

November 27, 1939.

Dear Kan,

So you were more or less promising me a letter! I'm amazed, I am. 'Tis I who should do the promising but far be it from me to complain at such mistakes !

Anyhoo I read all your epistles with great delight, whether they be addressed to me, to Mother or to Dave. And I have quite a mind's eye picture of Taliesen and its inmates now. By the way, who is honored by being permitted to loan you its typewriter this time ?

I don't know why it is taking me so long to get into this letter, perhaps because I have written so few of late that I am a bit rusty. It would be so much better to have a good old Garden Clinic gab fest - ah me! Perhaps you had better see more movies of New York. We are working on an idea right now that would let us guarantee you a hammer and nails at all hours with boards enough to build all the scaffolding (with one F or two which ever you prefer) your little heart desires.

Remember that house behind the white-edged stockade fence across the road from here ? The Andersons moved out a couple of months ago and I suggested that we would take it if the owner wanted to give it away. More people sprang up to help sell the trust company on our merits as tenants and we now await the final decision. Ofcourse there are only fourteen acres to the property and fifteen rooms to the house but we are willing to put up with such things for the sake of Art or something! Seriously, tho, we did negotiate for the place and are to know this week whether or not the idea would be feasible. Peg and Dave with their family would take over one section of the house - five rooms & two baths - and Mother and I the other apartment on the second floor consisting of three rooms and bath. There is a room and bath off the main hall down stairs for Shogo and two rooms with a connecting store room for the office. The large living room we would use as a general play room for all and make the dining room a living-dining room with Mother's furniture for the present as we ain't got no dining room suite. The house is at least a hundred and fifty ~~year~~ years old but has been modernized to the extent of an oil burner and good plumbing.

I am in love with the place, in fact have been ever since we moved out here. But how it could be financed I don't yet see. The rent, yes. But we would have to clean up the property and mend the barn and the general upkeep would run higher than what we have now. Still the advantages are great also. Shogo thinks that we could make a ground cover nursery out of one acre without much initial outlay. Plant the things high and handle them like sod instead of in pots as ~~xxxx~~ all of the

Long Island growers do at present. Also we would have room to collect our crooked trees so that you would have a side issue to handle along with your building of scaffolds etc. By the way, I haven't done any more with our decorative plant business as other issues have occupied my time. But we have been collecting some good specimens here and there so that by next fall some of them ought to be in pretty good shape.

Shogo really is going to start his school of flower arrangement this year but I am not so sure that I am going to go along with him on it. I believe that he would be better off to swing it himself, with Shirley to help with the business details of course and I am feeling that I ought to do something more along my own line for a few months. You spoke of such a thing in one of your letters and the craving to do things with my hands, something in the display or designing or decorative line is ~~at~~ awakening within me.

We have had a splendid fall. Mr. Rubel came back again and tried to chisel us down but Shogo stood firm. We gave him the blue print of the planting plan - he hadn't put in anything - and when he ~~took~~ took a long long time in studying it we sent him a bill for a nominal amount which we stated would be deducted from the contracts executed by us. We received the blueprint by return mail - with no comments.

Mr. Tanaka of Yamanaka introduced us to ~~axwsky~~ a wacky lad who has just done over an old house in Chappaqua in Westchester who wants a landscape job. He took to us so that he was fair to becoming as "mad" about us as he is over Japanese junk in general - but mad! However, while he approved the plans and said he would spend two thousand, an inconvenient nervous breakdown sent him away for a month and put off the work till early spring. I wish I could describe the man and the place to you. You would get a kick out of them both. Shogo almost burst a blood vessel, his traditions and esthetic sense screaming at such goings on, but he really enjoyed being entertained and designing the various sections of the place.

Enough about us for the moment. Please don't think that I have forgotten your negatives. I gave them to a friend to print for me and he was called out of town for several weeks due to the death of an uncle. However, he is back now and we ought to have some action before long. If you need them say the word and we'll put the screws on Phil.

I am glad, tho not surprised, that Mr. Wright has given you a break. You must have had fun with your tree moving. Yes, everyone is human. And the greatness is not in the man but in the idea he expresses. What greater things might be accomplished thru that one had he a bit more humility~~z~~ and genuine humanity in his heart.

You speak of getting home for the holidays. Are you going to California for Christmas? We haven't made any definite plans for that holiday ourselves but rather imagine we will gather here with a crowd.

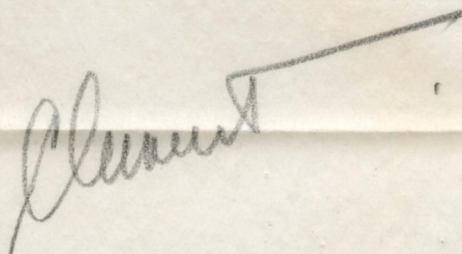
There seems to be plenty doing here in the building business. To what do you refer when you speak of hoping that something turns up in the contracting line ? Are you looking out for some specific type of work in that line ? I have lots of friends amongst the builders here. Old friends of Dads and I am sure you could a job if that is what you want. But tell me if you are going to San Francisco because I want you to look up Ernest Borne, I'll get his whereabouts for you. He used to be a wild radical but a swell modern designer and I understand that he did very well by himself this past year and employed so many draftsmen and assistants that he had no money left himself when the year was over.

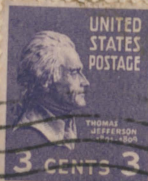
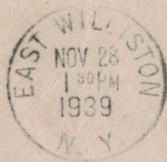
Antonin Raymond is here, you know. I haven't met him yet but I still think that his stuff, tho not as radical and individual as Wrights, is very fine and has a quality which is quite rare and so pleasingly gentle.

Well, anyhow you will have plenty to tell your grandchildren about + There seems as if there should be lots more to tell you about but I can't seem to think of them. ~~Having~~
~~xxxxxxx~~ Nothing important.

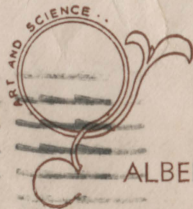
You know we shall look forward to seeing you again in New York - no matter when that may be.

As ever.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clement", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature towards the right margin.



Mr. Kaneji Domoto,
Taliesen,
Spring Green,
Wisconsin.



ALBERTSON, L. I.