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June 7, 1926.

Mr. William Randolph Hearst,
Ambassador Hotel,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Hearst:

We laid the Refectory ceiling all out on the Social Room floor - and for a time it seemed unsolvably too big, but at the last moment an idea came that I think will work. In any case it will allow the ceiling to go up without any cutting so that if you judge the scale too large it will not be much effort to get it down at some future time, intact. The idea is this -- The octagonal panels are made like coverless boxes with a collar or flange around the edge. By loosening up at A, the collar can be slipped down as in Sketch #2, and a moulding be added to take care of the appearance. Then the beams can be put up without any sides, (see Sketch #2).

These with the lowering of the plaster moulding now in place against the wall will give us room just by the skin of its teeth.

After puzzling all day over the effect, I have come to this conclusion; -- there is beauty and charm in the indefinite, intangible thing, that leads the imagination on -- and we had that the other night with the gray beams and their soft shadows -- and there is the beauty and interest in fine strong definite and imaginative detail which this ceiling will bring into the room. Perhaps the flatness forced by conditions will make this large scale ceiling tie into its surroundings as it would not with its original heavy deep beams and deep panels. In any case we have glimpsed one room and will have another -- and it will be interesting to compare the effects.

Sunday I made the necessary drawings so that Mr. Rossi could go ahead and put up one section of the ceiling across the room, as a tryout, -- and will go back as soon as he has it up.

The steel was all placed Saturday for the

Mr. Hearst #2,
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main pool floor which will be poured tomorrow -- and
it will certainly be ready for the marble by the
time it arrives. I have asked Mr. Rossi not to di-
vert on other work outside the building until he
has the second pool and the work generally in this
area done.

Yours very truly,

JM-dm