

San Diego, Cal. 2d February, 1911.

Mr. C. Howard Walker,  
201 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.

Dear Walker;

I have your letter of 26th January. I did not know you were looking for the Panama-California job. Bertram G. Goodhue got it, on condition that he divide the work with Irving J. Gill, a local architect. I should have been delighted to have co-laborated with you here. The Buildings and Grounds Committee had decided from the beginning that the architecture must be Southern California Mission style. Goodhue was able to show them that he was familiar with it as he has been considerable in this section and also that he had made a thorough study of Spanish architecture in Mexico. He co-laborated with Sylvester Baxter in the latter's book on Spanish Colonial Architecture (Mexican). The Carnegie Library had the book and we got it out and showed it to the Committee. Also I gave a copy of Architectural Record for January, giving an account of his firm's work and that was impressive though not (with the possible exception of the cathedral at Los Angeles) directly illustrative of what they can do in Spanish Colonial architecture. Yes, the cathedral at Havana was another exception. Anyway he made a good impression and was promptly accepted.

He is to make preliminary sketches for the whole group of buildings and complete drawings for one permanent one (either the Art Museum or the Auditorium) and Gill is to supervise the preparation of drawings in the Director of Works' office on the ground, of all the drawings for the other buildings, and especially of whichever one of the permanent buildings Goodhue doesn't design. My brother, and Myron H. Hunt of Los Angeles and Frank P. Allen, Jr., the Director of Works, were chiefly instrumental (besides myself) in getting Goodhue employed.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) John C. Olmsted.

P.S. Don't fail to let me know in time whenever I can help you hereafter.