

Los Angeles

June 4, 1930

Dear Miss Morgan:

There are two things I talked over with Mr. McClure before leaving the ranch. Both seemed rather important.

The first one is the windows on the second floor of the new wings.

We devised two plans by which we could have genuine windows on the court side and keep this from being in any sense like a well.

The plan that provides for the two double windows with balconies seems to be the better because the windows will balance better.

But if this is not practicable, I think the other one will do, because the balconies will balance notwithstanding the fact that over one balcony will be two windows and over the other will be one.

Still, this latter is not the most pleasing plan. The second matter discussed was a communicating stair tower for the two bed rooms in the new towers - shall we call them - that we recently devised. We discussed the idea of having a small stair tower running up at one corner.

This has numerous disadvantages: first, the climb would be long; second, the stairs would be narrow; and third, in wet weather the occupants of these bed rooms would have to go outside the house into the yard in order to reach this stair.

All three of these things are disagreeable. I think that it can be avoided by eliminating that tall narrow stair turret altogether and managing communication from the octagonal towers of the main building.

I believe an oriel window could be put in beginning one flight up and connecting each octagonal tower with this new square bed room tower.

The oriel could, I think, be made rather attractive architecturally, and would have great value practically.

The lower two bed rooms could be reached from the main house tower after having ascended a flight, as the oriel window would begin one flight up and the first floor bed room could be reached through it.

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By continuing up this main tower sufficiently, the second floor bed room with the new square tower could be reached through the second floor of the oriel.

Furthermore, by taking the elevator off the assembly room up to the cloister arcade, this second floor room in the two square towers could be reached without so much painful climbing and in no case would it be necessary to go outside in the cold and wet.

Finally, I think the oriel window would look better than the narrow shaft of the stair which we had under consideration and would tie everything together better and not make the bed room in the two square towers look so isolated.

I did not have time to have Mr. McClure work out any sketch. If I have been able to convey the idea by this letter, you won't need any sketch.

I am expecting to leave Thursday night for the East. Any communication you may have for me will reach me in Los Angeles up to that time.

Sincerely,

W. R. Hearst.