

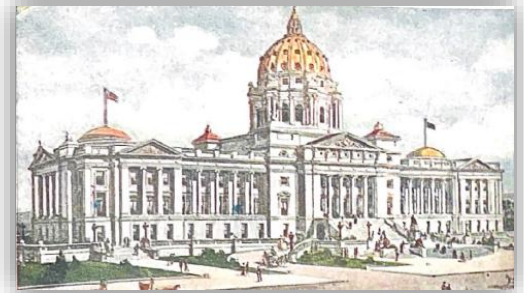
Architects of the Neo-Classical Capitol ~ Crossword

It took sixteen years from 1899 to 1915 and two architects to complete the Arkansas State Capitol. The final design was built in a neo-classical art deco 20th century style.



Caricature of George R. Mann, From Men of Affairs. Courtesy of the Arkansas State Archives

George Mann born in Syracuse, Indiana in 1856, Mann moved many times in his life. He studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and graduated in 1876. Over the next few years he won several national architectural contests. He contacted (22nd elected) Governor Daniel Jones in 1899, with plans and blueprints for a New Capitol. After reading, in the press that Arkansas was considering plans to erect a new capitol building. Mann's plans were presented in the 1901 Legislature session he was approved as architect to oversee the capitol project. Mann planned the entire capitol to be executed in the extremely ornate Beaux-Arts style, (a French neoclassicism, which incorporates Renaissance and Baroque elements, and uses modern materials, such as iron, glass, and ornamental plasterwork, cement and tile floors). Other plans included the Governors Reception Room which would be the architectural face for the Governor. A place to meet with press, staff, and sign bills. "It is to be the most decorative room in the capitol." However, he had many opponents, one of which was George Donaghey, a contractor from Little Rock, who felt the building was not being constructed properly. From 1901-1903 the capitol sat idle for 2-years, with the public calling the project a lemon. When work finally resumed, Mann was in "constant worry" resigned as Architect in 1908.

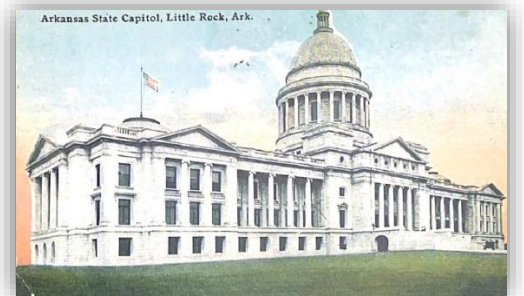


Rendering of Mann's original Arkansas State Capitol design. Courtesy of the Arkansas State Capitol Historical Collections, Secretary of State's office, Little Rock, AR.



Cass Gilbert - Images Courtesy the New-York Historical Society/National Academy Of Design, New York

Cass Gilbert born in Zanesville, Ohio in 1859, then later, moved with his family to Minnesota. Gilbert pursued an education in architecture at (MIT) in 1878. Where he and Mann likely knew each other as students and young professionals. Gilbert traveled to England and then back to the United States for better job opportunities. He designed a number of landmarks, including the Wall Street Building, West Virginia and Minnesota State Capitol. Gilbert was once considered the most famous American architect of the time. When Mann resigned from the Capitol project, now Governor, Donaghey contacted Cass Gilbert, living in New York, to complete the capitol project. In 1909, after arriving in Little Rock, meeting with the State Board of Commissioners, and inspecting the "unfinished" capitol, he accepted the job as architect. Gilbert called for the demolition of the newly installed Iron stairways, ornamental plaster work, cement floors, Governor Reception Room, and other features specified by Mann. In 1910 he designed the (6) 10-foot-tall bronze doors which arrived from New York's Tiffany Studios. On January 9, 1911 wagons loaded with furnishings from the Old State House arrived at the "somewhat" completed building. Gilberts redesign included corridors, floors, and the grand staircases lined with marble. He replaced Mann's tile floors and removed the iron stairways. He installed doric, ionic (fluted), and corinthian marble columns, as well, as used an Italian art form called "scagliola." In 1915 (24th elected) Governor George Hays informed the Legislatures the capitol was "complete."



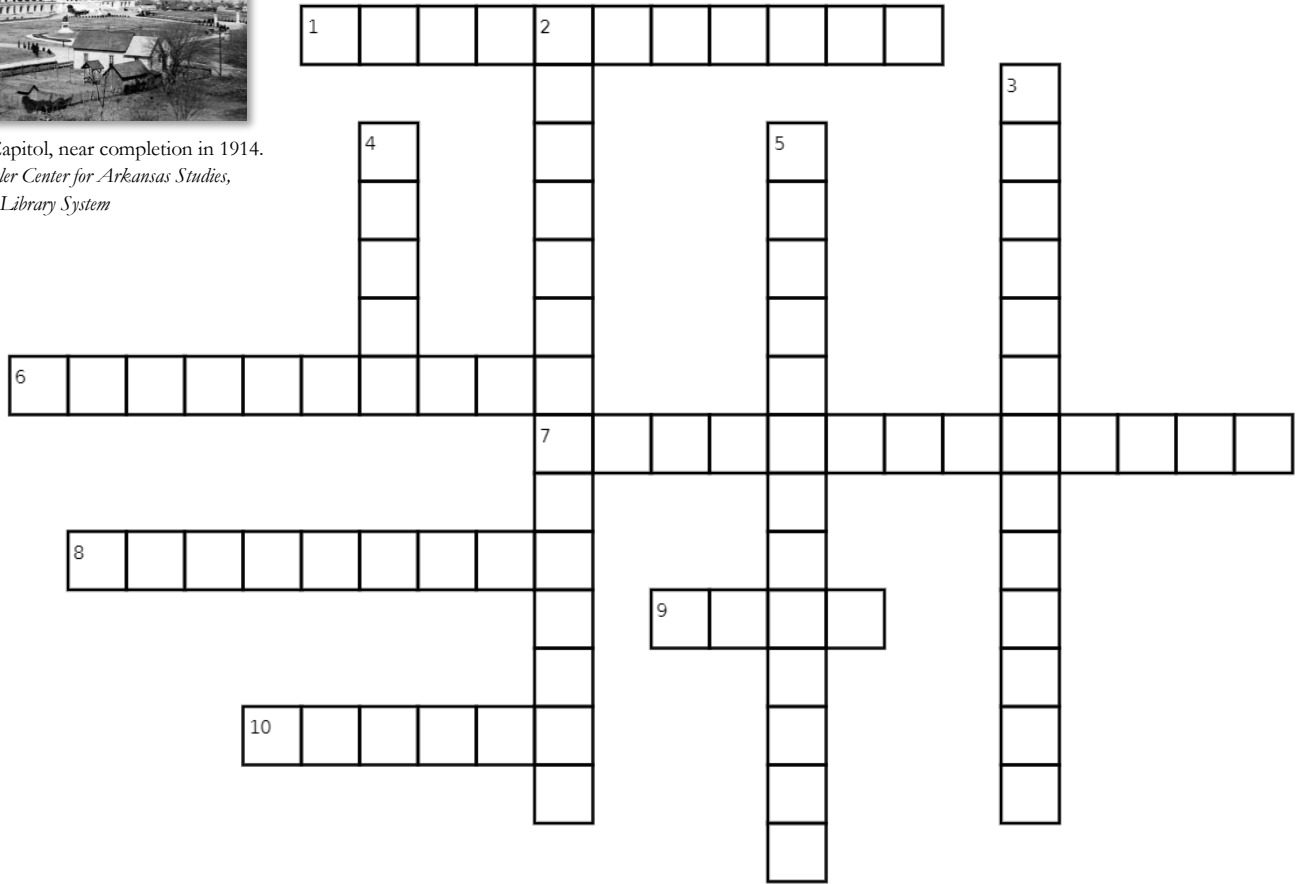
Postcard displaying Gilbert's redesigned Arkansas State Capitol. Courtesy of the Arkansas State Capitol Historical Collections, Secretary of State's office, Little Rock, AR.



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Arkansas State Capitol, near completion in 1914.
 Courtesy of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies,
 Central Arkansas Library System



Down:

2. Who opposed one architect but welcomed the other?
3. In what state did Mann and Gilbert both attend school?
4. A place to meet with press, staff, and sign _____?
5. Which room is the architectural face for the Governor?

Across:

1. Whose considered the most famous American architect?
6. When something is partially worked on, it's sometimes referred to being _____.
7. The wagons were loaded at the _____ with furnishings for the new building.
8. An Italian art for decorating columns is called _____.
9. Who designed the Capitol in a French neoclassicism style?
10. The walls, floors, and grand staircases are lined with _____.

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Answers!

