

'Modern' Art Will Stay, Says Watson at League Lecture

Modern art, now translated into brick and stone, concrete and terra cotta, is definitely in America and staying, according to Dudley Crafts Watson, who spoke at Matz Hall, Community house, Monday night, under the auspices of the North Shore Art league.

"When someone puts a vicious, gay splash on a canvas and calls it a modern painting, the art world may regard it as a frivolous gesture," said Mr. Watson, "but when modernism gets into the field of architecture, into brick and steel and concrete, it is here to stay—it can be regarded as a serious effort and lasting beauty."

Mr. Watson's sometimes frivolous, sometimes serious, occasionally incisive, summation of the steps in the development of that style in architecture that we call American and modern interested his audience. He complimented the Art Leaguers and others who were present when he declared that Chicago was destined to be the center of truly American architecture and stated that nowhere else were there architects, young architects, of such great promise, artistry and capabilities as here. His talk was illustrated with some charming examples of both residential and business architecture in Chicago and environs, in addition to classic examples and specimens of modern tendencies in architecture elsewhere in America and on the continent in Europe.

He credited Louis Sullivan, designer of the Transportation building at the Chicago world's fair in 1893, with being the parent of the new school of architecture, and credited Frank Lloyd Wright and others with greatly advancing his work. He predicted that the coming Chicago fair in 1933 would

unquestionably bring the architectural leadership to Chicago and hinted at some of the wonders to come.

Chicago today, he said, was making great expenditures for beauty in its newest buildings, and applauded the present day departure from the great American 'shirt front school' of architecture. If he went into undue raptures over some rather horrendous examples of modern architecture it was excusable, because he was tracing the trend and showing the steps by which such masterpieces as the new Daily News and civic opera buildings evolved.

"We can no longer depend on size and cost as the American standard of worth," he declared. "While we may have few great buildings, we will have many that satisfy human longing for things that are beautiful, balanced, correct, and thoroughly satisfactory. Beauty is a measure of perfect utility, perfection of purpose. Most of the money being spent on new Chicago buildings is not merely to satisfy the rent fiends, but to give them that true beauty which comes with perfect utility."

"The new school, the new feeling in architecture, is producing something that we never dreamed, a few years ago, could have happened."

A pleasing if somewhat controversial digression from the main theme of his lecture was his declaration that architecture was the greatest proof of man's faith in his own immortality—the fact that he would build for posterity indicated a great spiritual urge. "Music may be purely physical," he said, "poetry completely temporal, even art only personal glorification, but the piling of one stone upon another is proof positive of man's belief in the unending succession of generations to come."

MUSIC CLUB MEETS

The Senior Music club of New Trier High school met at the home of Willa Snyder in Glencoe last Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. White, 1446 Edgewood lane, spent last week-end in Madison where they attended the Chicago-Wisconsin game.

Waldo Allen, 1405 Edgewood lane, left Thursday for the east to attend the Yale-Harvard football game today.

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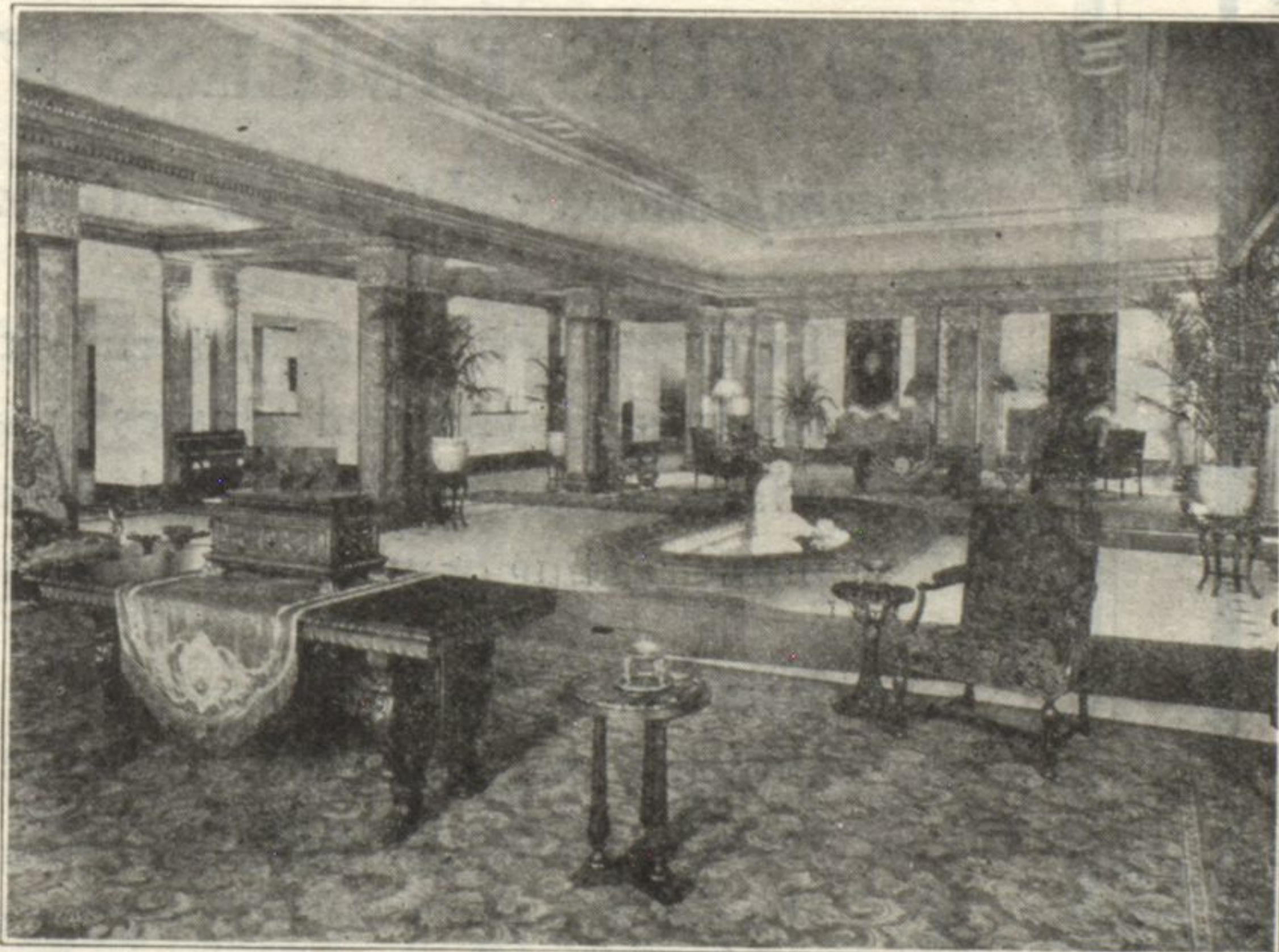
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