

Dear Kan:

Sorry, long time no write. Been feeling a bit indisposed. And I wasn't sure about your address. I suppose you are pretty well settled down by now, though I'm not very sure just what your apprentice work is like, with K P duty and all that. If peeling potatoes will make a good architect out of you, I'm all for it. Is that a regular school over there? I guess not. It seems more like a place where a bunch of apprentices live and study together under the personal supervision of FLW. Sounds like a sensible idea, because you can't very well absorb his personality and what he breathes into his work unless you come in direct contact with him. You can't get that kind of teaching in the university where it is too academic. The same in medicine too, or for that matter in any branch of learning. Group of students under Pasteur or Welch of Johns Hopkins not only learned but also absorbed the very spirit and traditions of the great masters under whose tutelage they worked. "This type of activity is almost impossible in the state of mechanization reached by education. It can only take place in small groups, such as that of the first disciples of Pasteur, inspired by an ardent ideal, by the will to know. The young men who gathered around Welch, at the beginning of his career at the Johns Hopkins University, have been strengthened during their whole lives and made greater by the intellectual discipline into which they were initiated under his guidance." (Alexis Carrel--Man the Unknown). I hope you will find such a spirit there, and that the students there are earnest fellows and the FLW is a fine master and teacher.

Anyhow, you'd better learn to build good houses, because about 20 years from now I might be commissioning you for one, if you can wait that long, and that's a promise. That's one subscriber for you. In fact, I've been thinking a bit about the kind of house I'd want in this old place here. Such are the hopes and dreams upon which men live. There will be an entrance, a vestibule, on the right, on level with the street, from which steps will lead to the first floor. The steps will turn left at the top into the hall at whose front part will be the parlor. The remainder of the floor is taken up with the usual rooms (bedroom, dining room, etc). I think I will have the kitchen at the back (and not in the middle as it is now) overlooking the garden, since one must spend all day there, it may as well be sunny and cheerful. Next to that, overlooking the garden also, will be the dining room. Or maybe it might be better to place it right next to the parlor. The second floor will be a four room affair, a cozy little place for a bachelor or a small family, or else just bedroom and study and maybe a bathroom but no kitchen. That would leave the rest of the second floor sort of a roof garden or sun porch, big enough for a tennis, maybe. The roof will be sloping and covered with a brick colored tile or whatever you call them. There is a certain charm about living on the same street, watching the changing scenes, of families moving in or out, the little tots growing up, and you growing old with the neighborhood, the house and the life around it growing mellow with the years, and tradition bound.

You mention about Wright's designs being so far above those of other's. To tell you the truth, I couldn't tell one from the other.

I have been looking into my garden lately. While I've been absent therefrom, some one had planted a tomato plant right in the top of a nice little rock garden I had built. And I found the tomato plants and gourd plants planted in other places, wherever there were spaces available. And my Shirley poppies were leaning at 30 degrees close to the ground because somebody in watering always used a heavy stream from the hose; and the other side of my little mountain was yellow while this side was green because the water was given only from this side. Situation now under control.

I've been thinking it would be splendid if we can get the Jap Pavilion for the Japanese town here, to be used not only as a show place, but as a cultural center for disseminating Japanese culture to the public. Lectures and demonstration could be held there and the whole community would benefit therefrom. It can be made to play a very important part in the future of the Nissei. Something for the JACL to work for. As it is, Nissei life is rather scattered, with Buddhists, YMCA's and Boy Scouts; there is no community life, no cultural traditions, no suitable environment to mold the character and personality of the Nissei. You might have noticed as a result that the personality of the Nissei is rather diffuse and colorless. Getting the Pavilion for the Jap. Com. is getting to be my pet idea.

I hope this reaches you before you hit the highway again on your Pegasus.

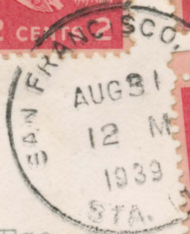
Your friend,

IM

429 Spruce St.  
San Francisco, Calif.



AIR MAIL



Kan Domoto, Esq.  
Talesin  
Spring Green, Wisconsin