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Palace of state: the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, ed. by Thomas E. Luebke. U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 2018. 245p index ISBN 9781625343628, \$45.00.

Palace of State is noteworthy on several counts. It offers abundant new information on a key work of 19th-century public architecture in the US—a building that is well known but previously scantily examined. The book also offers extensive context on the great surge of ambitious public building construction during the Gilded Age—again a topic that has suffered from scholarly neglect. And there is welcome material on the building's architect, Alfred Mullett (1834–90), who shaped the complexion of major federal buildings for more than a decade. The building's then state-of-the-art technology and its demanding construction program are examined in detail. *Palace of State* looks not only at the building's original function—it housed the Departments of State, War, and the Navy—but also at how those functions changed over time and the conversion of the building to executive offices for the president after WW II. The last of the book's eight chapters is devoted to the meticulous restoration of many parts of the building's fabric in recent decades. The book's large format, the enormous number of both historical and contemporary images, and the sumptuousness with which they are reproduced make the book as elegant as it is substantive. An exceptional resource for those interested in public and/or 19th-century US architecture.

--R. Longstreth, *George Washington University*

Summing Up: Essential. All readership levels.

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