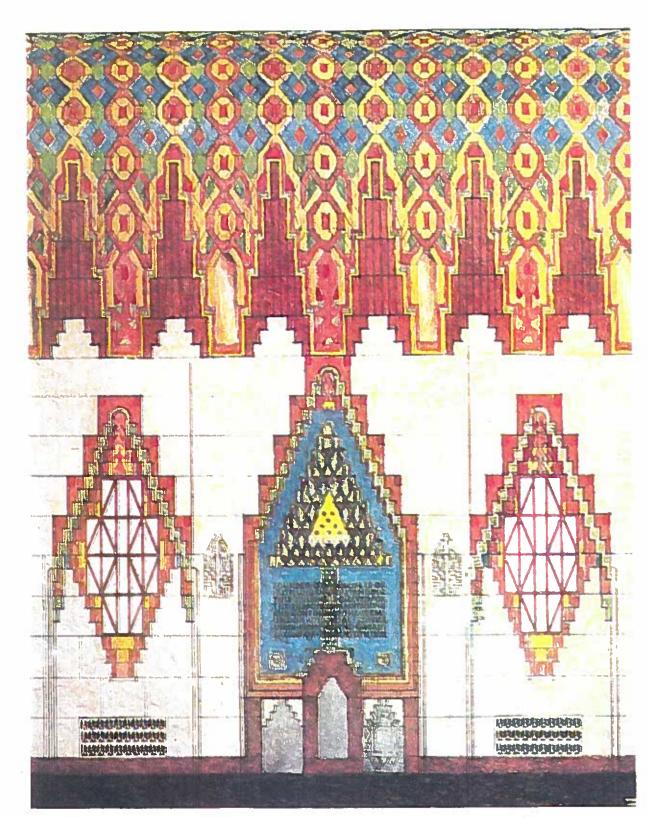
Architects
Consulting Architects
General Contractors
Bank Engineers
Mural Decorator

Reprinted from March 30, 1929 Issue of

MICHIGAN MANUFACTURER AND FINANCIAL RECORD

 B_{y}

DAHLSTROM METALLIC DOOR COMPANY
THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL COMPANY, INC.



A SECTION OF LOBBY WALL

From the Architect's Cartoans.

A SYMPHONY in COLOR The New Union Trust Building in Detroit



been completed and is already partially occupied; completed only in a sense, for such, buildings are never entirely completed, with

tenants getting growing pains and tearing out or putting in new divisions; but completed in that other sense that its size and style and proportions and decorative effects have become fixed against the vision of men.

The new Union Trust Building in Detroit is the third of a triad of great structures to be finished in its city within a year, each of them distinguished and each of them distinct, the other two being the Fisher Building and the Penobscot Building. Each is an example of the American vertical style of architecture, that evolutionary type which makes human-built structures look as if they were hewn out of limestone hills, with recessed galleries on their way skyward, or were produced by chipping the sides of a cliff into plane surfaces to which the ornament has been applied exteriorly as Borglum tried to do to Stone Mountain.

A Symphony in Color

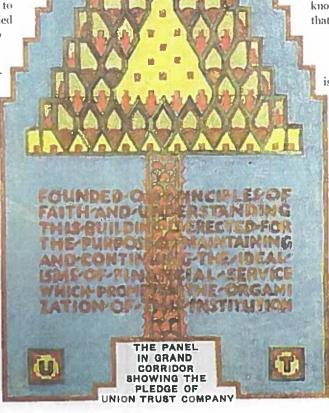
Union Trust Building has one distinction over the two other structures mentioned. The Fisher Building has facades of granite and marble, quarried and sawed to an exact matching of the blocks that make the pattern of its up-rising walls. Penobscot Building is a composition of limestone from the Oolitic quarries. Union Trust is a symphony in ceramics, its granite bases serving as an architectural basis for walls of brick in orange tones. relieved with ornaments of ceramic tiles in colors which make the rainbow seem modest, blacks and greens in striking blends, vellows and reds in such combinations that they produce a mass harmony which glimpses at their components would scarcely seem

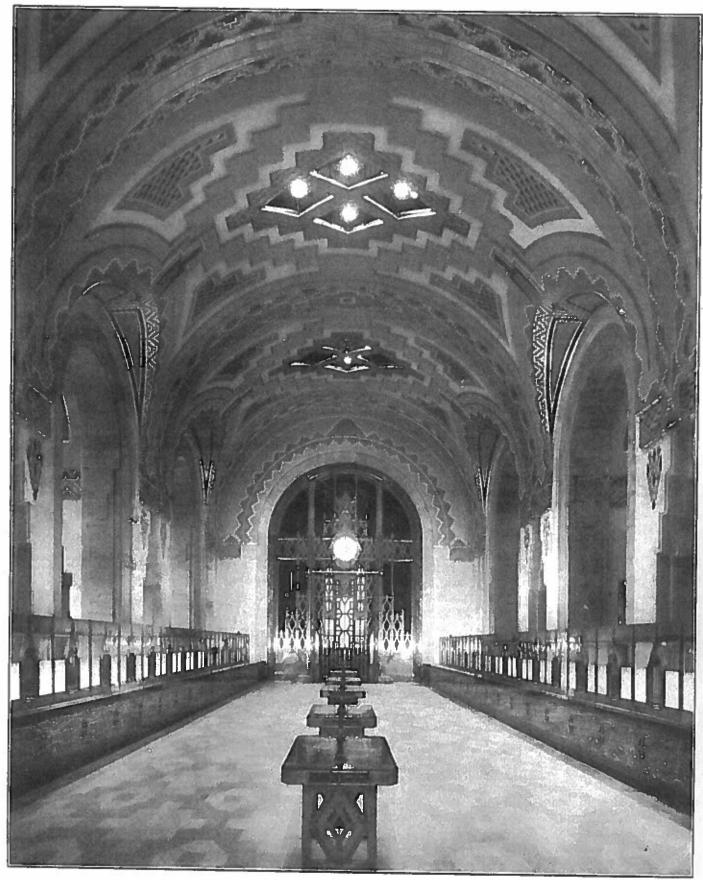
The new building of the Union Trust Company in Detroit has possible; groupings of color which are garish at first sight, grow picturesque with observation, and resolve themselves into complete harmonies of tones on further examination and study.

> Union Trust Building represents the last word in the application of color to the exteriors of the monster buildings of the period. Men who know their art say that it is an example of the beginning of a period which, before the world is well into it, will have developed a warmth of color in the architecture and decorations of exteriors suggestive of equatorial latitudes rather than of the temperate zone; and which will show warmth and attractiveness at no sacrifice of dignity or solidity. Then Union Trust has new compositions in its forms. The flat arch, the Gothic and the Romanesque arches are absent from the shaping of its openings and in their places the "notched" arch, so far as known the most elaborate example of that form of treatment of openings.

A Striking Structure

All in all Union Trust Building is at this moment the most striking building in the country, because, besides size, it has individuality. It has been designed by Michigan architects; erected by Michigan contractors; is composed to a very large extent of Michigan materials; has been put together by Michigan artisans; has had its murals painted by a Michigan-born artist; has decorations of tile produced in Michigan faienceries, and is, so far as could possibly be done, a Michigan made temple for a leading Michigan financial institution. There is so much of Michigan about it, that the story of its design, construction, ornamentation and equipment is a romance of Michigan, woith telling in extent to a group of readers who revel in Michigan productions and progress.





A VIEW OF THE GREAT BANKING QUARTERS

The Embellishment of a Cathedral of Finance

The Union Trust Building in a city of tall solely through the unique wall treatment, color should occupy relative to its field. ecture in a direction that has not hereto- pany ore been taken. In place of the grays and reams of stone and architectural terra cotta. liversified by vertical elements that were o the facades, the Union Trust exterior has that great vertical expressed by the great wall spaces of soft color with bands of argely abandoned this emphasis on the leight and the feeling of dignity conferred by tall, narrow panelings, and has substituted rarying color in great, simple wall faces.

Here is a great financial institution which has grown up with Detroit, an institution with banking and fiduciary ramifications so ar flung every fourth Detroiter is in some legree affected personally by its operations. t is housed in a great structure that achieves ly its very decoration a feeling of informalty, closeness to the passer-by, friendliness o the Detroiters who see it. This is enirely attained by the exterior treatment of

VIEW IN GREAT CORRIDOR SHOWING GREAT MONEL SCREEN From the Architect's Drowings.

Avoidance of Verticals

faces in ornate and irritating over-decorated detail at window openings, there is a pleasing and simple general effect given through planes of each facade. The earlier skyin the hard brilliancy of terra cotta in whites and creams, but the Union Trust conception has been worked out in brick of a peculiarly attractive tone, of a color that lies between Tuscan red and fawn, a brown which has a feeling of yellowness and sunlight conhe building. It expresses wealth, yet avoids instead of hard. It is eye-resting. Its texind enters the hearts of the local observers, independent of the local observers, and suning construction of the strengthen the wall effects by their presence in the brilliantly-elaborated ceramics that form the intricate decoration of the great of brick. Who is there to say that such a combination is not immediately inviting to the man in the street, and an aid in creating a personal feeling of proprietorship?

The Tying in of Color

This brickwork carrying both red and yellow is a basis for embellishment of its own sort, not before embodied in a structure of immense size. The base stories are in graygreen stone with the green tone marked. This foundation element is brilliantly lighted at its upper margin by inserted ceramic material of brilliant colors in which the green found in the stone is carried to its most brilliant stage as the major color. This green has the mellowness of the orangeyellow component of the brick which surmounts it. It ties the diverse materials and colors into a unity. The upper portion of the facade bears similar decoration.

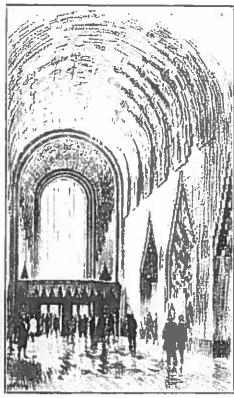
It is a maxim of pleasing decoration that some color tone should prevail throughout an entire deserative unit, and in the case of the Union Trust facade this tone might be said to be the mellow and sun-lighted warmth of yellow found in the green ceramic inlays, the plain stonework, and the brick. This group carries the predominant feeling of the building as a study in color, and is entirely in the harmony of analogy.

It is also a maxim of pleasing decorative effect that the stronger and more brilliant a color is, the smaller the area that such a

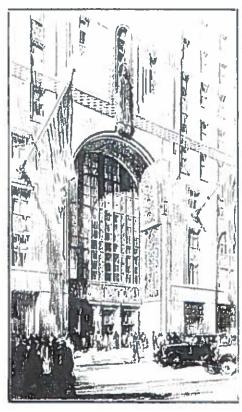
buildings has had personality conferred upon Each Detroit resident is given a feeling that Upon studying the facade with this in mind, t by the use of external color. In this it this is to some extent his building, and the there is a pleasing balance between the graysioneers the advance of American archi- Company and its subsidiaries, his trust com- green stone areas and the warm brown areas of brick that make a ground for the decorative bands in green and cream.

Mention was made of the harmony of First of all, this feeling is attained by an analogy. Decoration also takes into account lepended upon to give character and accent avoidance of emphasized verticals, other than the harmony of contrast. Here are great simple faces of the entire building. Instead strong green detail, all in the harmony of of the intricate and typical skyscraper wall analogy. As a whole, it is doubtful if such a combination would be insipid, but character and completeness can be given by use of the harmony of contrast. Harmony of plain window openings that cover the great contrast is achieved by using that group of colors in the spectrum of seven which lie scrapers were usually done in cold grays, or the fourth place distant from any given tone. We have yellow. This hidden yellow, in the brick, in the green of the decorative band, in the stone, has what for its complement? Let us look for indigo, blue, and red. Indigo, blue and red there are.

These accents and elements illumine and



VIEW IN GREAT CORRIDOR, LOOKING -From the Architect's Drawings.



vaulted entrance, that blaze from the sheltered niches of the notched-pointed arches. and that glow from the topmost sections of the northern octagonal-capped facade. They complete the development of the Union Trust Building in color, and give the finishing brilliancy that is required for the exterior as a whole to make it an attractive monument in which every Detroit resident instinctively feels a sort of informal owner-

Use of Color Phase of Progress

This use of color is a phase of a greater movement that is sweeping the United States. provinces are in brilliant green porcelain tile. future, and a development that is interest. The people of this country have only re- The stuccoed walls of many sub-tropical ing the entire building industry of the United cently discovered "color". Until within a Spanish and Portuguese centers are done in States. very few years ago, and the examples could almost be counted on one hand, solid-color pottery ware was largely imported Japanese Awaji. But today ordinary household breakfast sets may be had in blazing and strong colors from American sources, gas stoves are finished in a crescendo of tones, electric refrigerators may be had in vermilion, waterkettles are every shade of the rainbow, kitchen cabinets are in greens, blues, reds, furniture is in strong enamel shades, and the

therefore, a reflection of a new phase of arch, a piece of stone or timber laid across of the formal arch. American living and American trends. This the tops of openings, to carry the material

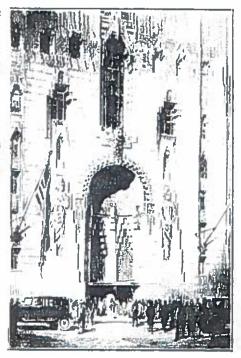
its own to light cities that would otherwise be drab and dull, with variants that mean something in the way of eye-attraction and cye-relief. It is altogether probable that within fifty years practically all the steelframe construction will express color symphonies of one art and another.

Precedents for Color in Facades

There is precedent for exterior facades in color. The pagodas of ancient China that dot Shan-Tung and Chih-Lhi and the other



A MURAL LUMIERE IN TILE



GREAT PORTAL ON GRISWOLD STREET

pale pink, browns, blues and yellows, and present pleasing effects in the mass. Swedish house facades have been decorated in color, usually flowering foliage arranged as a decorative band. And building skyscrapers in colored brick and ceramics is not such a great departure, when every dwelling in the land is usually painted in color schemes of some sort.

The new Union Trust Building, then, is an attractive means to draw the interest and friendliness of every Detroiter to the group of associated financial corporations of which it is the head, and which has had so much to do with the growth and prosperity of Detroit. It is attractive, and not forbidding or austere. It is warm, eye-resting, and appealing. Color in the Union Trust Building is an expression of the times, a forerunner of what will probably be universal in the

otched Arch a Feature of

up-to-date kitchen is incandescent in canary-yellow, sky blue, vermilion, and every other shade of the spectrum.

The architectural keynote of the new came the triangular arches, composed of union 'Trust Building is the "notched" or timbers laid at half right angles from the stepped arch. In ancient masonry buildings sides of the openings and meeting at the

The choice of a color scheme for the ex- the arch was a necessity as a bearer of over- top, to be closed and capable bearers of suterior walls of the Union Trust Building is, head loads. The first form was the flat per-imposed weights. Then came the uses

Arch forms in building construction are structure is a pioneer. Color is coming into of the walls onward and upward. Then based on a curve known as the catenary.

The fine imaginary line within any arch is span. the center of load. The load is entirely one Th of horizontal compression at the apex of the arch, and at the springing points on each side almost entirely vertical with a small horizontal component. The material in a perfect arch has bearing area distributed symmetrically roundabout the point where the curved axial line of pressure passes through it. Added material beyond this area is decorative, and material removed within the proper bearing area for the load weakens the arch.

The Original Arch

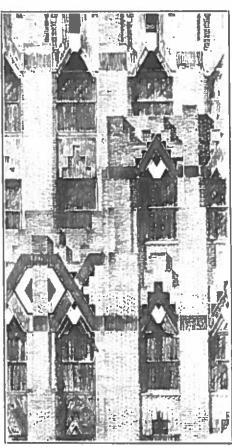
The original arch form consisted of two slabs of wood or stone tilted against each other at the apex, and firmly supported on hases at the spring line. Within the two triangles outlined by the soffit and exterior faces of the slabs ran this mysterious catenary curve. If the curve swept beyond the slabs of structural stuff used, the arch failed. Almost always, there was trouble at the apex. Without knowing why, ancient man found that a special block at the top of the arch, and this a block of goodly size, with the side slabs well contacted against it on broad bearings, made an arch that did This was because the invisible curve of loading here in a keystone found itself favored with a great bearing area, that corresponded to the maximum loading value. horizontal compression from both sides.

Medieval man looked into the past and found round Roman arches without visible keystones that had stood for centuries. By a dim and not quite understandable process of reasoning, the idea came back of narrower arches that would not tend to spread at the spring line. It was a revival of the tilted slabs of the stone age. The new arch was to be a beautiful thing, and instead of being straight, would be curved. This was the Gothic arch, one of the strongest of arch forms. Its curved inner line paralleled the hidden catenary within the arch material, and there was minimum use of material, better use of material, and better workmanship.

An American Development

If a fine, heavy chain is hung between sup- met with squarely butted ends, or a pure expanses. This became a conception given ports it will take a downhanging curve that, lintel beam could be used to cap the arch. the group name of "American Vertical". in reversal, is also the correct curve for an The imaginary catenary ran safely through arch. The curve made by the chain is in this construction, and it survived earthquakes tension, and the arch curve is in compres- as the frailer Roman arch form of Europe forces is reversed, whatever these may be, approached a flat top member of varying

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TYPICAL BANKING WINDOW AND BRAND OF TERRA COTTA ON GRISWOLD

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The steel frame structure came in, in America; a new invention in building and a new era in architecture. Over in America, during all these ages, facades were constructed, and above them steel skeleton, and the arches are purely

The Union Trust Building, like every other high-class skyscraper, is an architectural problem in this American vertical style. sion. Otherwise, the two curves have pre- could not do. This aboriginal American Gothic and classical are automatically barred. cisely the same comparative properties, point arch was notched. It was a series of hori- because the spirit of these structures is far for point, except that the direction of the zontals with inward slanting verticals, and removed from the necessities of multi-story design and use. Therefore, the architectural problem is almost entirely one of invention of forms which are esthetically pleasing and promise between the pure arch and the lintel represent good engineering practice at least superficially. An individual idea is seized for the structure, and this individual idea is injected endlessly into the detail of every

The Tilted Slab Arch Revived

Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, designers of the Union Trust Building, took from good engineering practice the age-old idea of the tilted slab arch, far, far back of historical time. They then met the other condition of making it esthetically pleasing. modified the form into the "notched arch". This was not the notched arch form of the prehistoric American culture of Central America with slanting verticals but a form of pure horizontals and pure verticals, progressing at right-angle steps, and contouring itself within the catenary curve of a narrow, deep arch, the strongest and most substantial form of arch design possible. This was good subconscious psychology, for human beings are largely and unknowingly inheritors of good engineering judgment. They feel confidence in good design without knowing why. They recognize stable angles of repose, dependable buttressing, and scores of structural expedients that are safe practice. This is "inherited memory", because dull-witted and reckless forbears of long ago who were unable to judge such matters were crushed under rocks and the like, while the keener minded avoided unstable and dangerous conditions. The selected form of stable arch approximates the angles of the equilateral triangle. In its various developments in the Union Trust Building the developed arch lines stand at 65 degrees, with many examples in purely decorative form at 60 degrees. Thus, the virtue of the triangle is retained, but the rigid line is avoided by the device of notching it.

Repetition of Notched Arch Motif

In this new architecture of the skyscraper. Greek temple however, the real loading is carried by the the Incas and Mayas and Aztecs were de- towered huge boxes of building facade, or a decorative. The result of this is freedom of veloping an architecture, and progressed score of stories of identical facade were con-duplication of a particular form, and its repefrom the lintel cross beam to an arch form structed and capped with a classical cornice tition in various elements of the structure with tilted members. As their buildings be- three hundred feet in the air, where it that are not such as demand the arch struccame more elaborate, and higher esthetic re- gathered icicles in the winter that crashed turally. The notched arch is found in the quirements were demanded, the crude lines on concrete sidewalks below. It was seen marble inlaid patternings on the floors. It of the triangle were in the way. The archi- that old architectural standards would have is developed in incised design in the monel tectural craftsmen conceived the idea of to be abandoned for the skyscraper, and a metal gates and grills of the upper and horizontal slabs with slanted ends that were new architecture developed that was fitting lower banking room. It is found in the overlaid on each other until they finally for its colossal heights and enormous facade incised and enameled patternings of the ele-

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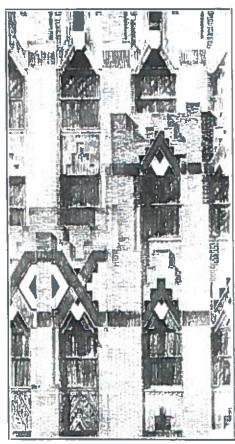
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Translation into Requirements

This comprehensive survey also provided would be required for both the trust and banking operations. This square footage was next reconverted into terms of structural floors, and the solution was that six- and dispatched up or down. These trans- lished for any purpose, teen floors of building space of the avail- port units in use deliver their contents at While there is communication between able area would be devoted to use of the centers near the Larned Street end of the floors, by elevators, and in certain instances client group which ordered the survey. To building on each floor. Their consignments by stairways which omit certain floors, emsuch sixteen floors there could easily be added another sixteen stories that would be a potential reserve for Union Trust purposes, as departments would demand unforseen expansions in the distant future, but that in the meantime could be used for tenancies. The actual problem presented by the injection of both the National Bank of Commerce and the Griswold-First State Bank into the picture created almost no complexities in demanding changes from the original survey.

The Psychological Problem

There was also another problem involved which had nothing to do with the mechanism and housing of a group of financial institutions. This was phychological. It was the aim to so plan the new building that the premises would draw forth a friendly attitude on the part of the general public, including customers. Every department, then, was designed in accordance with its activities to have an appropriate tone and feeling for the type of public who would use it in the course of business, for many types of public are separately served in the various offices. The results of this refinement in creative planning is to be seen in the changing aspects of the various departments of the Union Trust group, as they are installed in the different floors of the

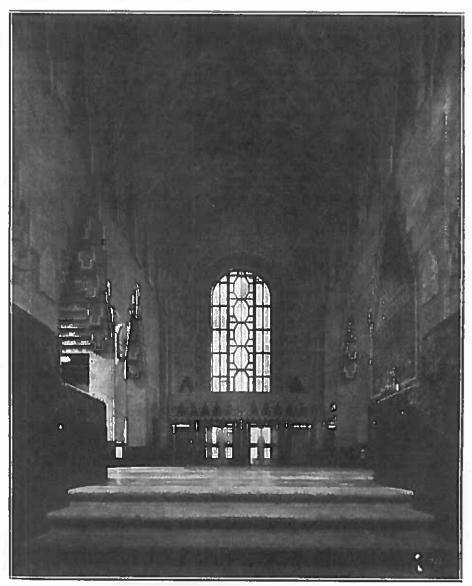
Fitting for Trend and Change

The professional survey that evolved the sixteen-story cubage of many offices covered an immense mass of data in the most minute manner. One portion of it drew upon another type of skilled knowledge in the possession of the banking engineers. This has to do with trends and changes of practice in the bookkeeping and routine of financial institutions, systems of bookkeeping, mechanical aids in recording and handling transactions of almost unending variety, developments in practice, and a knowledge of ultra-modern equipment and

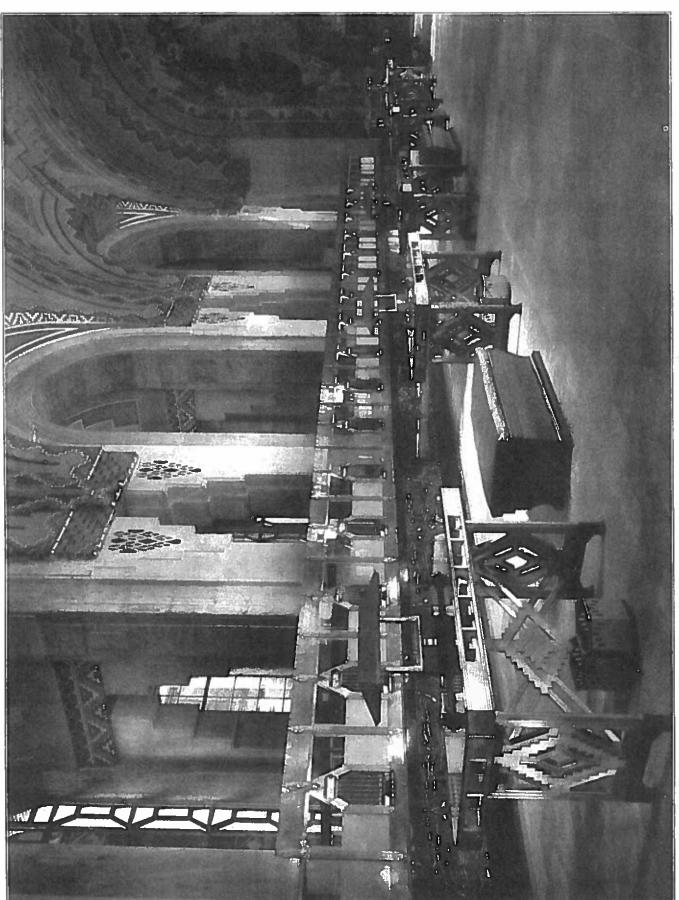
tional part of the engineering service to lo- its sources. In addition to all this, the six- are delivered by messengers on the floor to cate Department M between Departments teen floors of departments had to be inter- which the items are directed. There is in A and D, and to place another small or sta- connected, so that the organization might this equipment and its operation, a quick tionary department adjacent to Department function as though it were on a single floor, transfer of every type of intercommunica-D. As the expanding departments grew, the The engineers had to prepare for the Trust tion message or record between departments. two smaller or non-growing departments Company a complete plant that would hancould be moved away, leaving the expansion dle the routine both accurately and ex-

Means of Communication

The floor construction of the offices with-This was solved by a special intercom- in the Union Trust cubage of the building municating system. Intercommunication be-makes use of Johns-Manville steel undertween floors is controlled by a group of three floor ducts in pressed metal. One duct is automatic electric dumbwaiters under dis- 11/2 x 11/2 inches, and carries power and tant control in the engineering department lighting current. An accompanying underfor commercial banking activities, and the itself in the third sub-basement, where one floor conduit is 11/2 x 3 inches, and carries planned accommodation was finally resolved man can instantly place any of the three telephone, buzzer, telautograph circuits, and into terms of square feet of floor area that miniature elevators on any floor, and from those of the low-tension wiring. The ducts there cause it to travel to any other floor, and conduits are so located that they may In addition to this special electric control, be tapped at any future time at five-foot elevators may normally be called to any floor intervals, and electrical connections estab-



LOOKING TOWARDS CONGRESS STREET FROM DOORWAY OF LOWER BANKING ROOM



MAIN BANKING FLOOR SHOWING MONEL METAL CHECK DESKS AND COUNTER SCREENS

ployees on any one floor are housed on that floor. Clothing is stored in Berghoff Storite steel lockers, and Standard-Sanitary plumbing with chromium-plated fittings is installed on the floor to provide for the maximum floor census to be expected in the future for the departments concerned.

The accepted bank counting room arrangement consists of grilled counters with wickets occupying two sides of a square, and banking officials in railed-in space easily accessible to the public along the third side. In the case of the National Bank of Commerce and the Griswold-First State Bank this was largely the scheme adopted, with counters of special design on the unit plan, prepared by the engineers. The counters are American walnut with linoleum working tops, and the pedestals are in steel,

have steel wire mesh protection with plate trunks and silver, and a department for utmost in modernizing of technique in glass above the four-foot line, giving maxi- housing bank and trust company securities each phase covered by the engineering servmum light at tellers' cages. The facings in their various forms. are brilliant monel metal with incised decoration. The banks, which are proposed to Company space for the storage of normal and the Griswold-First State Bank reprelower banking floors, and the premises are normally placed in the basement vault. These ing by a great screen of decorative monel shutters in steel, and have special Diebold tion, the bookkeeping system works prometal and plate glass which occupies the en- vault doors, actuated by combination locks. tire arch space of the corridor in the case of decorative grill in monel metal across the doors with time lock control, and the vaults after closing time on all ordinary banking beautiful portal in red, black and Travertine carry telephones, electric light and ventilat- days. The Union Trust Company bookeepmarble, Rockwood colored tile, and decorative marble flooring.

While the banking rooms are located slightly below and above the Griswold Street level, the work rooms are located on the eleventh floor, and the tellers' cages and work rooms are interconnected by telautograph. The bank continuous-balance bookkeeping in these workrooms is performed on equipment which consists of a battery of Burroughs entry machines, making account entries on card ledger sheets, and Burroughs adding machines.

Before going more at length into the features of the bank plants, it might be said that the Union Trust Company bookkeeping department, being different in character from that of commercial banking, uses Elliott-Fisher flat-book entry machines and Burroughs adding machine units.

Common to the banks and the Trust Company is the safety deposit vault system, entirely designed by the bank engineers, and specially built by the Diebold Safe & Lock Company. The vault unit is 92 x 38 feet in size, and covers two basement stories. The second basement houses bank and trust company records in absolutely fireproof space, while the first basement carries a public safety deposit department with a



ROUTING LINES IN WICKET FOR BANKING SCREEN

be merged are housed on the upper and office records and the like which are not sents the latest equipment of this kind isolated from the public portion of the build- are ventilated, provided with inside window

However, in the basement units, the vault the National Bank of Commerce, and by a openings are protected by Diebold square ing devices, with an emergency ventilating ing is also carried through with equal acsystem in case of accidental immolation of an occupant behind time locked doors. All metal in the vaults is special stainless steel.

> boxes are set at neutral, and the renter of a Trust Company itself, exclusive of pay-outs box chooses a key at random. This random key is applied to the lock, and the lock mechanism is set to answer to that key only: At any time during the term of tenancy, a renter of a box may turn in his key and take out a new key with corresponding changes

Marbles in the Building

The marbles in the Union Trust Building are light and dark Travertine from Italy, red Numidian marble from Africa, Belgian black with and without veining from Belgium, and Cardiff green, these latter two being used for narrow baseboards in all rooms. The corridors and toilets are lined in pink Tavernelle marble from Tennessee.

in the lock. His returned key is placed with others, goes to the Diebold plant, and returns resealed under cover and non-identifiable, and may or may not be used again for years. However, if a key is lost, the lock must be drilled open to reach the contents of a box. The time locks on the great vault doors are made by Sargent-Greenleaf Company.

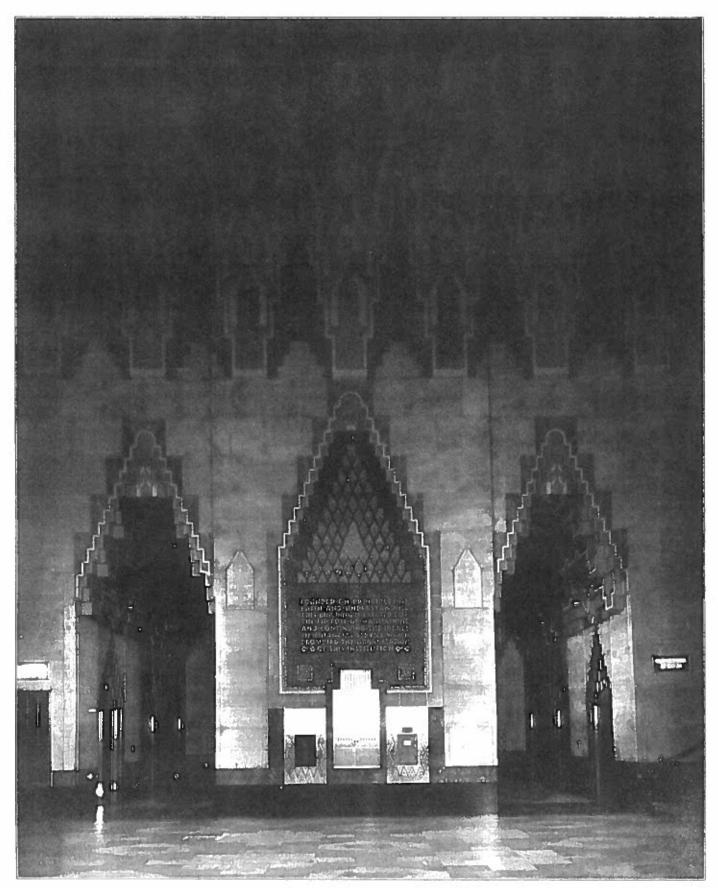
Adjacent to the safety deposit room, is a group of ample coupon rooms, of which forty are available for sorting securities, and twelve large committee rooms are suitable for handling securities and specie. Auxiliary to the vault is a Late-Deposit Vault, at the Safe Deposit entrance, facing Congress Street. This is given the same full protection that is given the main vault. Vault walls are of the strongest known type of construction.

The services of a banking engineer comprise not merely the

manufactured respectively in

Grand Rapids and Syracuse. The counters capacity of 15,000 boxes, a department for skilled selection of equipment, but the ices. The equipment of the Union Trust Vaults exist on various floors of the Trust Company, the National Bank of Commerce, united to the most expeditious and accurate forms of bookkeeping system. In operagressively with the transactions of banking business, and is completed very shortly curacy and expedition. Transactions are unusually heavy, as many as 6,000 money The safety deposit boxes are protected by a special lock system. The locks of unrented sionally, in a single department of the Union and the transactions of other departments. The entire group of properties concerned has gross assets of approximately \$160,000,000 in almost constant movement of some sort that demands bookkeeping transactions.

The engineering specialists, Halsey, Mc-Cormack & Helmer, Inc., in the past twenty years have developed plants and systems for over 450 financial institutions. Among those in Michigan are the First National Bank in Detroit. Pontiac Commercial and Savings Bank, Second National Bank, Saginaw, Guardian Trust Group, Penobscot Building, Detroit, etc. At the present time the or ganization is working with the Frohman Bank in Chicago. Halsey, McCormack & Helmer's field engineer, Mr. G. L. Schmauder, has been in charge of the installation of the banking service and equipment in the Union Trust Company Building.



A VIEW IN THE MAIN LOBBY AND ELEVATOR FOYER

The Details of the Makeup of a Great Structure

to the architectural school of American ver- great fundamentals of civilization. tical a new phase in the unfolding developin the Detroit skyline as viewed from the embellished with a margin in tile and a re-

developed in granite, Minnesota stone, bands and decoration of Atlantic terra cotta and Pewabic pottery, and many hundred thousands of a pale orange Banfield brick, perfectly matched for thirty-four stories. The roof terraces are paneled in red shale tile, laid in decorative patternings. The great north and southern towers are banded in colored terra cotta. This lavish use of exterior color has never before been utilized in this type of construction.

The Marvels of Color

The visitor may enter the building at either the Congress Street or the Griswold Street portals. The Congress Street entrance is through double revolving doors of plate glass and pale bronze beneath a lintel of rough gray stone, of which the under face is patterned in bril-

liant tile, in contrast to the massive blocks white at the sixth story. of polished pink granite that form the side The decorative style is entirely modern, rative scheme in tile of brilliant tones at the lower margin by small medallions in tile of the high round-arched window at stairway.

tile inlay that illustrate Manufacturing, this end. The interior face bears a repeat Immediately beyond the transverse mass of

Woodward Avenue. It makes a great block of the top of the arch. The round arch is Griswold Street side.

MONEL METAL ELEVATOR DOORS

The Griswold Street entrance is and the motif of the notched arch and slant- applied to the horizontal planes of these through a group of three similar doors and ing straight lines at the arch angle, and the stepped elements and to the space at the vercarved lintels, set within a great decora-use of brown tile elements in a series of tex, which supplies light from flush outlets. tive niche, approximately four stories parapets at successive set backs give distincin height. This semi-circular recess is tion and freshness to the structure in both in Travertine with a portal in the red, Nudeveloped in three panels separated by the exterior and interior embellishment. The midian marble of cloudy texture that forms defining columns in half-section. Within the visitor's first acquaintance with the typical a wall band around all parts of the corrifields at left and right are great panels in notched-arch panelling is in the three ele- dor. These Travertine steps lead up at left

completely covered with a symmetrical dec- the building line, and as one prepares to en- which give entry to the savings banking orative design in cream, yellow, red, blue ter, a glance upward discloses the richly room. A decorative parapet and balustrade and orange tile. This design is interrupted decorated intrados and frame treatment in in the red marble completely surrounds this

The new Union Trust Building introduces Agriculture and Transportation, the three pattern of beehives, torches and similar the architectural school of American ver- great fundamentals of civilization. This portal is embellished by decorative frame decoration is gray purple and a shaded ment of the multiple-story steel-frame build- figures in low relief and in conventionalized yellow. This also forms the tile decoration ing. From far north, it seems to bleck form at left and right, at about the height in the four great arched windows on the

Upon entering at Congress Street the vista castward and from the west. It is an out-peating decoration cut in the mellow Min- of the great corridor in a blaze of color is standing feature of Detroit as seen from nesota stone. The keystone of the arch is breath-taking. The walls are in pale traverthe Canadian shore and from the new Am- a symbolical head in low relief. The portal tine with a narrow course of polished black bassador Bridge. By night it will be a bril- decoration includes flanking windows and marble at the floor, and a wider course of liant sky-fountain of changing colored light, similar openings in decorative variations, and polished red marble, rich and clouded with visible many miles to the south and north, ends in wide bands of colored terra cotta bluish-black tones. These rise for thirty or Its outstanding feature is in the use of which form a pattern in olive green and thirty-five feet, and above that point is a external color. The facade is

browns, red, green, blues and orange in intricate repeat. The lower margin of this tile is interrupted by recessed inverted triangles in oblong tile in tones of brown, and between these are entablatures in red, green and fawn, which alternate with niches that carry electric light. The floor is patterned in pale marble inlaid in patterns developing the diamond-shaped figure with notched lines that is characteristic of the floor inlays.

The Vaulted Alcoves

The great corridor presents two vaulted alcoves at the north and south sides of the Griswold Street entrance. These ceiling vaultings are embellished in tiles of rich blue with green triangles and stripes and a margin in two tones of brown, and end in entablatures with a decorative scheme of warm brown,

scarlet and dull ochre. There is a deco-

At the end of the public corridor are steps cream, yellow, red, blue and orange tile, and at the center a window in plate glass. The Street, and in the entrance pavement.

The Congress Street doorway is within Between them are downward-leading steps

floor, the visitor sees the greatest and most tagonal form lettered with the words, "Fibeautiful metal screen in Detroit, of heroic delity" and "Security". size, and entirely filling the entire cross section of the great corridor. This screen wall surface is characteristic of the piane comprises a filling of plate glass in a frame surfaces of the great corridor. Similar grills of white Monel metal, and this Monel frame exist on the western wall at each side of the carries repeat sheet panels of the same mate- Griswold street entrance and above a side doors proper, the triangular notched top eleform decoratively with the building embellishment. A doorway with supplementary grill and a clock face interrupt the general design of the great screen, gleaming like silver.

At the immediate left of the visitor, as he enters at Congress street is a directory board in monel metal. This breaks the beautiful surface of the travertine side wall. At the center of this wall is a great symbolical panel in metallic inlay by Ezra Winter, a pine tree, symbolical of Michigan's early forests and of the lumbering industry. This tree, in greens, gold, brown, scarlet and gold on a blue ground edged with gold, carries in gold the inscription:

> FOUNDED ON PRINCIPLES OF FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING, THIS BUILDING IS ERECTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING AND CONTINUING THE IDEAL-ISMS OF FINANCIAL SERVICE, WHICH PROMPTED THE ORGAN-IZATION OF THIS INSTITUTION,

being its dedication by the Union Trust group.

The Mural Panel

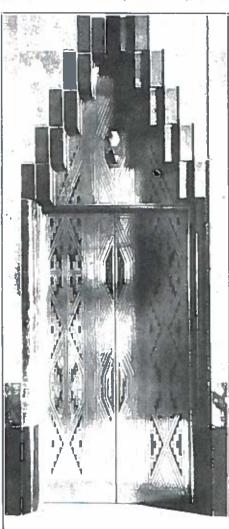
This mural panel within the characteristic notched arch border is surrounded by a tile border in browns, green and two tones of ochre, and capped by a decorative entablature carrying warm brown, scarlet and vellow. Immediately below it is a development of the red marble of the interior walls, combined with Travertine. This forms a fram-ing for the elevator indicator in Monel metal, and at left and right the ornamental hose-cabinet door in Monel metal with colored glass inlay, and a similarly treated mailbox face.

The mural panel is flanked at left and right by eleavior alcoves of similar border treatment, and these alcoves have vaulted ceilings that are identical in color of tile and design with the ceilings at left and right of the Griswold street portal doorway. The horizontal planes of the arch steps blaze in color, and the narrow apex carries electric illumination in a patterning of brightly colored tile. The southern ends of these alcoves are in Travertine, interrupted by a ventilating grill, and embellished by a diamond-shaped window with stepped diagonal elements progressively recessed, and in three tones of brown tile, ranging from a rich dark brown to a shaded orange. Within the window space is a frame of steel sash and plate glass, and in the framework is a leaded glass design of a classical female figure with drapped garments in green and outspread wings in tones of orange, on a blue ground.

The inserted grill in the Travertine endrial which are pierced and notched to con- door on the west wall of the corridor, opposite the directory board. These grills and others form part of the elaborate ventilating and air circulation system of the building, whereby fresh air is circulated two and a half times through the conduits, and receives two washings during its passage.

The Dahlstrom Elevator Doors

The great glory of the elevator alcove is the superb Dahlstrom doors in elaborately incised Monel metal inlaid with brilliant colof diamonds and parallels elaborates into detail which carries the notched patterning, emphasized by glass inserts. The paired doors form between them three widths of such panels, and the central panels bear glass in-



INCISED MONEL METAL IN ELEVATOR DOOR.

red marble at the level of the upper banking. The figure bears an urn-like design of oc- lays which form the letters "U T" four times to each door, in black and red glass. Above the pair of doors is an equally elaborate triangular space of similar decoration, carrying the red and white elevator signal. The doors are flush and without projection. They are flanked with red marble, and above the ment is flanked by brown tile in rich tones.

These doors represent an expense of \$5,000 each. They represent a new idea in decoration, the technique of working on Monel metal for embellishment. The doors closely resemble units of sterling silver,

A visitor to the building who goes directly forward will arrive at the central stairway to the lower banking floor. He descends on great Travertine risers with Monel metal rails at left and right, and a few steps below the corridor floor he faces a monel metal screen which may be folded entirely ored glass. An intaglio pattern in the form out of view during business hours. At his right is an open doorway and a second folding Monel screen. This is the entrance to the safety-deposit vaults in the sub-basement, The base course of polished Belgian black stone, and the downward staircase in Travertine has this marble defining it in black. The sidewalls are plain Travertine. There is a cove at a forty-five degree angle. The slanting ceiling of the staircase is also in plain Travertine. The only interruption is a hand rail of glistening Monel metal.

The Safe Deposit Vault

To the right at the foot of this stairway is the anteroom to the safety-deposit vault This small reception hall has walls in Travertine broken by column effects which termmate in half-octagons at the west, north and east walls. These lunette-like spaces are decorated in masses of tile. The coves are planes at a forty-five degree slant. The ceiling is Travertine with a great decorative insert flush with the ceiling line in darker Travertine. The south side of the anteroom or entresol opens upon the office. This continuation of the original room has a plain wall of Travertine at the east side. west side is broken by a heavy decorative grill in stainless Monel above a counter. The south wall is a magnificent decorative screen and doorway in heavy stainless Monel, highly decorated as to elements, but with plain polished surfaces.

This is the entry to the safety-deposit vaults. A great Diebold vault door is at the left. A still greater Diebold-Sargent vault door with almost endless sequences of eightinch bolt ends projecting roundabout its multiple rebates of steel, leads to the vault proper with its endless tiers of box faces. ante-room within the heavy steel grill has a plain ceiling of Travertine marble and Travertine walls.

The visitor to the building who does not descend to the safety-deposit vault, but who goes straight forward down the steps at the corridor, enters a banking room of startling beauty. This is the home of the associated savings bank. The ceiling is a single arch, gently curving. It is finished in silver leaf

with edgings of pale tones of golden-brown and strong red, which gives a touch of ac- end has a less elaborate tile decoration. At in three shades and certain accents in strong- cent to the decoration. er color. Light within the bank-counter line is reflected on this ceiling and illuminates the entire counting room acceptably with a soft pierced with four rectangular holes for air manent partitioning with working rooms. circulation at each station along either side.

The Special Office Treatment

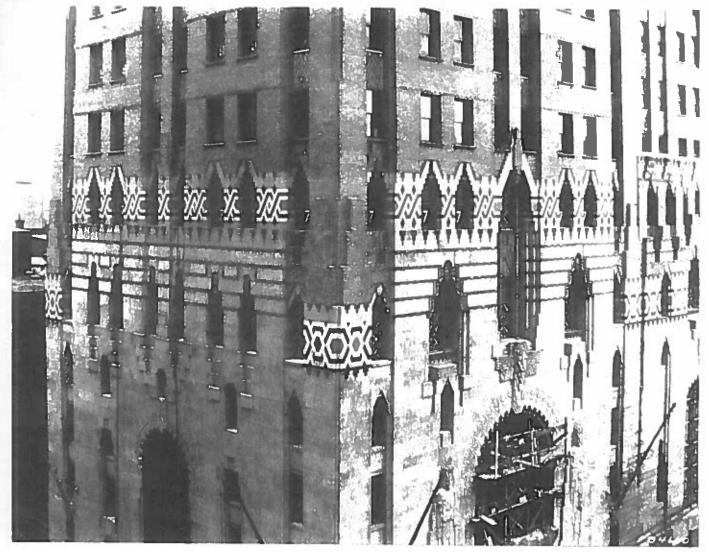
tion desk in which each face is a decorated Belgian, and space for desks. This space is vertine ceiling. South of the alcove is a large sheet of Monel metal, are a succession of bounded by a partition-like effect in Monel working room of the bank, extending across standing desks for patrons. These are a metal, with decorated door in the same bril- the building. The northern end has two special Union Trust Building design in liant material. Passing through this door, semi-public elevators at left and right, and Monel metal with the diagonals, diamonds, one enters a passageway flanked on either by these the various departments of the and notchings of the decorative scheme of side by permanent partitioning in walnut Union Trust Company group may be the building. Around the room are the coun-paneling with grills, which house special of-reached. ters and grills of the banking departments, fices. In addition to these, the southwest these having a counter body in Travertine and southeast corners of the floor have per-

a ledge of polished black marble the length room is paved in marble inlay with pattern- himself facing the great window on Congress of each counter, and a delightful continuous ing in the diamond-and-notch effect, and has street. There are several rebates around the grill in decorated Monel metal with wickets, beautiful walls in pale Travertine. The porgreat window, and these are all developed in filled in with plate glass, which is frosted tal at the north end is done in red and black brilliant tiles in repeat patterns. The tile is over in the lower half of the grill height, marble with decoration in red, blue, yellow, also carried upwards and outwards to effect Behind and above the grill a visitor may brown, sepia and cream tile. The elevator a continuation with the magnificent ceiling catch a glimpse of decorative work in black alcove to the private elevator at the south of the corridor that has already been des-

left and right of each of these portals the space between the curved ceiling and the rail line of the Travertine walls is finished in metallic color and tones of pinkish brown. The glow. Down the center line of the great floor, and preceded by an octagonal informa- a barrier of Travertine topped with polished with a cove at forty-five degrees and a Tra-

The Great Window

The visitor who leaves the lower banking This great and beautiful lower banking floor and re-enters the main corridor finds



GEOMETRIC PATTERNS DEVELOPED IN POLYCHROME TERRA COTTA HAVE IN LARGE PART TAKEN THE PLACE OF MODELED ORNAMENT IN ARCHITECTURE OF TODAY. AN INTERESTING ARRANGEMENT OF VARIED COLORS OCCURS AT THE TOP OF THE MAIN BUILDING, POLYCHROME ATLANTIC TERRA COTTA IS USED IN A THOROUGHLY MODERN MANNER.

left and right of the doors at this end.

The Upper Banking Room

The upper banking room outshines the in America. lower banking room, despite the charm and beauty of the room that has just been described. The great arch of the public corridor continues within this room, and the premises of the National Bank of Commerce are lighted beneath the arch through the four great windows of the Griswold Street side, and four similar windows on the eastern sidewall.

The visitor climbs thirteen steps to the mezzanine terrace with its travertine casing and a base of red clouded marble notching upward. The protective parapet of glowing red marble at the northern edge is balanced by the same material as a footing and margin for the heroic and glistening screen of Monel. He passes through this screen in an opening that is developed in the notched arch pattern, and ascends six other commodious steps of dark travertine to the floor level.

A great concourse stretches before him. Immediately before him is a rectangular and octagon-like information desk, completely sheathed in decorated Monel metal. Behind the desk at intervals are several public counting house desks of special design in Monel with plate glass tops and stationery pigeon-holes. At left and right are the long counters with grills, each wicket carrying its proper sign in translucent glass with electric illumination.

The counter bodies are in polished grayand-white marble with polished bases in faintly clouded black marble and a ledge of the same material. A continuous grill in Monel metal is carried down the counter. and filled in with plate glass. The verticles and the wide band of Monel are planes, decorated in variants of the triangular, notched design, and incised straight lines. The window frames in Monel have a triangular peak, used for carrying the wicket sign, and a second wide horizontal band of Monel is carried immediately above the long counter ledge. The general effect is one of horizontal and vertical lines.

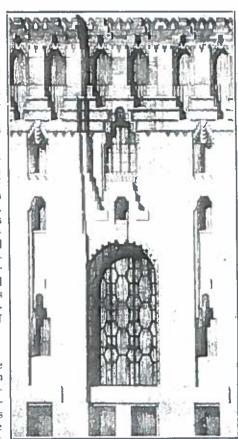
The Great Sala

But the great sala itself will first hold the visitor's eye. The arched ceiling blazes with color above a field of dark and light travertine marble, soft French gray and honeycolored, respectively. The far endwall is completely filled with a great decorative mural of the state of Michigan, by Dr. Winter, the eminent muralist. This is brilliant in heraldic colors, and carries a suc-

ment in red marble. Monel screens are at scheme of the banking room of the National tively. Bank of Commerce. It outshines any similar decorative embellishment of the sort in any of the great financial counting rooms

band of plain dark Travertine, and inter- the great length of decoration. rupted at its lower edge by a simple but massive facing of the same Travertine which surrounds the elevator lobby portal triangles and a wide notched zig-zag band on pale maroon. in silver leaf, with a great triangle at the apex. The maroons are the dominating

The field of the arch intrados is divided into sections by a series of bands arising at the spring line at the extreme ends and also from the paired columns in Travertine.



TYPICAL BANKING ROOM WINDOW WITH ADJACENT EXTERIOR TREATMENT

A screen in this window patterns cession of decorative accents placed sym- These paired columns fall between the lines the opening into a series of staggered oc- metrically over the map. These are sym- of the four great round-arched windows at tagonal elements, and is the main source of bolisms, and represent fruit culture, min- each side, and between each pair of such daylight in the corridor, although the sun- ing, and the other regional industries of columns, there is an arched transept on both light can slant down occasionally from the the state at the centers of those activities, sides of the sala. These cross naves have great window above the Griswold street cen- The field of the may is partially covered each a round vaulted ceiling, and the paired tral door. The Congress street window has with a classically conventionalized figure columns are united by a notched arch. Bea gallery with parapet in Travertine and with drapes on a ground of rays, represent- tween the column line and the exterior wall brown tile at mezzanine elevation, and the ing Michigan. This superb decorative unit plane, this space between the paired columns openings to the revolving doors have treat- is, of course, the apex of the decorative has a rectangular soffit developed decora-

> These paired columns with their notched arches, of which there are five sets, and the two extreme ends of the main vaulted ceiling, are the locations of great and beautiful This brilliant mural is framed by a wide transverse decorative bands which space off

000000000000000

In the arches at each paired column, the stone screen developed by the triangular facings is pierced by a ventilating unit of with the door opening lighted by a great Travertine, irregular in shape and with diaplain panel of gold leaf. Beyond the Tra-mond-effect openings. Above and across vertine is a wide notched border, rising from is a rectangular plane, decorated in light the spring line of the arch, and terminating and dark maroon with black, and edged at the apex. This border is gold, black, with gold leaf. The lower corners have maroon, and silver tempora develops notched diagonal zig-zag lining in gold and silver

The Silver Cross on Maroon

At the apex of the notched arch, there is a small cross in gilt, partially on the face, partly on the soffit. This cross on maroon is the beginning of an elaborating and widening design. Briefly, this is a wide band of silver bordered with French gray and edged with wide gold bands. These bands are flanked by maroon notched triangles with wide zig-zag silver bands between. internal triangles are plain maroon, and the external ones are maroon with notched embellishment in gold, all in a moderate-sized repeat pattern. The band is now very wide, and at the apex is broken by a silver leaf conventionalized sun in a rectangle, surrounded by silver rays on a golden ground, all within a notched diamond. Such are the defining bands springing across from one pair of columns to the opposite pair, and from a similarly decorated entablature in maroon, gold, black and pale maroon on the Travertine on each side at each end

The fields between these defining bands consist of a set of four diamond-shaped openings, above which is an ornamental screen for indirect lighting of the public concourse. These are in a decorative setting of gold and maroon in a blue notched border on a base of French gray, edged in silver leaf. The spandrels of each length length of field, near the spring line, consist of a wide band of maroon and dark olive, bearing diagonal triangles in blue and silver The arches formed by the junctions of the nave arches and the great vaulted arch of the counting room are bordered with a notched repeat design in silver, gold and maroon against dark French gray, or a mixture of olive and black, tinted with

Necessarily, the junction of these vault-

ings at right angles leaves a distinctive lunette in the transverse arch. The column line of the main floor is defined at ceiling height by a defining band on each cross vaulting to produce these lunettes. They are brilliant blue accents, as seen from the bankture floor.

ing floor.

This vivid color note introduces the decorative treatment of the transept members, eight in number. The intrados of these cross vaultings is lined in a Venetian red and silver field, bordered by peacock blue with a silver leaf edging. With this is a combination of light and dark Traverine, which finally merges with the walls.

These transepts terminate in the great windows, four of which are visible from the Griswold Street front. These windows in plate glass set in a steel sash framework are protected by a heavy screen, similar in weight and massiveness to that screen across the great window in the corridor at Congress Street, but differing in pattern. The design

develops elongated octagons, hexagons and intervening squares, with irregularly shaped elements formed at the right and left sides.

Mention has been made of the paired columns being developed by flanking screens of Travertine to create a notched arch uniting them. The pairs of columns are individually united to the walls of the building by similar stone screens, and these are decorated at their vertices in keeping with the maroon - black pale - maroon. gold-silver combination on the face entablatures. Immediately within the walls of the building and longitudi n a l l y behind the tellers' cages is a vista of ten of these notched arches, with glimpses of brilliant color half concealed by the intervening

marble.

Each pair of these cross arches alternately encloses space which lies underneath a transept arched ceiling or a horizontal soffit, rectangular in shape, and falling behind each pair of columns. These soffits are pierced in the form of a notched diamond for electric lighting, and this focusing point is decoratively developed by surrounding borders of silver leaf, blue and gold, on a ground of light Travertine. The spandrels at each corner are a notched design in blue and silver.

One of the beautiful aspects of the room is the great Monel screen at the northern arch. It is decoratively finished on the banking-room side, and the back of the clock is represented by a decortaive rosette, round-about which the design is built.

The southern end of the counting room concourse is barred by a low parapet in the gray-and-white marble, and a wide ledge of the polished black marble lined faintly with white veinings. Immediately behind

this space are the open desks of officials who meet the general public, and at right and left are permanent offices with a continuation of the Monel metal grillwork carried out in partitioning. The Travertine rear wall, other than the private elevator lobby portal in massive slabs and gold, is broken inconspicuously by doors at right and left. At the Griswold-Larned corner, there is a passageway sumptuously finished in beautiful panels of walnut. Midway at the left of this is a group of small steel doors, enameled in walnut effect, which are the stations of the automatic dumb waiter intercommunicating service. At the right of the passage are superb private offices paneled in pale French walnut, and a corner room made astoundingly beautiful with a wood that has not been considered decorative.

This wood is teak. Panellings are outlined with inlays of ash. The entire room is developed in planes, and repeats of these panels comprise the room elements, window

embrasures, doors and other details. There are concealed radiators beneath windows, and these have pierced grills in teak,

Adjoining this room on the Larned Street side is a third exquisite office paneled in great sheets of the most beautiful walnut. This office is reached by a walnut paneled passage parallel to Larned Street and terminating at the elevator alcove, which a beautiful and simple treatment in planes of Travertine in two tones. The ceiling of the elevator lobby is pierced by ven-tilating grills and is to be finished in color.

The office floors within these rooms, as also those in the Griswold - First State suites immediately below are inlaid cork in a random combination of very light, and very dark shades.



THE GREAT MONEL METAL SCREEN OF THE GRAND LOBBY

and luxurious. The material has a beautiful above the level of the great arched ceiling of the building area. Passageways of varyglow and luminosity, combined with soft brilliancy.

Within the official working space of the and their circuits give instant intercom- alcove. Steps at the northern end lead to working rooms of the bank. These are at other woods.

These are extremely restful, silent, very rich the fifth story, and fill the building space the permanent cross wall at east and west which lies as described along the center line of the building.

The Floor Layouts

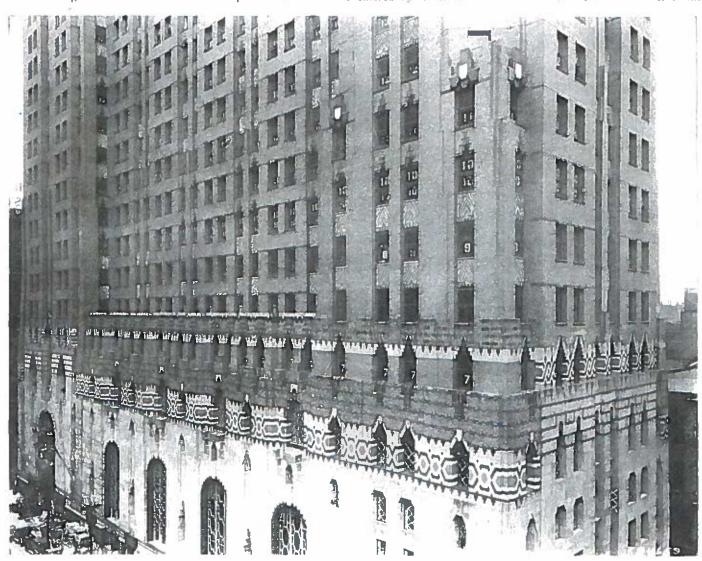
Immediately above these work rooms are of the building.

However, to see the building, the visitor partment. These are entered by doors in the endless suites of executive offices of the

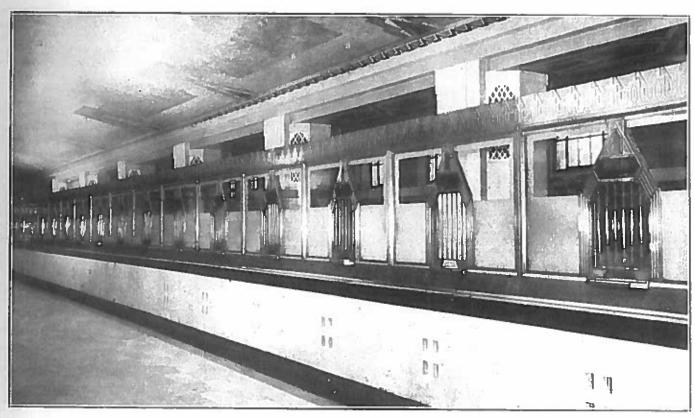
ing width are flanked on the Griswold Street side by numerous air passages, which supply These work rooms occupy the Griswold air to headers within the columns and alongbank, enclosed by Monel metal partitioning Street and eastern sides, and are finished side the elevators, and at certain places on and grills is a special steel-housed elevator in hard plaster with standard hardware and has a wider passageway without these air shaft, both on the east and west sides. This fittings common to general business offices, the side walls. The eastern side of the floor shaft gives direct access to the safety de- A cross passage at the southern end from mains. Between them, the ventilating apposit vaults. Installations of telautographs each side gives entrance to the elevator paratus alternates with raised platforms which house fans and also permit access munication between the bank floor and the semi-public offices paneled in walnut and to the lighting equipment which throws light downward on the upper banking floor through the pierced openings in the vaulted ceiling that have been mentioned.

A Group of Panellings

This floor commences a superb and the installations which comprise the venti- re-enters the public corridor and takes one breath-taking grouping of exquisite panellating intake and distributing conduits and of the elevators. The first stop is at the lings and wainscottings in walnut and their operating machinery. This sixth floor sixth story, of which the northern end is laurel, light and dark walnut, and French is a veritable cave of the winds, constantly devoted to executive offices of the Union walnut, in great panels of matched gains, murmuring to the passage of hundreds of Trust Company, and the remaining three- in inlays, in moldings, and in decorative thousands of cubic feet of air in the con- fourths to the huge conduits and silent fans figurings of various types, including pierced duits each minute, and is one of the wonders and washers of the intricate ventilating de-ventilating screens. These adorn lavishly



ONE OF THE BANDS OF COLOR WHICH DISTINGUISHES THE BUILDING



A VISTA OF TELLERS' WINDOWS

Union Trust Group, and the public recep- ensemble is one of simplicity of design with with grill and wicket openings in Monel thirteenth floors inclusive, there is a progressive change of decorative treatment in American and foreign walnuts, including also coco, teak, and myrtle burl inlays, and laurel inlaid panel borderings.

A Finish of Walnut

The seventh floor is entered by an elevator vestibule in lavish and complete wainscotting from floor to ceiling in waxfinish walnut. At the north-east corner of the lobby is a ventilating header with ornamental pierced grill in walnut, and the elevator doors are framed by a decorative lintel which develops the notched arch motif of the building with a pleasing modification. The west end of the lobby is closed by great entry doors developed in walnut veneer in diamond pattern, and these open on a central reception hall, which is surrounded by low counter-topped railings in walnut veneer, the fronts of which develop in walnut inlays the pattern which forms the band roundabout the facade of the building exterior.

Coco and Myrtle Burls

burl, and with the wall panels embellished by a narrow frieze in keeping with the door

1

tion rooms and passageways belonging to softness of tone. The richness and beauty metal and plate glass. The base of this the departmental groupings. The sixth of the walnut and other decorative woods is counter is finished in walnut veneer with floor has a group of these across the enhanced by the subdued glow and depth inlaid myrtle diamond borders that surround northern end, and from the seventh to the of wax-effect varnishes. From this recep- central fields of matched wanut veneer. The tion hall with its surrounding suites of of- right side of this passageway has a counterfices, a narrower passage lies between the like barrier. It terminates at a Travertine header shafts for ventilating, private ele- elevator lobby with swinging Dahlstrom vators, freight elevator, janitor space, and metal doors. the like, and leading to a passage the length of the building, with Travertine marble floor inlays. The eastern side of this passage is largely given over to plainer treatment in wood panellings, and the right to office space with Cellotex ceilings, cork flooring, and indirect lighting in a great room.

The extreme south end of this seventh floor passage is closed by swing doors in pierced metal, finished to match the woodwork. These open on the rear elevator lobby in matched Travertine, light and dark, a narrow band of Cardiff Green marble. where the private elevators serve the needs veined with white. of the Group. A working office fills the southern end of this floor, and ample toilet rooms are located off the elevator lobby.

A Lobby of Travertine

The eighth floor elevator lobby is finished in Travertine marble, and the exit doors to the Union Trust offices are in light and dark is used in the upper portions of doors and Behind this barrier are the various offices, try to a commodious reception hall entirely ceilings occupies the greater part of this with chevron-like inlays in coco and myrtle panelled in walnut with inlays in octagonal story. The rear elevator lobby is finished n pattern on the various office doors opening Travernelle, from the hall. There is a passageway to the

The ninth floor greatly resembles the general scheme of the eighth floor, except that the wainscotting is surmounted by a plaster band. This space above the dado treatment is done in a pale brown, and merges into the ceiling panels, which, by the way, are practically indentical on all floors, consisting of panels developed by repeated recessings of a simple wide border element. done in two shades of darker tone. Also the baseboards of the various wainscottings are

A Group of Floors

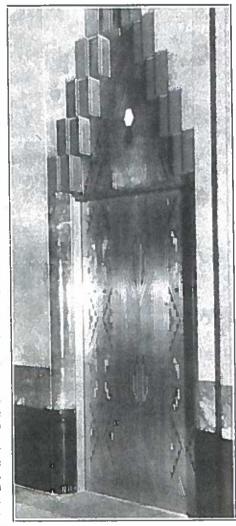
The tenth floor has an elevator lobby in Travertine, with entrance doors off the vestibule in beautiful patternings of matched walnut. This patterning is carried through in the office space, except that frosted glass walnut with an octagonal panel at top and partitions. A large open office with cork-foot of each door. There is immediate en-tiled floors and Cellotex sound-deadening tiled floors and Cellotex sound-deadening

The eleventh floor has a Travertine eledesigns. The general characteristic of the rear, along the left side of which is a counter vator lobby with walnut veneer doors inlaid in laurel to produce two octagonal units on each door. The floors are Everlastic tile in gray and subdued green, and the walnut panellings are of the dado type. Cashiers' cages are decorated with fancy frosted plate glass, and Diebold-Sargent Vault door on the east side gives entrance to a special vault at this floor.

The working space for cashiers is cut off by a permanent wall, and swinging Dahlstrom doors give entrance to the rear passageway with cork-lined flooring. Partitioning is walnut veneer and plate glass on the east side of this passage and on the west open office space with cork floors and ceiling in Cellotex. Another pair of swinging doors gives entrances to the elevator lobby at the south end.

The twelfth floor lobby is in Travertine, and the entrance hall is in walnut wainscotting reaching to part of the wall height, with the upper portion of the walls and the ceiling developed in fawn plaster. This floor is floored in inlaid cork, and comprises a great open office space.

The thirteenth floor elevator lobby is finished in Tavernelle to the ceiling, polished slabs being applied. The walnut-veneer doors leading to the entrance hall and are concourse carry the walnut and laurel octagon pattern already described. Everlastic flooring is laid in this semi-public space and in the passageway to the rear of the building, but cork-inlay flooring is placed in the working spaces. This floor is developed in magnificent walnut panellings to the ceiling. The passageway comprises a wide counter along the left and low partitioning at the right with a cross barrier topped in black, polished marble. A few special offices in walnut partitioning with plate glass are set at the south-east corner of this floor, but most of the space is open flooring for desks. with the ceilings in cellotex.



TYPICAL ELEVATOR DOOR

Finish of the Tenant Floors

to the thirty-first floor, with a few special floors the fourteenth is an open office for exceptions, are uniformly finished as public- the Union Trust Group, and the fifteenth a building floors. The elevator lobbies are in file room for the group. The sixteenth pink Tavernelle marble to the ceiling. The floor commences the public portion of the passageways are in pink Tavernelle and structure. wainscotting in metal with pressed glass upper panels, and Dahlstrom metal doors with glass in plate form is used on outside win-

Up to the fifteenth floor Lamplough Vita-

The fourteenth and subsequent floors up a single pressed-glass panel. Of these

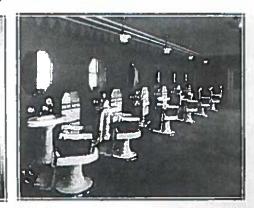
MONEL METAL GATES IN FRONT OF SAFE DEPOSIT VAULTS

dows. This is a special material which has the faculty of passing the ultra-violet rays of normal sunlight, with the effect of irradisation of workers equivalent to that received in the open air, and the development of vitamine factors now known to be necessary to life and health.

This cubage of the building up to the fifteenth floor also enjoys the benefit of the special ventilation and air-cooling and warming system of the sixth floor and subbasement. It contains many semi-private details, such as private bath rooms for some of the officials and a dental laboratory, with other appointments to complete absolutely the efficiency of the structure.

On the top floor of the main structure is the dining room. The restaurant can accomodate 400 diners at one time at the 100 square tables. The floor is developed in Everlastic tile, a compound of rubber and cork in The patterning carries out the notched arch scheme of the building decoration, done in Tuscan red, gray-blue and light grav.

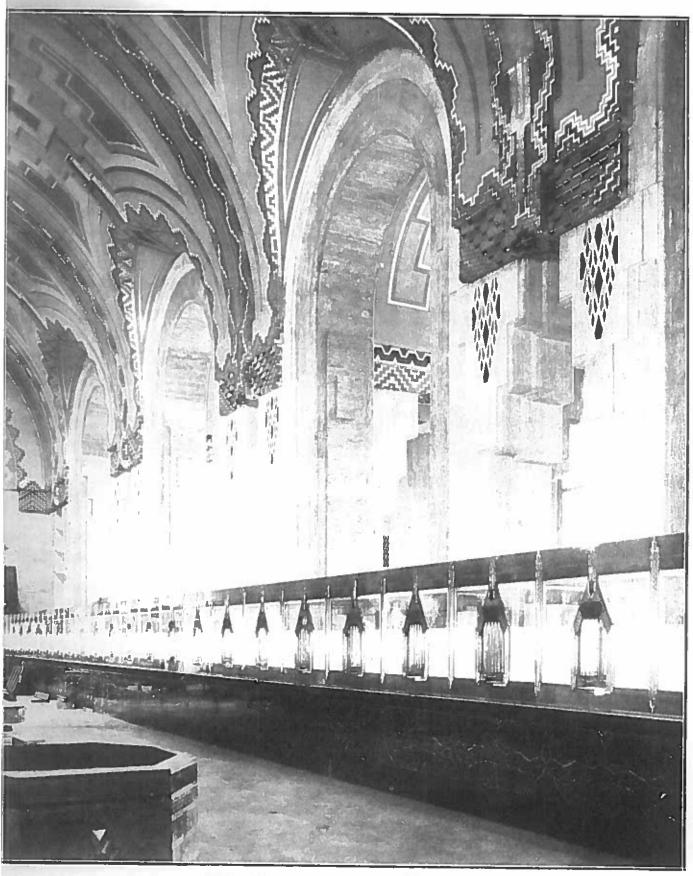
The cafeteria, kitchen and scullery between them deserve mention for their equipment of stainless steel and plate glass. A special system of ventilation blows changing air into the restaurant from the south through great screens, and this air eventually emerges at the kitchen, where ceiling ducts and exhaust fans drive out all cooking odors. The scullery, between cafeteria and kitchen, is devoted to mechanical dishwashing, and a portion of its equipment is a fleet of dish wagons on rubber tired wheels for removing dishes silently from the restauThere are eight further floors in the north tower and three in the south tower. Elevator service is provided in the north tower, and a number of offices may be located there, but several of the floors are occupied by pent house equipment, the aurora lighting machinery, and for storage. Entrance from both the north and south towers may he had at the thirty-third story to the magnificent room terrace in Celadon tile, laid by the John D. Busch organization. At the parapets of this roof, which represents the highest achievement attainable in roof construction, there is a series of superb views of Detroit, of the upper river, of the lower river, and of Canada.



MEN'S BARBER SHOP



LADIES' BEAUTY PARLOR



A VIEW OF THE GREAT BANKING QUARTERS



THE ESSENTIAL MODERN DESIGN IS EMPHASIZED IN THE GUARD'S STAND EXECUTED IN MONEL METAL

A Striking Adaptation of a Modern Metal

By A. E. HANSON

There are many examples of metal crafts- as a liberal application of vivid colors on ticular service. It had been used for ornamanship executed in modern style, but for the exterior has been used to obtain a highly mental work quite frequently, it is true, but the most part they are small productions distinctive but entirely harmonious effect, never in such surroundings or in any design which have involved no great expenditure so the metal work of the main entrance and approximating the one contemplated. Its of effort or money. Architects entrusted the banking sections has been designed with remarkable structural and artistic possibiliwith the responsibility of designing build- the self-same end in mind. ings, which must essentially possess unity in form and treatment, very naturally hesi- reminiscent of the Western Asiatic school and what was practically an untried material inte to experiment with novel effects on a of architecture, inasmuch as it is based on was accordingly written into the specificalarge scale. They know too well that new the use of the straight lines and angular tion. conceptions have a way of proving difficult contrasts. The effect is somewhat exotic to execute, and when they are too original, and like many other features of modern art, cision. Looking at the completed job today. they are not always appreciated. Neverthesis designed to stimulate the mind rather the layman, no less than the architect, must less, the pioneer has his rewards, inasmuch than create the restful effect which is assobe agreeably surprised at the undoubted exas it is his productions which stimulate the clated with older types of architecture. greatest interest, and the more determined his attempt to break away from tradition Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, that the extenbecome, the more heightened becomes the interest manifested.

siderable body of lay opinion.

Break From Tradition

The Union Trust Company building rep-

It was early realized by the architects, sive use of color in the interior would neces stantly obtained public approval. situte the careful choice of a neutral back-This being the case, it is scarcely surpris- ground of metal for the counter screen and ing to find widespread interest being dis- ornamental metal work in the main banking played in certain architectural features of the room. Such a neutral background was alnew Union Trust Company Building in De- ready available in Monel metal and it was is somewhat akin to a shock and here it troit, an interest that embraces not only the this metal which early engaged their attenentire architectural profession but a con- tion. Monel metal, it was realized, was a a definite economic value, not only in atsilver-colored metal, and as such offered pos- tracting attention to the building itself and sibilities of breaking away from the limita- therefore aiding in renting space, but also tions inherent in the use of bronze.

resents a determined effort to break away and disadvantages and its choice for any Trust Company and the National Bank of from traditional practice not only in the given service usually necessitates a com- Commerce and offer room for its expanouter aspect of the building but also in the promise of some description. Monel metal sion. design of the ornamental metal work. Just was largely an untried material for this par-

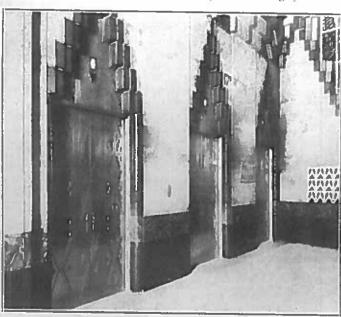
ties, however, were considered sufficiently The design of the metal work is strongly valuable to outweigh other considerations.

The result has brilliantly justified the debe agreeably surprised at the undoubted excellence of the final result. Here is a radical concept, radical not only in design and material but also in execution, which has in-

Carrying Out Metal Ornamentation

The first effect made upon the observer in drawing attention to the primary object Every metal possesses both advantages of the building which is to house the Union

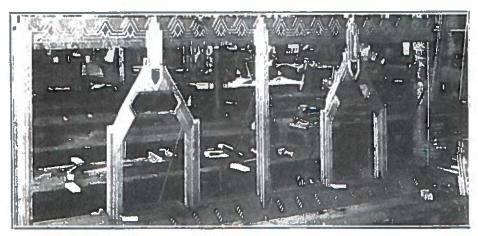
Credit for the carrying out of the orna-



Elevator Doors and Tile Decorations.



A Teller's Window in Monel Metal.

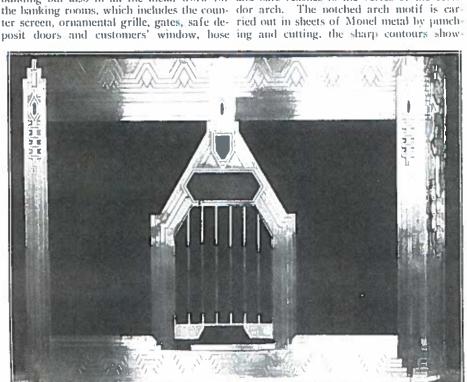


A GROUP OF MONEL WICKETS IN THE MAKING

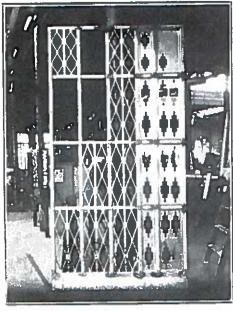
mental metal work in the bank and the cabinet, directory board and minor pieces entrance of the building is due to the Gor-including ink stands and lamp standards. the design by superimposing one sheet of an essentially modern material. metal upon another and welding the sur-

ham Company of Providence, R. L. which It will be obvious from the foregoing that company, having for many years been the this method of construction offers the archiforemost firm in this country devoted to the tect an entire new field for artistic expresmanufacture of ornamental metal work, sion, enabling him to obtain effects more needs no recommendation. In this particular simply than in wrought or cast metal. The contract, they departed from traditional new technique, be it noted, is singularly well methods of construction and developed some-adapted for carrying out designs in modern thing which is quite unique. They built up style and especially designs in Monel metal.

The finest single piece in the decoration faces together. Lines of relief have been scheme is undoubtedly the great Monel obtained by chasing and cutting grooves, metal screen, which towers 45 feet above methods very effective in breaking up the the entrance of the main banking room and Monel metal, has been fitted in the upper bare effect of flat surfaces. This highly un- forms the inner division of the public porusual method of fabrication is very simple tion of the main corridor. From the marble in execution, and the design has been fol- steps leading to the main banking floor, this ing floor. A portcullis style grille, of the lowed not only in the main entrance to the massive Monel metal framework of sheets building but also in all the metal work for and bars reaches to the vertes of the corri-



TELLER'S WICKET IN MONEL METAL



A MONEL METAL SCREEN IN THE MAKING

ing clear and distinct whether viewed from without or within. Great sheets of plate glass have been used as a filling so that a screen of metal and glass completely fillthe opening. Satin and brilliant luster finishes in justaposition bring out the design in impressive manner. A clock, also of half of the screen, while a portal in the lower section gives entry to the main banksame general design as the screen, is used to close the entrance.

The Notched Arch in Metal

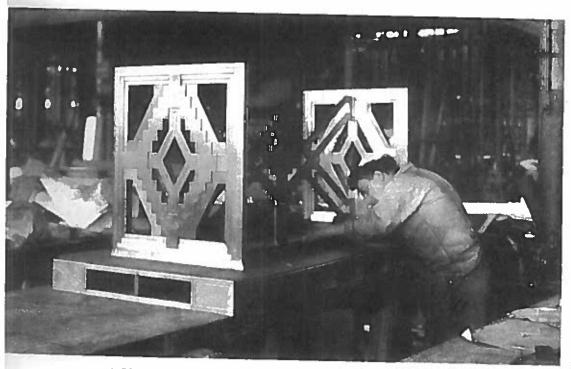
The notched-arch concept, carried out by incised straight lines also distinguishes the faces of the hose cabinet, mail box unit and elevator indicator board, all of which are made from Monel metal.

Color has been applied to these three items to secure novelty of effect. Triangles of ornamental opaque glass of various colors have been inlaid in the metal, a form of decorative work in which Monel metal has not previously been used.

The door at the entrance to the cigar store has also been built from satin finished Monel metal. It is built up from rows in a design generally conforming to the basic decorative motif of the building. A frame of Monel metal has also been let into the openings to the telephone booths trade bureau. No doors are used at these points.

Tiffany Glass Jeweling

The elevator doors, which are also made from Monel metal, were constructed by the Dahlstrom Metallic Door Company of Jamestown, New York, and have been decorated by the application of orange, blue and black Favrile glass applied to the metal by the Louis C. Tiffany furnaces, of Corona. New York. This company has long spe-



A SSEMBLING CHECK DESK OF LAMINATED CONSTRUCTION

nalized in work of this character and the cipie of art masmuch as the design has been developed especially for the material, due regard being paid to construction possibilities. In effect, it is a modernistic creation

truction.

The use of Tiffany favrile glass is not limted to the above work. ut in collaboration with he Viking Products company, New York, he Louis C. Tiffany urnaces developed all he illuminated signs which are used in the anking rooms. These igns are of a special haracter and are excluively the product of the ssociation of these two rms. The signs have een installed over every age and are of such a haracter that they are wisible when unlighted. n order to assure that; ne glass had to be made ith a surface that would armonize with the fonel metal and yet be b s olutely transparent. his has been successally accomplished by iese two companies.

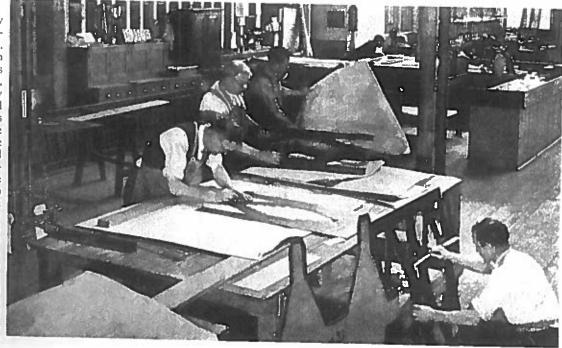
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The ornamental metal work in the Union based upon the use of Monel metal and inished appearance of the elevator doors Trust Company building meets a basic prin- executed by repetitive machines have a developed especially for the material, due of which there are two on each door, are ties. In effect, it is a modernistic creation nade from red, blue and black glass milled although very different from most examples

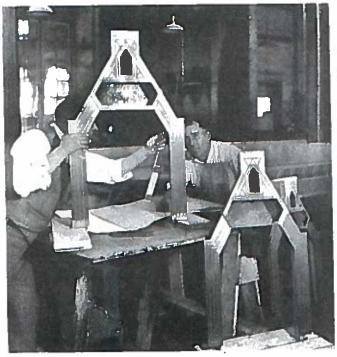
primarily from economic motives. The traditional type of metal work owes its design to the fact that a great deal of hand work was used in its production. Such metal work cannot easily be duplicated by machine methods and machine production is the basis of practically all manufacture today.

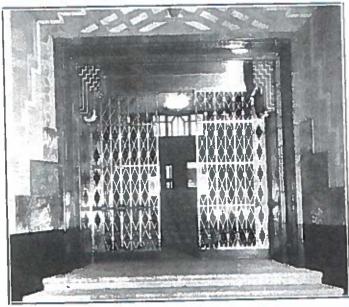
It is more and more becoming necessary for the character of designs to be such that they can be executed very largely by machine methods and the ornamental metal work in the Union Trust Company building represents an outstanding effort in this direction. Whether it will prove to be the nucleus of a new school of design remains to be seen, but there is no doubt that designs

oday owes much to their careful workman-ciple of art inasmuch as the design has been wide future before them in the banking field. Machine production is the most economical form of production, and a non-rusting and non-corroding material such as Monel metal gives the necessary guarantee of perma-nence, strength and lasting appearance in o fit, and inlaid into the metal. The com- of modern art. When judging metal work the constructional material. Rust on Monel slete doors represent an association of the of this description, one has to bear in mind metal is an impossibility. Dulling of a burrts and industrial processes that is distinct- that the novelty in the design has sprung nished Monel metal surface can quite easily



SHOP WORK ON MONEL METAL SCREEN FOR BANKING OFFICES





A VIEW OF LOWER BANKING ROOM DOORWAY

WICKET FRAMES OF MONEL METAL IN THE SHOP. NOTE ORNAMENT OF ROUTED LINES

ished condition, necessitaiting frequent oil- the use of Monel metal in the safe depositing to guard against rust. The dust col- entrance.

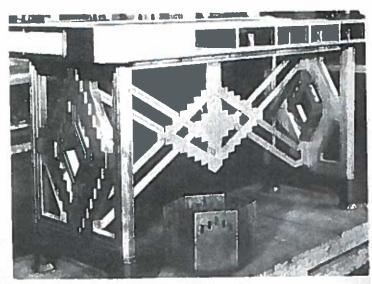
be prevented by exercising a reasonable lecting on the oiled surface makes frequent amount of care in looking after the metal cleaning unavoidable. Monel metal in this of finishes, such as satin finishes, or dull Allied to the appearance of Monel metal, service has the great advantage of offering we must also consider the question of a surface closely resembling that of steel, strength. Monel metal is as strong as steel with the additional advanatge that the surand is an exceedingly tough material emi- face does not need to be oiled to keep it permits the designer to bring out the silver nently suitable for protective purposes. For in perfect condition. The characteristics this reason it has been used for the safe de- of the metal insure that it will remain bright posit gates, customers' windows and rail- with very little care and the strength and ings in the Union Trust Company building, toughness of the metal are unquestionably These are commonly made of steel and gen- adequate. Substantial savings should be eferally require to be kept in a highly burn- fected by the Union Trust Company through

Monel metal lends itself to various types finishes, made by acid treatments or sand blast processes. The use of a dull finish enables the high lights to be kept low and beauty of the modeling where this is desired. But much of modern art depends for its interest on the reflection of plane surfaces, as in the case of the United Trust Company building.

It seems probable that this latter form of design will increasingly dominate the ornamental metal work field in the coming years.



WELDING MONEL METAL WITH ACETYLENE TORCH



A MONEL METAL CHECK DESK IN THE MAKING.

The Facilities for Vertical Travel

The street floor of the Union Trust Inc., upper-floor doors by Dahlstrom Met- to operate the relays and through them the or six ultra-modern high-speed passenger

monogram appearing twice on each door if the letters "UT". The pair of doors at ach elevator opening separate to left and

apping units that open in pairs.

Automatic Control

The cabs carry a control and lighting plate in Monel metal with control handle. outton panel and visual window. The opefator views the floor number through this window, and the doors on both the elevator be handled between the vaults and grade and in the building open automatically at a level by one of the freight elevators, which stop. The cab walls terminate at the ceil- has the unusual capacity of 20,000 pounds, elevator and building floors are on a level. ng in a wide frieze of pierced monel metal. Inside loading has been introduced to pro- At this point, the action stops, and the elein a decoration which combined successive mote safety and reduce theft insurance. incised diamonds with piercings in notched effect. The cal ceilings are entirely in suc- designed for loads of 2,500 pounds and cessive recessings of Monel metal with an octagonal indirect-lighting lantern in pierced Monel closely placed against the ceiling, well-known variable-voltage control type, de-The finish of all metalwork is of the type known as "brushed", "satin", or "velvet", and high and glaring points of light are

ultra modern and far in advance of present hoistways. day operative systems. It was furnished by the Pitt Engineering Company and in- coils connecting to five Pliotron tubes, which ly and automatically to open and close both cabs by the Tyler Company; equipment by relays operating the contactors on the con- stop. It is interconnected with and synchro-Dahlstrom monel-faced decorative doors in the hoistways, current is generated and that the elevator cannot run unless the doors

rithin vaulted ceilings in green, blue and with signalling system and electric door ope- in elevator work. rown decorative tile. Each lobby serves rators by the Elevator Supply Company,

ecorative metal, being intricately decorated and idler drum group in the penthouse at usual way by car switch and operator. oors in Monel metal, with the design de- top of the building, and the continuous steel eloped mechanically by power incising to cable descends the shaft and follows the car depth of one thirty-second of an inch in up. By this device there is a balanced and pleasing line pattern of verticals, horizon, unchanging load at all points in the deep als and diagonals. In addition notched shaft, and full car velocity at the upper elevators. There is an alternating-current riangle and other forms are placed in the stories. The penthouse system consists of synchronous motor in series with the field esign by recessing the elements completely, three characteristic units. The first is an in- of the motor-generator set mentioned. This nd inlaying in them colored translucent dividual motor-generator of special design, field current is controlled magically by produced by the General Electric Company, giant-sized General Electric Company Plio-These glass accents give character and Alternating current as stepped down in the tron grid tubes on each car. This is a large ffect that is entirely new in the field of building is converted from 440-volt 60-cycle tube unit produced by the General Electric netal art work. The doors bear in glass rating to direct current at 220-volts with Company. When the public is educated, opecapacity for variable voltage. The second rators may be withdrawn, and passengers unit is a special contactor board, operated may call their floor stops clearly and loudly. ight silently, but only when an elevator is by the control switch of the individual elevator, a stop button being provided on the and open the doors automatically. The The elevator cabs are floored in a com- car itself. The third unit is a special Gen- building at each floor and the car itself are osition inlay containing rubber in light eral-Electric low-speed direct-current hoist each equipped with a metal plate, and the ones. The walls are faced in Circassian on Hoffman ball bearings, and direct-con-two plates form the units of a condenser valuat veneer in diagonal patternings pro-nected to the hoisting drum. This is of mul-charged with the induction effect that leaps luced by multiplication of small rectangular tipolar type, and its load only varies accordnanclings, and the doors are quadruple over- ing to the number of passengers in its ele- whether the plates lap or squarely oppose vator, all other loadings being balanced with each other. According to the fortuitous authe exception of the normal friction factor, tomatic stoppage of the car at any floor, a which is reduced to a minimum by ballbear- certain charge is created on the condenser ings, oiling devices, and other similar means. plates,

Elevator for Money Trucks

All of the passenger elevators have been speeds of 800 feet in the express zone and 700 feet in the local zone. They are of the signed to eliminate all contacts in the hoist- elevator some distance above or below the way for automatic stopping. For the pur- floor, and as operated, the car is stopped pose of starting, stopping, accelerating and by hand. decelerating the elevator cars, steel plates The fast passenger elevator system is have been placed at proper intervals in the vice, the first sale of which was made for the

with glass inlays by the Tiffany Furnaces, amplified in the tubes to sufficient intensity are closed.

luilding has two elevator lobbies bening allic Door Company in enamel, and radio- contactors. This is one of the first installarom the eastern side of the main corridor, control units by General Electric Company, tions where Pliotron tubes have been used

A new feature is the equipment of one The elevators are hung on a continuous of the private elevators with a special dual levators. The elevator doors on the ground multiple-unit set of steel hoisting cable with control designed for operation by push butoor are superb examples of a new art in counterpoise. These pass over an individual ton at automatically reduced speed or in the

Elevators Without Conductors

But this is not the entire story of these The elevators will stop at the floors called charged with the induction effect that leaps across with variable capacity, according to This influences the synchronous current supply in such a manner that the motor-generator supplies positive or nega-Money trucks for outside delivery will tive current as required to readjust the elevator position to bring the condenser charge to its peak, that is, to the point where the vator and building doors automatically open. The action at any floor only takes place when the proper button has been pressed, and is in abeyance for passing floors. The passenger who signals for a car stop from his elevator lobby rings a bell signal on the

The elevators are equipped with a new de-Union Trust Building. This is a 60-cycle 3-Atop each car is mounted a number of phase motor on each car which works silentstalled by them. The principal units were in turn connect with the car cable, with the the elevator and the building doors at each the General Electric Company; main-floor trol panel. As the coils pass the steel plates nized with the drive, and its action is such

A New Note in ARCHITECTURAL METAL WORK



-

The unusual and distinctive ornamental metal work in the new Union Trust Company Building of Detroit represents the first important use of Monel metal for decorative purposes. Its adaptation to this use is one of many creative achievements of the Bronze Division of The Gorham Company, specialists in the execution of fine architectural work in the nickel alloys.

Ornamental screen in Monel Metal at the entrance to the main banking room of the new Union Trust Company, Detroit. Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, architects. Donaldson and Meier, Consulting Architects. Executed by the Gorham Company

THE GORHAM COMPANY

BRONZE DIVISION

Room 904 + 576 Fifth Avenue New York City
"Master Craftsmen since 1831"



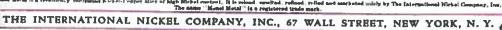
BEAUTY PLATINUM-LIKE FOR MODERN DESIGN

IN THE Union Trust Building, Detroit, Monel Metal is used for ornamental grilles, wickets, check desks, elevator doors, elevator indicator panels, directory frame, illuminated signs, ink wells, handrails, mail box, hose cabinet, vault gates, store gates, lamp holders, electric switch plates, and other items of ornamental metal work, combining beauty of appearance with greatest ease of maintenance.



Monel Metal's permanent, platinum-like beauty, is ideally suited to the modern trend toward white metal ornamental work. Its natural lustre harmonizes with every decorative scheme. Beautiful Monel Metal makes possible entirely new effects in decorative design. This durable Nickel alloy provides a new way to add lasting beauty to modern buildings. Consult your architect about using Monel Metal.



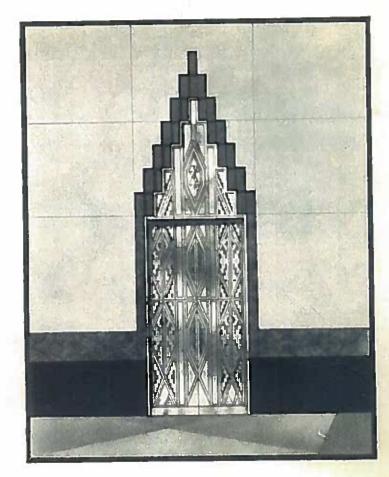




DAHLSTROM the outstanding name in hollow metal

To interpret successfully the unusual combination of form and color designed for the elevator entrances of

construction



the Union Trust Building, Dahlstrom made a radical departure from anything heretofore attempted in Hollow Metal Construction. The use of Monel Metal and the application of depolished vari-colored glass sections flush with the surface of the metal, represent a remarkable innovation in metal working . . . the forward step of a leader.



This achievement, in the spirit of the modern trend in architecture, is but indicative of the pioneering that has made Dahlstrom the outstanding name in Hollow Metal Construction for a quarter of a century. Plates showing in color the elevator entrances of the Union Trust Company will be forwarded for the asking.

"No building is more fireproof than its doors and trim." . . . DAHLSTROM

In the Union Trust Building, Detroit, Michigan, the elevator entrances and metal swing doors are by Dahlstrom. Architects: Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Detroit, Michigan, — Contractors: W. E. Wood & Company, Detroit, Michigan.

DAHLSTROM METALLIC DOOR COMPANY

425 Buffalo Street

(Established 1904)

Jamestown, N. Y.

New York 😘

Chloago

Los Angeles

Detroit Dallas