

and resources are so tremendous that it offers few suggestions for the solution of our problems.

Before seeing on the screen several drawings for the Maryland Hall of Records, it may be interesting for us to review some of the conditions and requirements which influenced its design. There are a number of reasons why the forms characteristic of our colonial architecture seemed especially appropriate for this building. It commemorates the very beginning of our colonial history; it forms a visual part of the group of buildings around the campus of our oldest college; and it stands in a town noted for its particularly fine examples of colonial architecture.

Always it is difficult, and to the unrelenting modernist it seems even futile, to attempt to reconcile twentieth century requirements, with eighteenth century appearance. In addition, the problem presented by this particular site was further complicated by the fact that, while the building must be made large enough to meet certain minimum needs, it must still appear small enough to take its proper place among the other less extensive structures on the college campus.

In its final form, therefore, the general design of the building was largely determined by the necessity of appearing as small as possible. The compact arrangement of the interior; the broken mass of the exterior; and the use of a concealed, instead of a visible roof, were intended to achieve that end.

While buildings with concealed roofs are not characteristic of the colonial period, they were not unknown to colonial architects, as examples of such a treatment occur in contemporary <sup>the</sup>