

411

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

WASHINGTON

June 23, 1919.

X-1592

Subject: Plan for conducting Competition
for Selection of Architect.

Sir:

I enclose herewith for your information copy of a letter addressed to the Governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York commenting upon his plan for conducting a competition for the selection of an architect for the bank building.

The Board feels that in view of the quasi-public character of the Federal Reserve Banks it would be desirable in all cases where an architect has not already been selected that a reasonable number of qualified architects be considered and that a choice be made by some competitive method.

Very truly yours,

Governor.

Letter to all Chairmen, copy to Governors.

Enclosure.

June 21, 1919.

Dear Governor Strong:-

Your letter of the 12th instant outlining your plans for conducting a competition in your selection of an architect for your building has been brought to the attention of the Board and the method proposed meets with its approval.

The Board understands that a number of leading architects will be invited to submit plans under conditions set out in your program of competition prepared by Mr. Trowbridge and approved by your directors, and that the plans will be judged anonymously, the award to be made upon the final decision of the directors, the terms of the contract being specified in advance in the program of competition. The Board understands further that only those architects will be invited to compete as have such qualifications as would justify the bank in awarding the work to any one of them without competition, so that the anonymity of the plans and the award upon that basis will insure a suitable selection and at the same time a fair competition beyond any possible criticism. You state that the competitive plans selected will not necessarily be those adopted for the building nor is it your expectation to have the plans and estimates produced by the competition determine in any way the probable cost of the building, and that the competition is primarily for the selection of an architect rather than for the adoption of building plans, completion of which will necessarily be deferred until after the architect has been selected.

The Board would be gratified if those Federal Reserve Banks which have not already selected their architects would conduct competitions along similar lines for the selection of their architects.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W.P.G. HARDING.

Mr. Benjamin Strong,
Governor, Federal Reserve Bank,
New York City.

Governor.

Enclosure sent with X-1592 to all Chairmen, copy to governor.