

Feb. 28, 1966
(cont.)

carpet on a thick rubber base, which will lessen sound in the Reading Room beneath it, the awkward height of the new foundation can be partially concealed by a judicious planting of shrubs; and other defects can be veiled, in one way or another.

But the matter was further complicated by the fact that the young architect, having strong modernistic tendencies, interpolated into the plans various modernistic concepts of his own. The matter came to a head when with regard to the Foyer that connects the old building with the new - he remained obdurate in his determination to enclose its walls in plywood panels, topped off with a curtain of wooden slats four inches in width and composed of California redwood. Whereas this might do very well in a building of modernistic design, to interject a harsh and exotic room into a warm and mellow library, such as ours, would be incongruous and the height of bad taste. It was not merely that it would destroy my concept in planning the building, but, as was unanimously felt by the Committee at that time, it would run counter to the expectations and wishes of the Library's trustees, who had entrusted us with erecting an extension of the old building, harmonious with its conventional detail and design.

The matter was, therefore, called to Mr. Johnson's attention. Mr. Haynes was immediately withdrawn, and Mr. Johnson himself took over our project - with the result that the Foyer is finished in the exposed masonry characteristic throughout the building, and he has done his utmost to rectify or annul Mr. Haynes' numerous blunders. Happily, the work of the contractor and his men has been sound and good. Once its architectural blemishes have been taken care of, the building will be in good form and ready to function, as was intended.

The new wing is about 90% finished. Some outside work awaits the coming of spring, and the workmen have been temporarily withdrawn until that time. Upon their return, various inside items will be finished off.

The fact that Mr. Haynes proved irresponsible, or incapable of handling our project was not the sole instance of his conditons. It seems that he simultaneously fell down on three other jobs, as