Proposed New Building for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Newbury Street Elevation

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THE NEW BUILDINGS

Engineering Building "C," as it will be known, is the latest adjunct to the Institute. The excuse for its existence on the site of the Walker Memorial Gymnasium, as given to the alumni and friends of the Institute by President Pritchett in his address at the last Alumni Reception, is known to all the readers of the Review. So also is it known that this building, as well as the Lowell Building which was erected last year, are to be considered only as temporary buildings, and not as permanent structures.

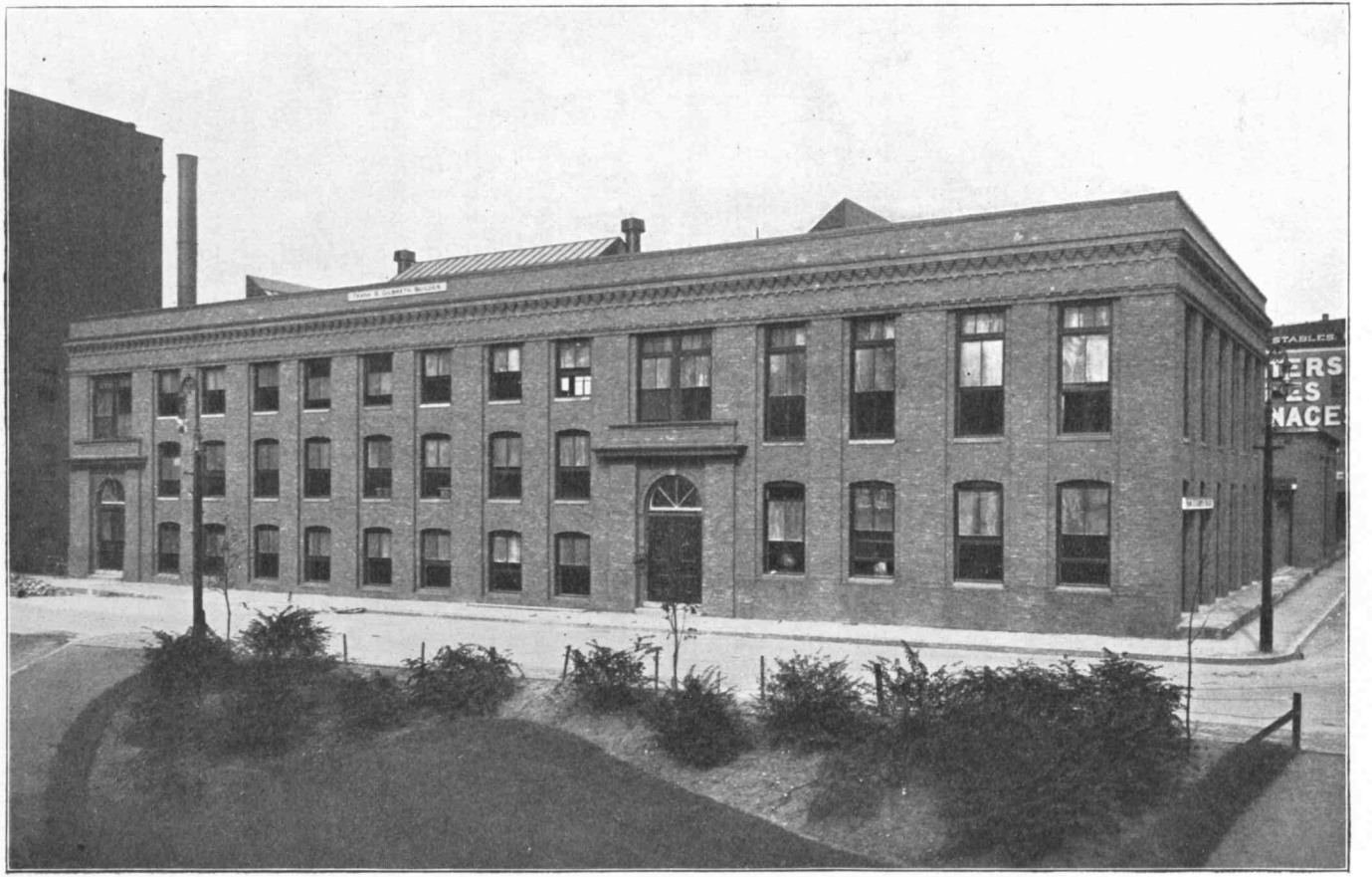
With the above in mind, Engineering Building "C" was planned to give the necessary floor space, on as small a ground area and for as small an expenditure of money as possible, to house the three Departments most in need of enlarged quarters. Those which could be moved with the least expense and which, by moving, would give the greatest relief in the other overcrowded buildings, were Naval Architecture, Mineralogy, and Chemical Engineering. It will be evident to those who see the building that no money has been expended on superfluous ornament, and that every detail of the structure is of the simplest and cheapest form and material which would answer the desired purpose and comply with the "Building Regulations of the City of Boston."

Engineering "C," as originally planned, consisted of two-story end pavilions containing the entrances, and a central three-story section; but, as constructed, the pavilion on the end nearest to the Pierce Building was omitted for the present, leaving an unbalanced design.

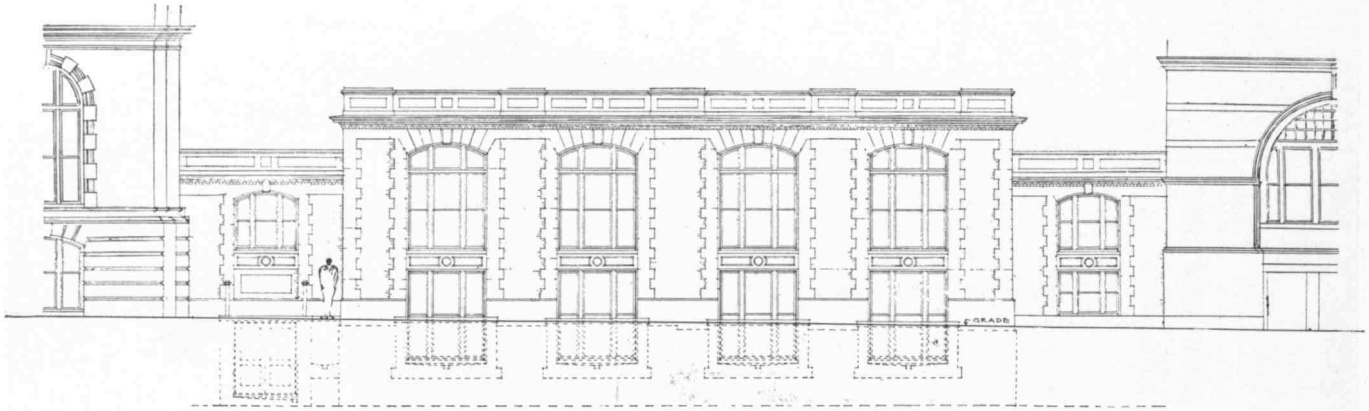
The Departments of Naval Architecture, Graduate Laboratories of Chemical Engineering Research and the Laboratory for blowpipe Mineralogical Analysis, have been accommodated in the portion of the building constructed this summer. The basement, or street floor, contains a large laboratory, 40 feet by 58 feet, for blowpipe analysis, with private office for the Instructor, one section of the room being provided with raised seats and desks as a lecture-room, the remainder being occupied by tables, cases, and hoods. A second large room, 29 feet square, also provided with raised seatings, will be used for a lecture-room jointly by the various occupants of the building. Three other class-rooms of moderate size, a shop and supply room for the Engineering Laboratory, and the heating and ventilating chamber take up the remainder of the basement.

Broad, easy stairs lead from the entrance corridors to the mezzanine floor, which is wholly occupied by laboratories, offices, seminar-room, supply-room, balance-rooms, photographic dark room, and other conveniences, so arranged as to be easily accessible from each other. A spiral staircase and dumb-waiter connect the supply-room on this floor with the supply-room and shop in the basement.

The next floor level, half-way between the mezzanine floor and the top floor, is over the Mineralogical Laboratory, and contains a large draughting-room for the naval cadets, a large private office and lecture-room for the Professor of Naval Design, and a lecture-room for ship construction.



Engineering "C"



ROGERS BLDG

ROGERS ANNEX
ELEVATION ON NEWBURY STREET
SCALE IN FEET

WALKER BLDG

RAND & SKINNER
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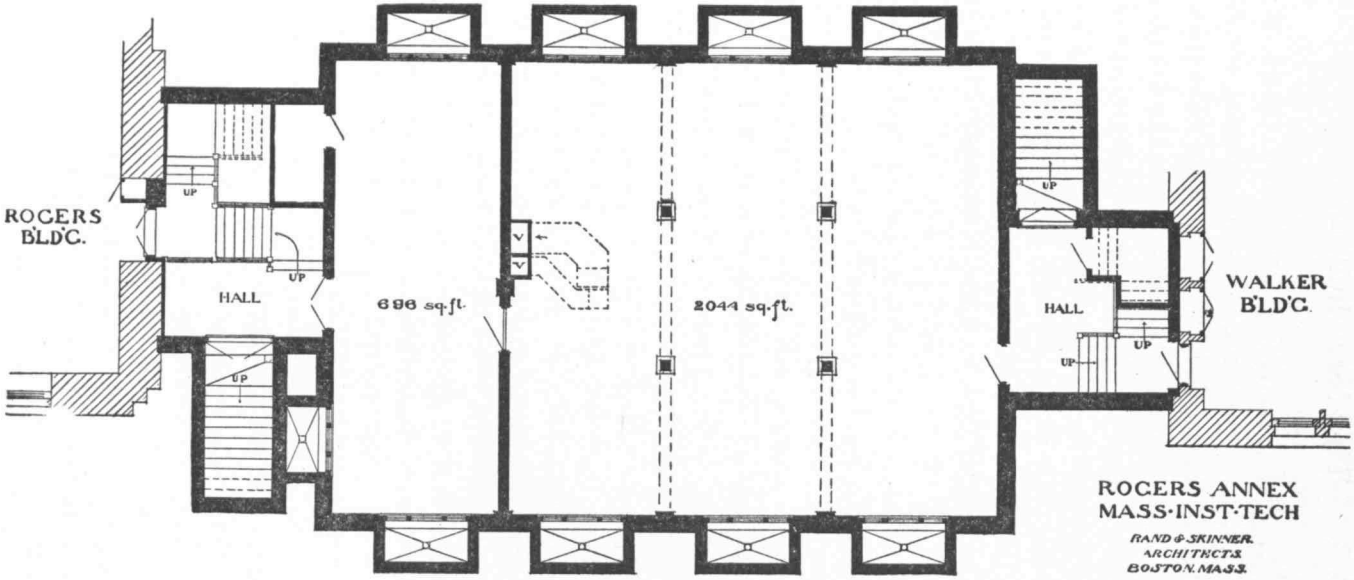
The upper floor, occupying the entire centre of the building, contains the general draughting-room for Naval Architecture, 58 feet by 70 feet, lighted from both sides and in the middle by a skylight. Adjacent to the draughting-room are three offices for the Professor of Naval Architecture and his assistants. Toilet-rooms have been provided on each floor, with ample fixtures for the accommodation of the occupants of the building.

Heat will be provided by a combination of direct steam with indirect coils in the basement, in connection with the ventilating system, which consists of coil, blower, and ducts, as is customary in the Institute buildings.

Electricity for light, for experimental purposes, and for driving various motors, will be obtained from the power plant in the Lowell Building adjoining, as will also the steam for heating, both services entering Engineering "C" through an underground passage connecting it with the basement of the Lowell Building.

Engineering "C" has been erected complete since the closing of the last school year, at an expenditure of about $40,000. The contract was signed on June 13, the erection commenced immediately, and the work has been rushed to completion on contract time.

Plans have been completed and preparations made for the erection of a further addition to the buildings of the Institute. A good idea of what is proposed can be gained by reference to Plates I., II. and III. This building will be an addition to both Rogers and Walker, but will be known as the "Rogers Annex," when completed. The plan provides for an extension of the Mining Engineering Laboratory toward the Walker Building on the basement level, for an extension of the laboratories of Walker toward Rogers on the same level, and for four consultation or lecture rooms in the first story.

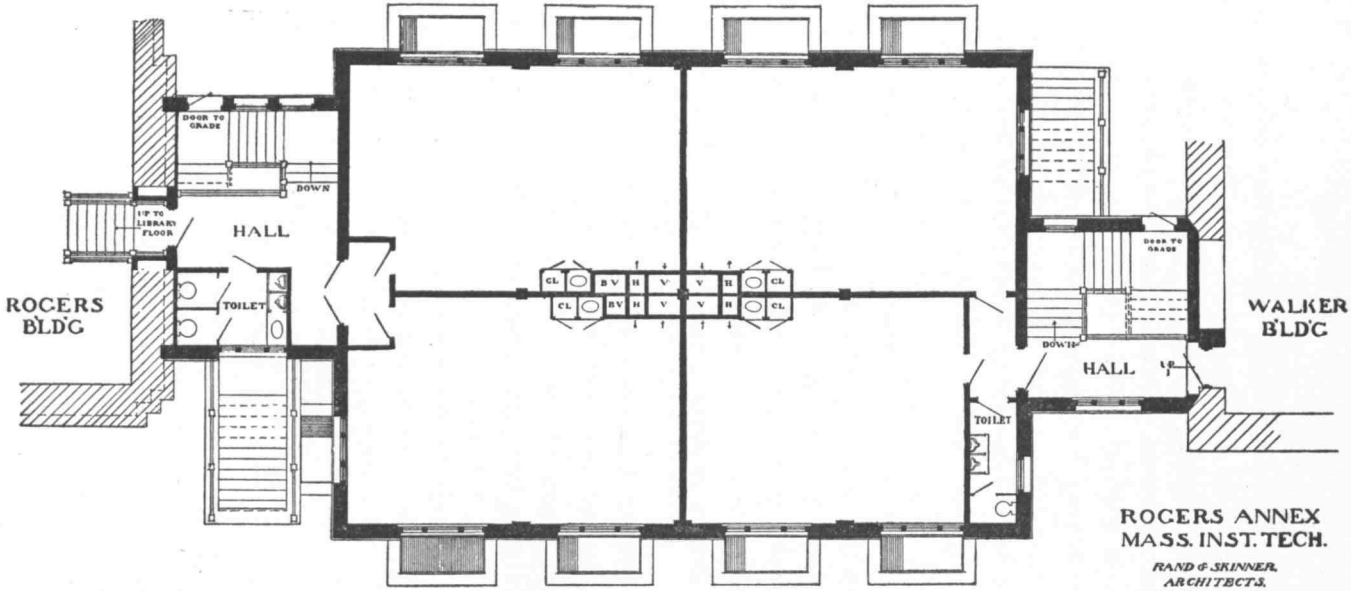

ROGERS
BL'D'G.
UP
HALL
UP
UP
696 sq.ft.
2044 sq.ft.
UP
HALL
UP
UP
WALKER
BL'D'G.
ROGERS ANNEX
MASS·INST·TECH
RAND & SKINNER
ARCHITECTS
BOSTON, MASS.
PLAN OF BASEMENT
SCALE IN FEET
0 1 2 5 10 15 30

The problem of connecting buildings as different in architectural styles as the Rogers and the Walker is difficult of satisfactory solution, but for a temporary one-story building the plan presented seems to close the gap, and to unite them without discord. By slightly separating the central portion, containing the higher and larger rooms, from the adjoining buildings by the introduction of stairways and toilets, into lower connecting portions, an architectural arrangement is made possible which, as seen by the elevation, carries some of the lines of both buildings through and interrupts others in such a way as not to make the break from one to the other too abrupt.

A new stairway will be constructed from the present reading-room in Rogers, to connect with the stairway in the annex, thus making a direct entrance into the library from Newbury Street without going entirely through Rogers corridor.

It is proposed to erect the annex in a substantial manner, with fireproof floor and roof, and to finish the exterior with as much and as good detail as would be done if the building were to be a permanent addition to the Institute. It will also be constructed with sufficiently strong foundations and footings to permit of the walls being carried, at some future time, to a height equal to that of Rogers and Walker, [see Frontispiece] if it should be decided to be not best to remove the Institute from its present location.

While working out the various problems as they have been presented, there has been borne home to the writer with great clearness the fact that a definite decision in the immediate future is imperative for the Institute; and that, whether to stay in its present location or to remove to a new site is the pressing question of the hour. If the Institute stays at its present location, the buildings which have



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR

SCALE IN FEET

0 1 2 3 4 5 10 15 20

ROGERS ANNEX
MASS. INST. TECH.

RAND & SKINNER, ARCHITECTS, BOSTON, MASS.

recently been erected, in order to provide for the growth of the classes, will answer for a time, but will ultimately have to be replaced, and new work should be, as far as possible, of a permanent character. If a decision to move should be reached, the sooner the site can be determined and plans made for the removal, the better, as the present uncertainty makes definite planning impracticable. If a proper location within the limits of Boston could be found, the writer believes it would be best for the future good of the Institute to move, as land in the present location is too valuable to be held much longer for laboratory and class-room purposes, when ample ground can be obtained for a moderate price, where enlargement of the areas of laboratories could be made without feeling that the floors are paved with gold.

Several sites have been proposed and advocated by their proposers, each of which has advantages. Any of the sites proposed, no matter how inaccessible at present, could easily be brought within reach of our students and teaching staff and such portion of the public as wish to be in touch with the Institute, much more quickly than new laboratories could be erected and a removal effected. The transportation companies would be only too glad to extend their service, if necessary, to accommodate such a population as the Institute would bring.

It would be well to keep in mind in removing that, whatever locality be settled upon, the adoption of that site for the location of the Institute would be a great public improvement for the locality chosen, and, as adjacent land values would immediately rise, the Corporation should secure sufficient land at first to provide for growth as great as the most enthusiastic friend of the Institute can foresee.

THEODORE H. SKINNER, '92.