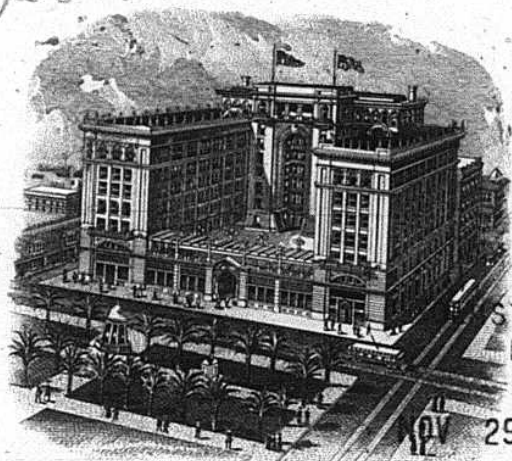


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GRANT-HOLMES HOTEL OPERATING COMPANY.



1910
U.S. Grant
HOTEL

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EUROPEAN PLAN

ABSOLUTELY FIRE PROOF.
JAMES H. HOLMES, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

ACK'D

BY

San Diego, Cal. 24th Nov. 1910.

ANS'D

Dec

BY

READ BY

Fr

Dear Rick;

Thank you very much for your thoughts on my problem here.

I think my plan and ideas are just about along the lines you speak of.

In the first place the Comtee started off well by determining that the architecture should be in the "California Mission style" or as one of them insisted in "modified Spanish style."

Then the Chairman if fortunately a man of good taste in the gardening side.

So I expressed my sympathy with their ideas and between the 13th & 16th evolved the prel. pl. which they have ap.

proved.

The main ideas are to have an outside and an inside plaza both surrounded by a mission arcade or cloister or ambulatory 25' wide with simple arches and Spanish tile roof.

Behind this and attached to it are the various buildings, mostly in pairs but of various sizes to fit the topography and with no imposing and elaborate facade toward the plaza but low and simple.

Beyond this rising plateau (5%) almost completely covered with bldgs is a ravine (canyon they call it) 80' or so deep. There are also ravines to right & left. Their slopes are beautifully covered with native bushes. The ravine at the upper end is 3300 ft long. I cut off 700' at the upper end for an emergency reservoir (which delights the City Engineer & the Water Commission) which forms my tangible head for a series of informal & formal pools in the bed of the ravine 2600 ft long which again form the mirror or gem decoration of what I am pleased to call the "Spanish Garden." In



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JAMES H. HOLMES, MANAGING DIRECTOR:

San Diego, Cal.

that there will be walks and stairs, terraces, balustrades, fountains, arbor pergolas, summer houses, grottos, etc., until the money gives out! but preserving most of the wild bushes adding enrichment of ^{foreign} shrubs, trees & vines galore, but few tender bedding plants.

A "Spanish Bridge" crosses the ravine quarter way up from lower end. 70' or 75' high - 5 arches 50' to 60' span of reinforced concrete if I can get the money & covered with vines. Miss Sessions assures me she can do it.

Across the ravine, cliff dwellings, a pueblo, scores of Indian tribes in native tepees & costumes, Aztec ruins & such like -

In side of right hand ravine a Greek Theatre. Crossing this ravine a

-Greek bridge - leads to hill covered
with the bldgs of S. Am. Republics &
of our S. W. States.

In left ravine (easy grade street
leads in from lodging house district)
is the concession street. The far side
has existing houses backing on it.
Some Eucalyptus trees begin a screen
more to be added.

Four large bldgs contiguous
form a massive frontage 100' from
a new 90' street as the swell
front. All the bldgs possible to have
Court yards with arcades and
gardens. Bldgs to be covered with
vines bushes & trees - no decoration
outside except gables, pergolas, etc,
on top. Almost all doorways will
be under the ^(steep slopes & thin sides) plaza arcade, so no
need of much architectural ac-
cessories. Shall try to get most
built next year so 3 yrs for p'tly to
grow before exposition opens.

Don't that sound good?

Yours affectionately
John C. Olmsted