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Department of Architecture circular

1883

MASSACHUSETTS  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,

BOSTON, MASS.

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COURSE IV.  
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ARCHITECTURE.

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1883-1884.

## COURSE IV.

# ARCHITECTURE.

THE President deems this a fitting occasion for calling attention to the course in Architecture in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which has been rearranged to suit the increased facilities for artistic as well as technical training now at the command of the Institute. By the coöperation of the other departments, the first-year studies, which are common to all departments, have been revised, so as to allow practice in the drawing of architectural forms to begin in that year, as soon as a moderate degree of skill in the management of drawing instruments has been acquired; and simultaneously with this is given instruction in drawing to scale, together with a somewhat extended course in Projections, preparing the student for the rendering of the problems in architectural design which he will take up immediately at the beginning of the second year, instead of the third year, as heretofore. Through this arrangement, and with the aid of an increased number of instructors, it will become possible to complete, by the end of the third year, the work in design which has heretofore extended throughout the course, leaving the fourth year to be occupied by projects of a more advanced character than have yet been attempted in the Department.

In addition to the work in architectural design, and as an assistance to it, an efficient training will be given in sketching, divided between exercises in water-color, under Mr. Ross Turner, and drawing in black and white. The lessons in color will be given out of doors in the pleasant season. Those in black and white will be devoted chiefly to the drawing of detail, from the casts, both of architecture and sculpture, belonging to the Institute and to the Museum of Fine Arts; but students will be encouraged to form the habit of note-book sketching upon all occasions. In addition to these exercises, two evenings in each week during the winter will be devoted to Drawing from the Life; all students in the Department

who have attained suitable proficiency in drawing from the round being admitted to this class.

Instruction in the theory of Fine Art will be given by lectures, the students of the Department, by the favor of the Trustees of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, being admitted free of charge to those given to the pupils of the School of Painting connected with the Museum, as well as to the use of the galleries; while, in addition to the regular courses, special lectures will be given every year in the Institute itself, by gentlemen distinguished for their professional attainments, upon the arts more immediately related to Architecture. For the next year these special lectures will constitute an extended course on the theory and practice of Decorative Painting, and will be given by Mr. Arthur Rotch and Mr. E. P. Treadwell.

Notwithstanding the increased extent and variety of the artistic work required from students, the study of construction, both theoretical and practical, will be not less comprehensive and thorough than before, and will be combined with actual experience to an extent not previously possible, the increased space at the command of the Institute giving larger opportunities for the handling of tools and materials. Regular visits to structures in process of erection will supplement this work, and will be continued throughout the course, the city and suburbs of Boston presenting an unlimited number of examples, both successful and unsuccessful, for the illustration of points in heating, ventilation, drainage, acoustics, and the technical problems of plan and design, as well as matters relating more strictly to construction.

Not the least among the incidental circumstances which serve to assist the efficiency of the school should be counted the friendly interest which has been uniformly shown by the best architects in the city. For many years the Boston Society of Architects has made a liberal annual appropriation of money to be expended in prizes or other encouragements for the students or recent graduates of the Architectural course of the Institute, and its generous sympathy shows no sign of abating; while to the individual members whose courtesy there has been frequent occasion to invoke, the officers of the Department, as well as nearly all the young men who have been students in it, owe a debt of gratitude which is gladly acknowledged.

The Department of Architecture will remain under the charge of Professor Theodore M. Clark; Professor Létang, as before,

directing the instruction in design. Mr. Edward F. Ely, a graduate of Brown University, and of the Architectural Department of the Institute, in the class of '82, and during the past academic year assistant in the Department of Applied Mechanics, has been engaged as Instructor in Architecture, and will have the general care of the drawing room, under Professor Létang, giving also regular instruction in certain branches. The lessons in water-color drawing and sketching will be given by Mr. Ross Turner, who will also lend his aid in the organization of the evening Life School; and Messrs. Arthur Rotch and E. P. Treadwell will, as stated, be the lecturers of the year upon Decorative Art.

In addition to these instructors, the officers of other Departments prepare special lectures for the students in Architecture upon subjects which can be best taught in this way. Thus the lectures and explanations upon the theory and practice of Heating and Ventilation are given by Mr. Woodbridge, of the Department of Physics; and those upon Acoustics by Professor Cross, of the same Department. Parties in Field Surveying are also made up specially for the students in Architecture, under Professor Vose.

FRANCIS A. WALKER,

PRESIDENT.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
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