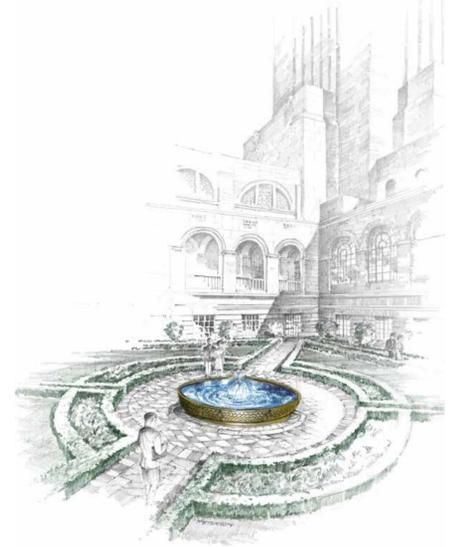


# FINISHING THE CAPITOL -- COURTYARD FOUNTAINS

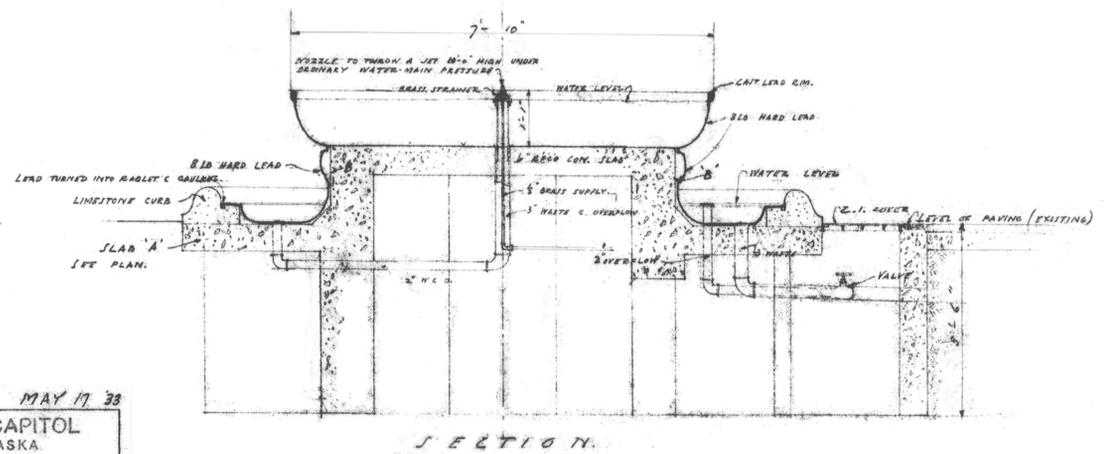
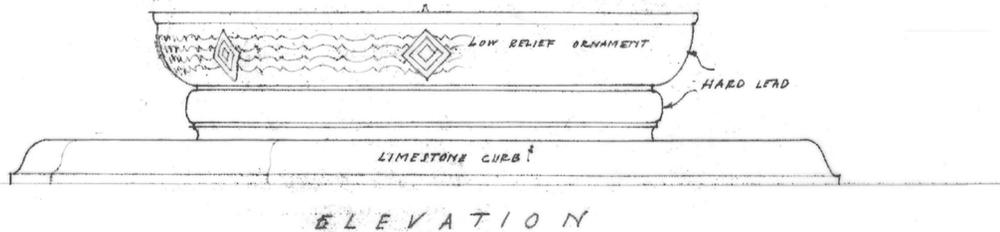


In this 1934 photo of the northwest courtyard the landscape material in place, but the fountain is missing.

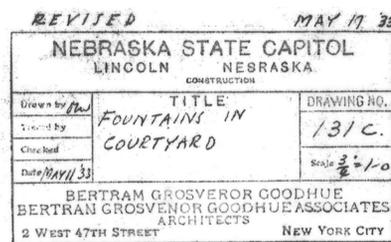
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue's Nebraska State Capitol design was chosen over the others in the 1919-20 competition for many reasons. Significantly, his cross within a square design could be built in phases on a pay as you go basis from 1922-1932. His design, with four interior courtyards, also addressed Nebraska's harsh winter winds and hot, glaring summer sun. The courtyards provide sheltered interior windows to illuminate offices and corridors. Goodhue also devised a scheme where fountains in the courtyards would provide natural air conditioning via evaporative cooling; as the warm air rose up and out the tower, the cooler air would be drawn in via courtyard windows and doors. But, these finishing touches, the fountains, were victims of the Great Depression, as were the twenty wall murals in the original Capitol plan. By 1967, in time for the State's Centennial, artists had completed the twelve murals on second floor. As Nebraska approaches its Sesquicentennial, or 150th birthday, in 2017, the final elements of the original design, the courtyard fountains, are being commissioned.



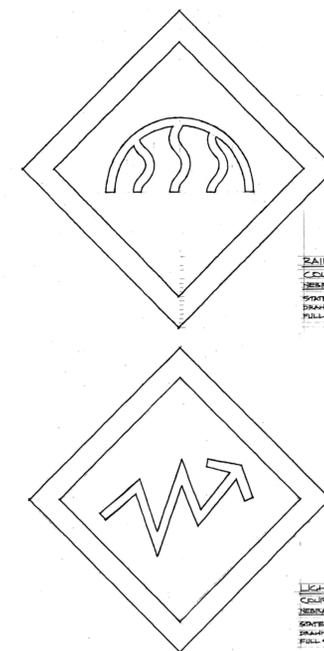
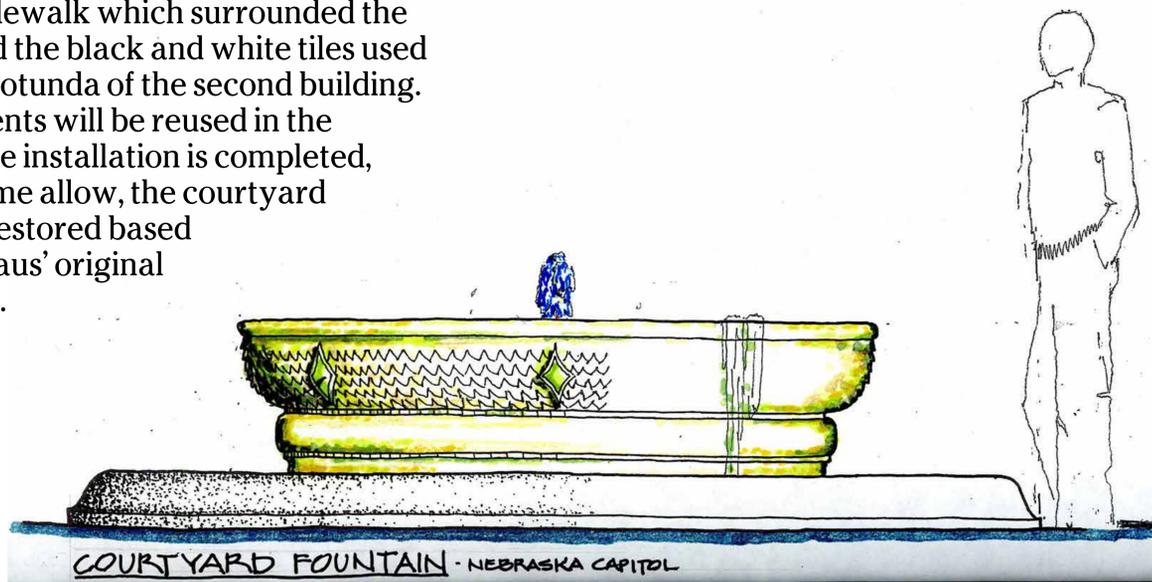
This 2012 artist's rendering shows the northwest courtyard with fountain in place and landscape restored.



Goodhue's courtyard fountain design was finalized by his associates following his death in 1924. The Capitol Commission's architects used this design as the basis for the current project, following the original concept as closely as possible. The courtyards have red Colorado sandstone sidewalks edged with black and white marble pavers. These elements were part of the Second Capitol, the red sandstone public sidewalk which surrounded the second building, and the black and white tiles used in the ground floor rotunda of the second building. These paving elements will be reused in the courtyards. Once the installation is completed, as funds and staff time allow, the courtyard landscapes will be restored based on Ernst Herminghaus' original 1934 landscape plan.



The Capitol Commission is evaluating the use of Native American water icons within the diamond shaped elements of the original design, above left. Below are two of the symbols being considered, rain and lightning.



RAIN ICON  
COURTYARD FOUNTAIN BOWLS  
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL  
SITE OF NEBRASKA, OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL COM.  
DRAWN BY: TSK, 08/25/2016  
FULL SCALE

LIGHTNING ICON  
COURTYARD FOUNTAIN BOWLS  
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL  
SITE OF NEBRASKA, OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL COM.  
DRAWN BY: TSK, 07/25/2016  
FULL SCALE

This artist's sketch represents the approximate look and scale of a courtyard fountain. Each of the four courtyards will house the same cast bronze bowl sitting in a shallow granite basin. A small water jet in the center of each fountain

will provide movement and shimmer on the water's surface. As water trickles over the bowl's side and drops into the basin the courtyard will be filled with the refreshing sound of falling water.