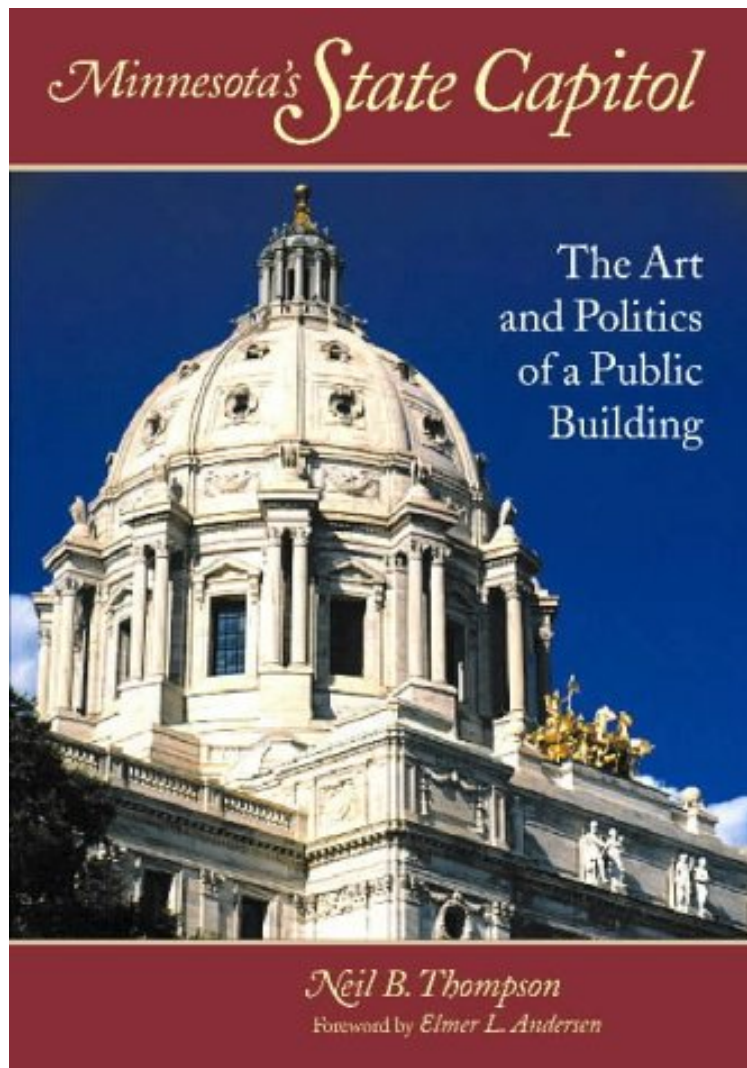


(Free pdf) Minnesota's State Capitol: The Art and Politics of a Public Building (Minnesota Historic Sites Pamphlet Series,)

Minnesota's State Capitol: The Art and Politics of a Public Building (Minnesota Historic Sites Pamphlet Series,)

Neil B. Thompson

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Neil B. Thompson : Minnesota's State Capitol: The Art and Politics of a Public Building (Minnesota Historic Sites Pamphlet Series,) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Minnesota's State Capitol: The Art and Politics of a Public Building (Minnesota Historic Sites Pamphlet Series,):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A solid history of the Minnesota statehouse By Derek R. Everett This reprint of Thompson's history of the Minnesota State Capitol should interest any Gopher State resident, or someone

curious about the Progressive-era politics of statehouse architecture. It is thoroughly well illustrated and admirably narrates the story of the need for a new capitol and constructing the grand Cass Gilbert building. Unfortunately, the author closes his book when the structure is completed, and does not take the building's history beyond construction. Did nothing happen to or in the building in the twentieth century? It would be made a better work with an interpretation of the building's use over the years, not just the narrative of its construction. Nonetheless, Thompson's work is a solid narrative of interest to historians both in Minnesota and the republic at large.

Minnesota's State Capitol: The Art and Politics of a Public Building tells the story of how private citizens, professional tradesmen, and public officials formed a coalition that got Minnesota's statehouse designed and built. Drawing on extensive research, Neil B. Thompson relates how several governors, a decade of hard work, and four million dollars contributed toward creating this magnificent testament to the sovereignty of the state, opened to the public for the first time in January 1905. This new edition is being published for the Capitol centennial celebration in 2005. As Thompson observes, the lavishly decorated capitol, designed by emerging young architect Cass Gilbert of St. Paul, is a gigantic Renaissance palace, erected with superb materials and expert workmanship, as well as a monument in marble to a moment in Minnesota's history when many residents felt that the frontier was passing away and they stood on the brink of a new age of urbanization and the modern era. With its huge dome (modeled after the one designed by Michelangelo for St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome), the stunning gold-leafed quadriga sculpture of driver and horses (executed by Daniel C. French and Edward C. Potter), and the vibrant paintings (by Kenyon Cox, John La Farge, Howard Pyle, Edwin H. Blashfield, and other noted artists), the capitol marked the beginning of Cass Gilbert's acclaimed career. After gaining national prominence for his design, Gilbert soon moved to New York, where he went on to design such landmarks as the Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C., and the Woolworth Building in New York City. For a century now, the Minnesota State Capitol has continued to be the beating heart of state government and a splendid symbol dominating the skyline of the city of St. Paul and the world's perception of Minnesota itself.

"Boy genius architect, stuck in a pioneer town with seemingly no great future, wins design contest and moves on to international fame and fortune. . . . Strongly recommended to any and all who are interested in Minnesota's history, life styles of the turn of the century, workings of social and political maneuvering, or just a good crackerjack of a story." -- Minnesota History