

OFFICE OF
WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST
LA CUESTA ENCANTADA
SAN SIMEON, CALIFORNIA

April 26, 1932.

Dear Miss Morgan :

I have an idea which I have outlined to Mr. McClure. I think it should provide the crowning glory of our Hilltop. It is this:

Instead of having the rotunda east of the patio which we had contemplated, to have a great ballroom and banqueting hall, which shall extend from one wing to the other and completely enclose the patio.

This room would be 150 feet long and would contain eight great Gothic tapestries, four on the east wall and four on the west wall.

These Gothic tapestries are about 26 X 14 feet. That means that they would occupy more than 100 feet of the wall space, and would leave about 50 feet for entrance, and a certain space between the tapestries.

Opposite the entrance we could put our big reredos, if that is what they call the thing.

The hall should be about the height of the refectory, and should be lighted by windows from the top, and we could use the material we were going to use in the cloister to make these windows.

Byne is just sending us a great ceiling, something over a hundred feet long, and we could piece that out a bit at either end.

I am asking Brummer to get those French flamboyant Gothic fireplaces, one to go at either end of the hall.

I think this can be made the grandest hall in America.

The width must depend somewhat on the space available, but I would think that 40 feet would be possible and satisfactory.

This structure could contain some of the other features of the rotunda, such as the lower vaulted floor, and perhaps at the center something above the great hall to give shape and character to the building; but the great hall of course would be the dominant feature.

When this hall is not in use as a ballroom or a banqueting hall, it could be used to contain some of the important collections in cases in the middle of the room. We could also use a lot of armor there.

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The hall would connect on the South with the kitchen wing, so that service could be obtained there for the banquets.

On the North it would connect with the theatre and access could be had to the hall through the theatre when shelter was required.

The main entrance would be like the rotunda's, and probably an East entrance from the esplanade would be similar to what we planned for the rotunda.

That is the scheme!

Isn't is a pippin?

It not only makes a marvelous hall but by enclosing the patio with an important structure, it will make the patio more impressive.

Sincerely,

Your assistant architect,

WR Hearst
Jed