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August 16, 1930

Mr. William Randolph Hearst
137 Riverside Drive
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Hearst:

at the Beach House

Your cabled instruction as to replacing wood basement stud walls where opened up, with concrete instead of wood, has been followed, and yesterday the last concrete was poured -- giving you a concrete wall under the columns nearly along the whole frontage, including those carrying the third story sun room. The marble is being replaced, and the premises should be in good shape by the end of the month.

The dust from the dirt road in front has been excessively bad this summer. I have been wondering if the dirt spaces could not be oiled. It would be so much less in cost than continual repaintings.

At the Hill, the tennis court wall forms are about ready for the concrete pour. The steel girders are being placed over the music room -- plastering work goes ahead inside the theater. Would you mind cabling whether you want the gold - gold-leaf like elsewhere, or just "German gold", i.e. gilt paint. Those big figures and surfaces will take a good deal of material, and the work of gold-leafing will be slow at best.

The tree men are at work on the burnt oaks, starting on the ones nearest roads. There is no work being done on the pergola proper, all columns being placed as mentioned in the last letter, but Mr. Rossi has carried the finished level along quite a distance on the north side -- as far as practical to do without the shovel.

The castle model is very pretty -- like a little dream.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

JM:F