

Pittsburgh

HISTORY

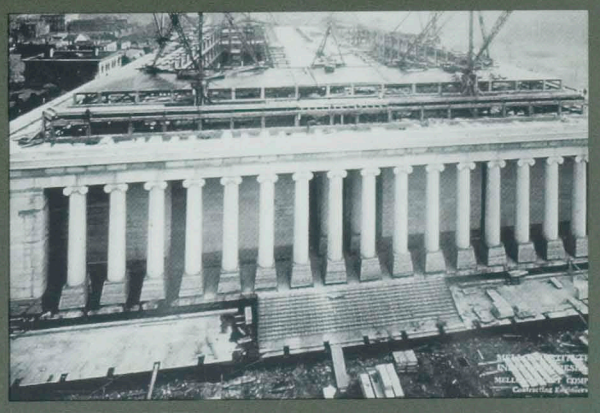
A Magazine of the City and Its Region

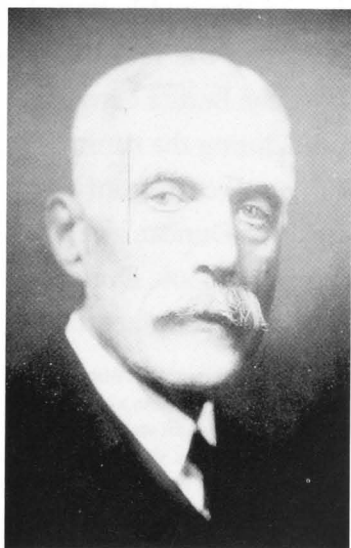
Winter, 1994/95



Temple of Technology

Building the Mellon Institute



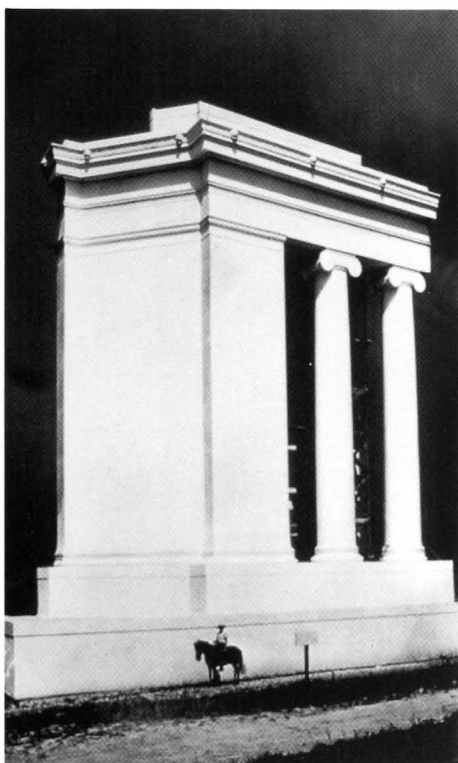


The three minds that brought Mellon Institute to fruition: Robert Kennedy Duncan, top, author of a book advocating the use of scientific technology in American industry; and brothers Richard Beatty Mellon and Andrew W. Mellon, who invited Duncan to Pittsburgh in 1910. Opposite: A much less grand Mellon Institute was at the University of Pittsburgh, Thackeray and O'Hara streets, from 1915 to 1937.

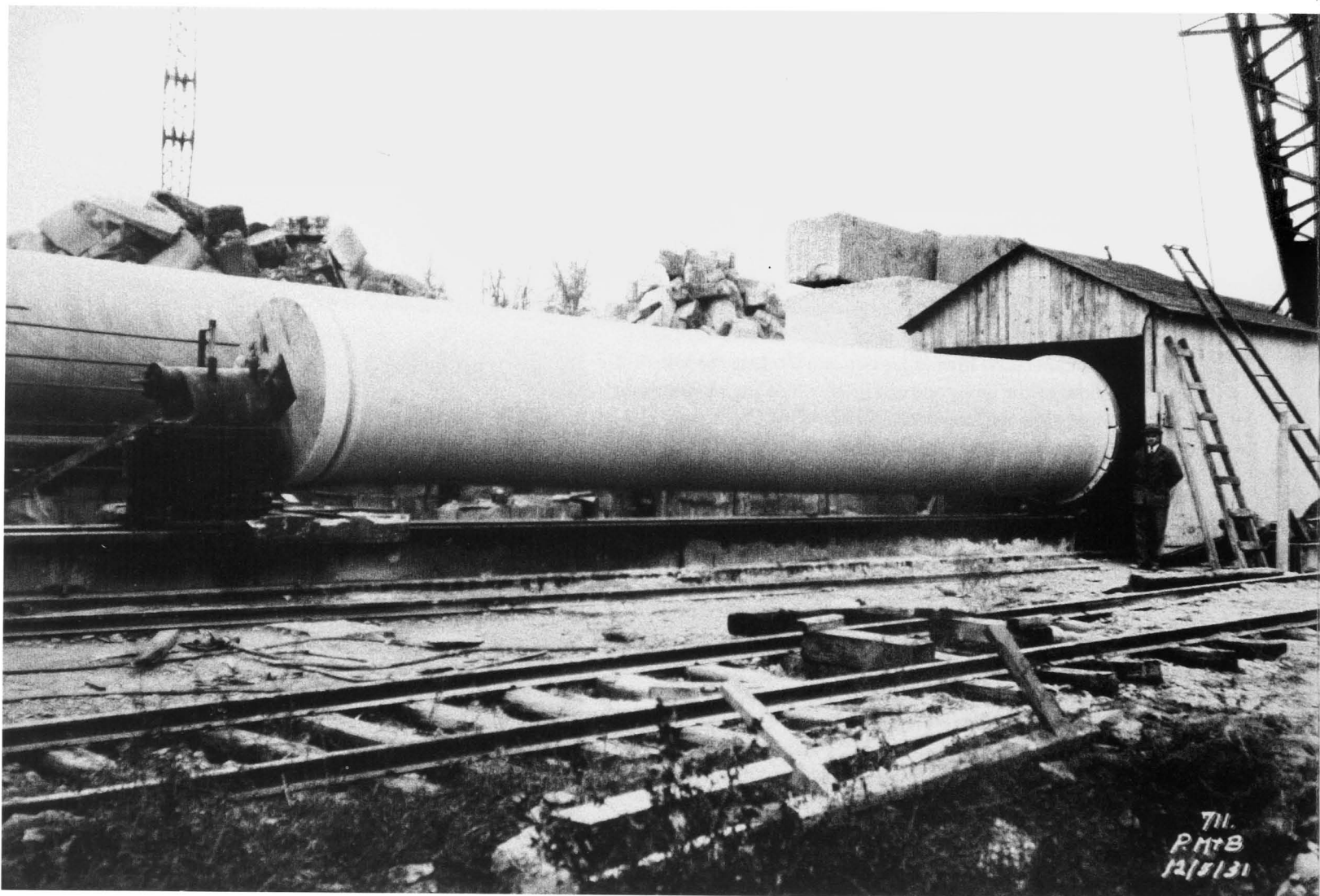
44:—Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh, Pa.



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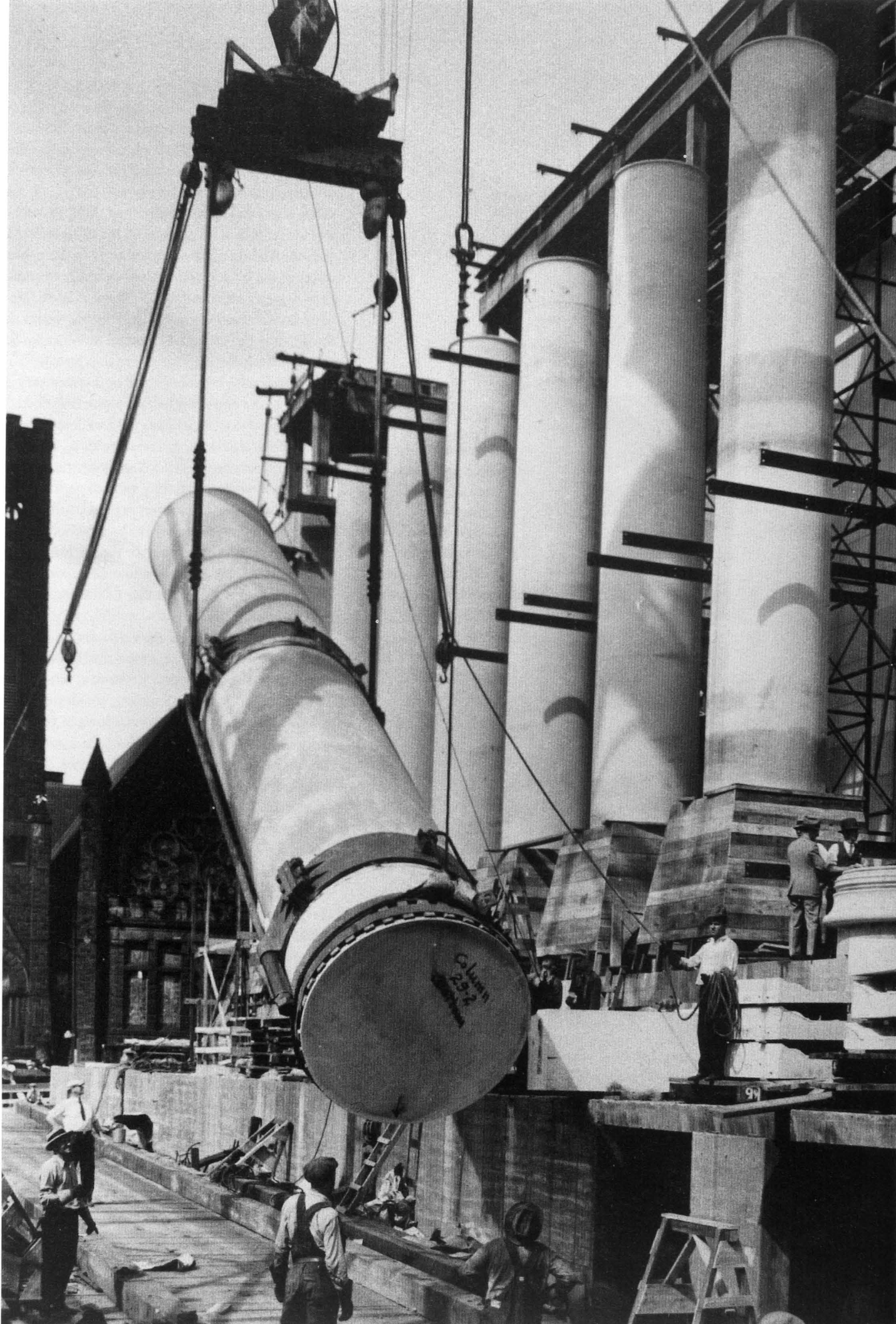


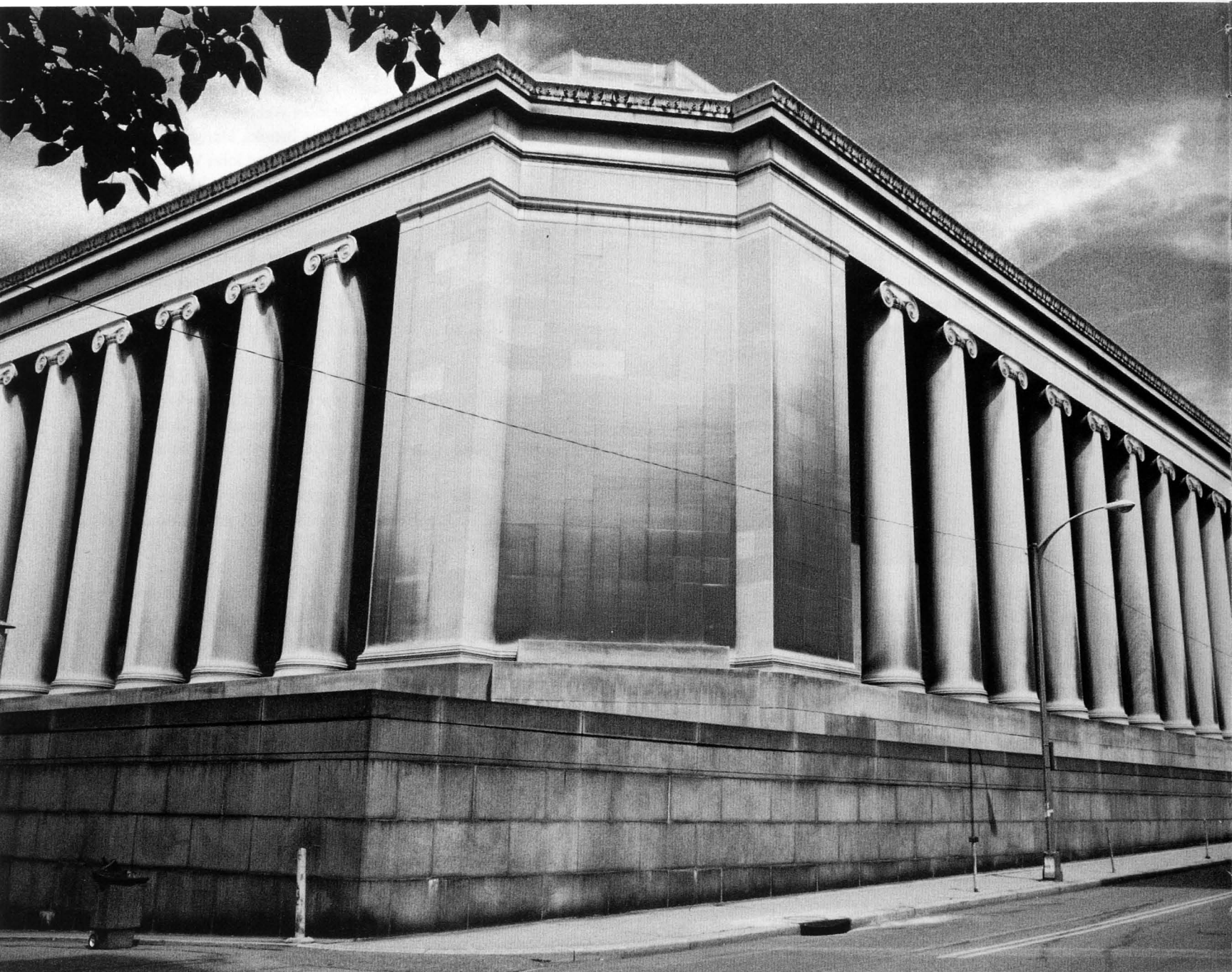
Mellon Institute's focus on experimentation was applied in the design of its own new building. In 1931, a full-scale model of a corner pier and two columns were erected in Fox Chapel, and studied for 19 months.



Each imposing limestone column was quarried as a whole at Bedford, Ind. The columns were shaped at the quarry so that upon arrival at Pittsburgh's East Liberty freight yards, its weight had already been halved to about 59 tons.

It took about two hours to hoist each column onto its leveled base. Only its weight holds the column in place.





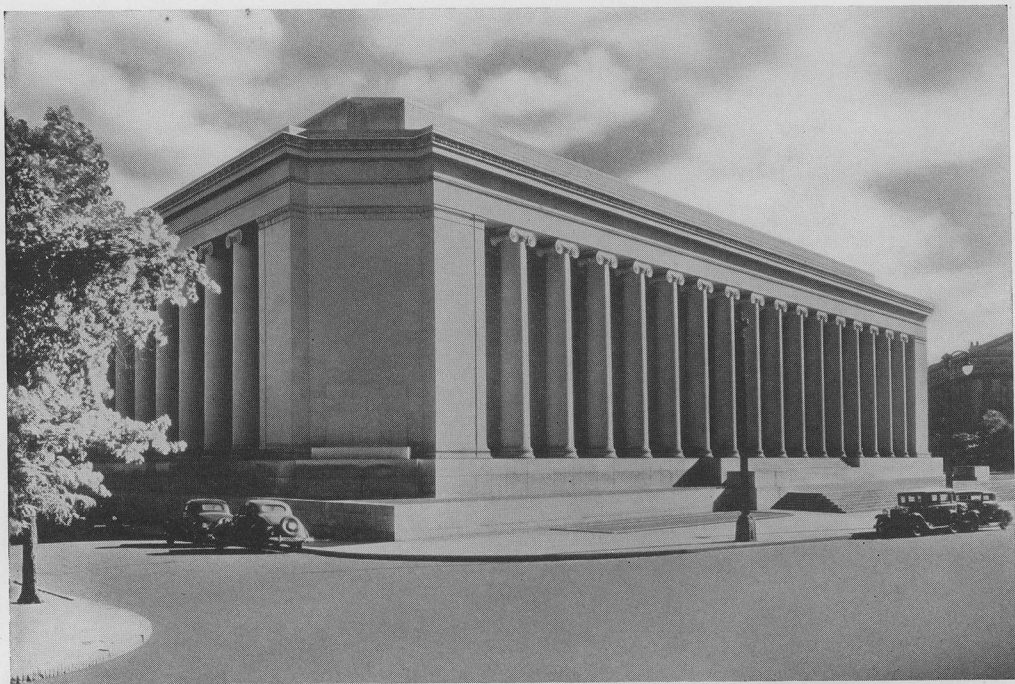
The architecture of the institute, Bellefield and Fifth Avenue in Pittsburgh's Oakland District, was based on classical design, especially the Greek Parthenon.

A TRIP THROUGH THE
NEW BUILDING OF
MELLON INSTITUTE



PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

1937



The New Home of Mellon Institute

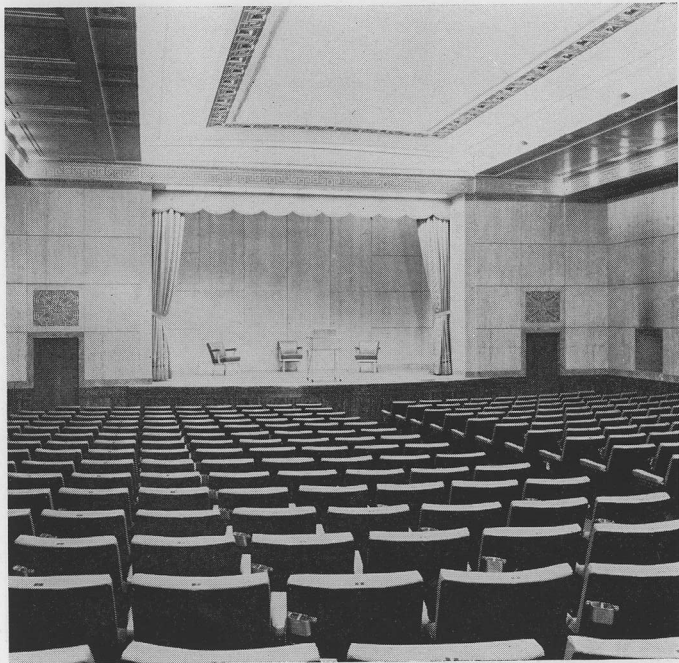


Pillars of Science

MAIN LOBBY



A View in the Main Lobby



The Auditorium

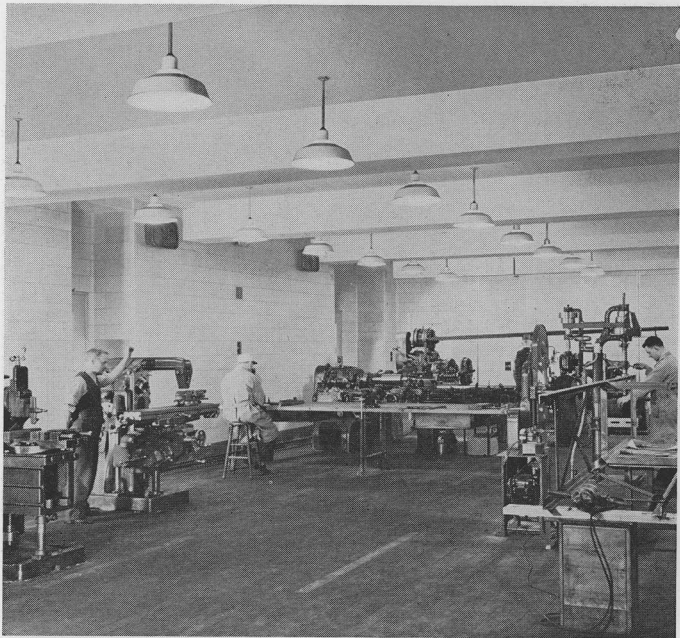


The Social Room

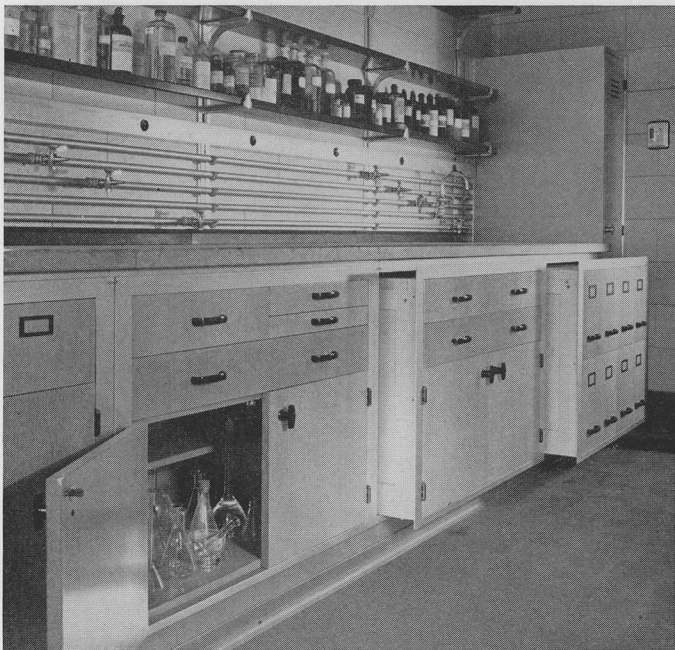
appointed kitchen, and beyond are the quarters of the
Robert H. ... Club ...



The Library Reading Room



Main Machine Shop



Laboratory Tables



A Fellowship Laboratory

distilled water, vacuum, steam, and single- and three-phase electric current; currents of special characteristics can be