

1st December, 1910.

Mr. John C. Olmsted,

U. S. Grant Hotel, San Diego, California.

Dear John:-

I am very much interested by your letter of the 24th about your Exposition plan; I think it sounds first rate. I like the "Spanish Bridge" idea and the "Spanish Garden" immensely. I do not understand what it is in connection with the "Spanish Bridge" that Miss Sessions assured you she can do. It might refer to getting the money or ^{to} covering the bridge with vines.

In that connection it occurs to me that just as with architectural or sculptural decoration so with vines on this Spanish architecture, it would be most effective to bunch them or mass them, leaving considerable areas of wholly flat undecorated wall for contrast. I mean to say that in reading your letter two pictures of the bridge and of some of the buildings rose in my mind in succession and one in which the masonry was almost

completely embowered and buried in luxuriant foliage of creepers seemed to me less interesting and appropriate to the circumstances and kind of architecture than the other, more suitable to rustic or Gothic work than to the Spanish. Another point that occurred to me which you probably have fully in mind is the desirability of providing slight breaks and accentings in the long exterior cloister without interrupting its general character. Its tile roof, for example, instead of being continuous past all of the buildings might be interrupted at least by some of the buildings, through the fronts of which the covered way would pass as a loggia, a ~~wall~~ ^{tile-roofed gable} wall of the building resting on the columns. -

If the ravine is narrow enough to permit a Spanish bridge like some of those exceedingly interesting and characteristic old viaducts and bridges in Spain of which I have seen photographs it would be great. I hope you are still expecting to get back at Christmas.

Affectionately yours,

Why Greek, the theatre? Why not Spanish too in detail and treatment i.e. a Spanish Roman adaptation of the general plan of a Greek theatre, such as were built in Spain in Greco-Roman days.