

To Have and to Hold is an important contribution to our understanding of the postwar middle class and the dramatic cultural changes of those years. Weiss's nuanced and complex picture of the families of the baby boom transcends myth, stereotype, and nostalgia to illuminate the actual experiences of the participants. She transforms our understanding of that generation and their mixed legacy of success, disappointment, and unfinished agendas that informs contemporary gender relationships.

The American Statehouse: Interpreting Democracy's Temples, by Charles T. Goodsell. Studies in Government and Public Policy. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2001. xii, 226 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Wesley I. Shank, professor emeritus at Iowa State University, is an architectural historian specializing in American architecture. His latest book is *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (1999).

Charles T. Goodsell, political scientist and professor at Virginia Tech's Center for Public Administration and Policy, interprets a building type that is political to the core, the American statehouse. He shows us how our statehouses influence the actions of people within them, and what they express about government to those people and to society in general, and how they do it. In addition, he carries his interpretation into the history of the statehouses. What Goodsell has written will add depth to Iowans' appreciation of the State Capitol in Des Moines and Old Capitol in Iowa City, but applies to public buildings in general. The author observed human behavior in the many statehouse environments firsthand, interviewed some 300 people about their own firsthand knowledge of them, and took more than 110 black-and-white photographs for his book.

The book is divided into four main parts. The first (chapters 1 and 2) introduces the author's societal perspective and sets forth the common architectural characteristics of statehouses. The second part (chapters 3 and 4) is historic, dealing first with the first statehouses and the creation of the type, and secondly with statehouses built after the type emerged. The statehouses in use today are mostly in this second group (as is the U.S. Capitol). The third part (chapters 5, 6, and 7) deals with the décor, organization of spaces in the buildings, and interior features of the statehouses in use today. The fourth part (chapters 8 and 9) presents the statehouses and outdoor spaces around them as behavior settings, and the author's interpretation of conduct in those settings. In this last section, the author summarizes the architectural evolution of

the statehouse building type and presents his social interpretation of statehouses as a whole.

The American Statehouse will appeal to general readers. It is interesting, it is written clearly, and the generous quantity of good and appropriate photographs, plus a few diagrams and tables, helps to explain the text. It reads, at times, like a political journalist's news analysis, skillfully combining what the author learned from his sources with what comes from his own impressions. The result is "an interpretation of possible environment-behavior relationships, not proven fact" (12). In addition, employing his interdisciplinary interests and experience, the author has searched out the cultural influence of the building type on society at large, historically and in the present.

Here is a brief example of Goodsell's interpretation. The typical house and senate chambers of our statehouses are where the main conflicts and deliberation of representative government take place. Appropriately, they are the largest and most elaborate rooms. Almost always they lie on opposite sides in a symmetrical building, often confronting each other across a central open space, as in the Iowa statehouse. The relatively flat floor and the fact that each member's desk is the same as every other desk expresses "the egalitarian rather than a hierarchical concept of the legislative body" (137). The seating is often arranged in a shallow arc, making each representative's desk easily accessible to all representatives. The presiding officer's podium is raised, but not much, indicating only a limited preeminence.

Good architecture needs to give a balanced consideration to three constituent requirements: its construction (durability and structural soundness), its artistic aspects (beauty and expression), and the human activities for which it is built (function). Architects will gain a greater general understanding of the functional and expressive aspects of public buildings from reading Goodsell's interpretation of American statehouses.

Historians, including architectural historians, will benefit from Goodsell's interpretation of the functional and expressive aspects of architecture. Architectural historians tend to overlook these factors, focusing instead on the architects and key public figures involved in design or tracing a historical sequence of influences from one building to the next. A building design is the result of more than the individual designer's inspiration, for the designer is responding to the cultural values of the times as well. Goodsell has written a book that nicely complements Henry-Russell Hitchcock and William Seale's *The Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A.* (1976), the definitive architectural history of the building type.

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