

Kan:—

Say I'm sorry I haven't written  
until now. you see I went on  
a vacation just as your letter  
came — I went to Gilroy Hot Springs  
not for the hot baths but because  
it's so quiet there — stayed with  
Dad for two weeks + Mom for  
two weeks. — see not such a  
bad place — dead though — not a  
thing to do — have a pretty  
nice pool — box 15 — but that  
was taboo for me — so I just  
watched. nice and hot tho —  
dry air that was swell — lets  
a guy open up his lungs + breathe  
instead of that stifling heat around  
Stockton + Socto. Wasn't much for  
photos though — pretty lousy



up — from standing up all day  
in the gallery looking at the  
stuff. — the old stuff — 13th cent  
or about 18th & some in the 19th  
century paintings were under-  
standable — but when it got  
into the contemporary works —  
god! — what stuff! got sick of  
that stuff & skipped a good deal  
of it. nice stone work —  
stained glass work — etched —  
blown, etc. I'd like to go again,  
maybe before it closes.

Say you sure got into a  
swirl of it! a lot of practical  
experience with such a famous  
architect is sure to be valuable.  
Even tho he is a bit individualistic



accusing. So just sat around &  
gobbed with the people around.  
Okodas - (Mika Kobayashi) - Yonekuro  
came up a Sunday for a day -  
In fact, quite a few new people  
came - Mr Nakosima & wife & Mrs Kinoshita  
for a few days - Tsuchiya Mrs Mrs -  
a day - Shimizu, Mrs Murata & his mother -  
in law for a day - quite a few  
other people - too.

After that - I came home  
& was just logging it around.  
Went to the Fair today - saw the  
palace of Fair City - and came out  
6<sup>30</sup> pm. so that ~~was~~ was all for  
the day - took a roll of Kodachrome  
of the colored lighted buildings  
until about 10 pm & headed home  
boy! my thighs were just knotted.



is handy & not <sup>it</sup> takes too much  
room. at noth or 2 still useful  
front age. and most of all at  
a reasonable figure that means  
a usage of stock size lumber etc.  
By the way do you know of  
any kind of floor that is resilient,  
water proof, nice looking, non  
slipping, easily cleaned, ~~non affect-~~  
~~ed by water~~; floor. we were  
thinking of cork blocks that  
are used in Dairy stables - but  
it doesn't look so good. - It's  
still too early to be thinking yet  
though. W'd a like a new home  
too - green houses have to be  
rebuilt - replaced or something  
som - pretty soon! so



life goes that Johnson they bldg.  
a nice play. The place looks like  
a movie set - altho it is  
practical isn't it? The functional  
idea is the thing - but so few  
can afford it as yet.

Our store, if we ever build one,  
will have to be a efficiency #  
bldg. It's especially true to our  
where we hire people instead of  
a family enterprise. Thanks a  
lot for offering to work on a  
plan for the store, but it's  
still in the stage where we  
are looking up ideas that we'd  
like incorporated in the plan.  
for instance - feeding area -  
show garden, storage room that



dis store comes later. - if you  
just want fun - try this in your  
plans - V front <sup>(facing east)</sup> - windows at both  
sides with door in center -

door leading out right <sup>\*</sup> side  
to yard - waiting room in  
~~right~~ <sup>left</sup> <sup>\*</sup> wall - (<sup>\*</sup> facing front)

her room in back with flower making  
room. = place for flowers &  
plants - easily seen from outside  
- ~~the~~ display case for corsages - etc.  
wrapping table - cash reg. - etc.  
no window display fdgs - -

(at a reasonable price for a small  
store - ) any ideas for placing  
will be appreciated - her drawn  
quite a few plans in the last  
three years but they're too fancy  
when I get through -



By the way a diary like Chronicle  
 of what you do & feel in such  
 a swell place ought to swell  
 looking — such an unusual  
 place — with an interesting  
 teacher — exceptional students  
 etc. — a perfect set-up. I'll  
 think for a swell bit of photo  
 diary.

Just now in thinking of  
 getting reflections for a little portrait  
 work — perhaps a few filters — I  
 haven't looked in my graduation  
 gifts yet. — but I can't decide  
 which to buy. it's all right when  
 you got money to throw away but!

— Fred said Sumner had a



Contax III at the market - (  
'rother in low ó ) = boy Fredo  
not about it — all that  
chromium etc — express me to cat.  
who wouldn't be — boy oh boy  
how I'd like that around my  
neck —

Don't feel well — I hope you  
like ringing my  
neck too much —

so — I try to do  
better new things

Helen.

Kenshiatsu came up to Gilly to  
get his mother one day — pointed  
fields he wanted to do a few  
great ones around the Bay turn what

the kitchen



Dear Kan:

I am sending you the measurements of my "Ivory Tower". I guess the "dream house" will have to wait awhile; one thing at a time. So let's get on with my attic room. Don't get the idea that you have to design it, you know. This is just to keep you busy, and at the same time to give you practice. My brother is using the room now, so I'll have to think some way of taking him out of there. If I don't show him the plan, he may be glad to change with the downstairs room. There is another room at the east end, but it's occupied just now. Otherwise, I could use it for a study and use the west room for a bedroom. Between the two, there is a long space good for a studio, as I've told you before. I'm thinking of building a little theater there. But I'm getting way ahead here. I guess for the present, the west room will have to serve both as a bedroom and study. I suppose that complicates the matter of designing. The room turned out to be larger than I had imagined. There is one window in the west wall, the only source of daylight. I've been thinking of replacing the greater part of the wall, almost entirely except for the lower part perhaps, with glass. I don't know whether that's practicable, though I don't see anything to prevent it; there doesn't seem to be anything in the wall supporting the roof. The view is practically unobstructed.

How are you getting along with your studies? Judging from your letters, you don't seem to have gone as yet beyond the preliminaries. Does he teach you anything concerning the more formal sides of architecture, such as physics and strength of materials? How about sketching? A fellow I know, an architect, used to draw all the time; still does, for that matter---pencil and water colors.

I take it that Wright's Taliesin scheme is somewhat experimental, and perhaps it would be wiser not to expect too much, but to absorb whatever he has to offer, and if necessary to supplement it with other studies. With time and patience I don't see why you shouldn't become a good architect. You already have sufficient discernment and taste to pick out his work above other's. They need only be developed further. I think it only natural that you should have your doubts; we all do. Preference for a work goes a long way; the rest is up to hard work, perseverance, open mind, etc---good old fashioned, "garden variety" of qualities which form the basis I rather think, of any good lawyer, doctor, or architect. I don't think even Mr. Wright was born with a drafting pencil in his mouth. If you have doubts on that score, you might ask him. By the way how much personal interest does he take in his students?

When you are out this way, we will thresh out the whole thing; we will call in Herr Teufelsdröckh.

Well, not much news out here. They have started building a hospital about half a block from my back yard. If it won't be tall it won't affect the view much. My gold banded lily bloomed this year, thirteen large flowers, and quite fragrant, too.

The fair is closing by the end of this month, a month earlier. Seems they didn't make much money, so they want to close before incurring any losses. The other Sunday a record crowd visited the



place, about 187,000, but it turns out that about 150,000 got half price (25¢) tickets from the chain grocery stores, leaving about 37,000 regular (50¢) customers. So it figures out that the regular attendance might have been ~~double~~ more than doubled if the regular fare had been 25¢ in the first place. Live and learn.

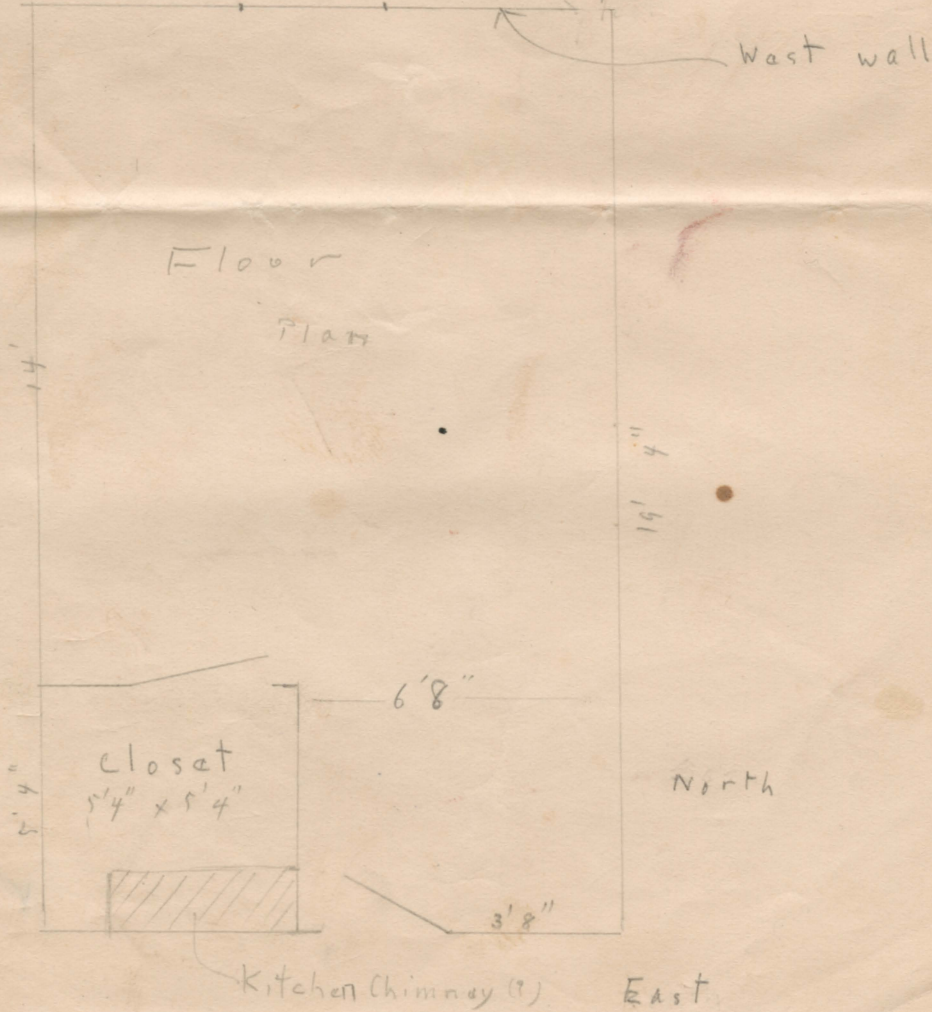
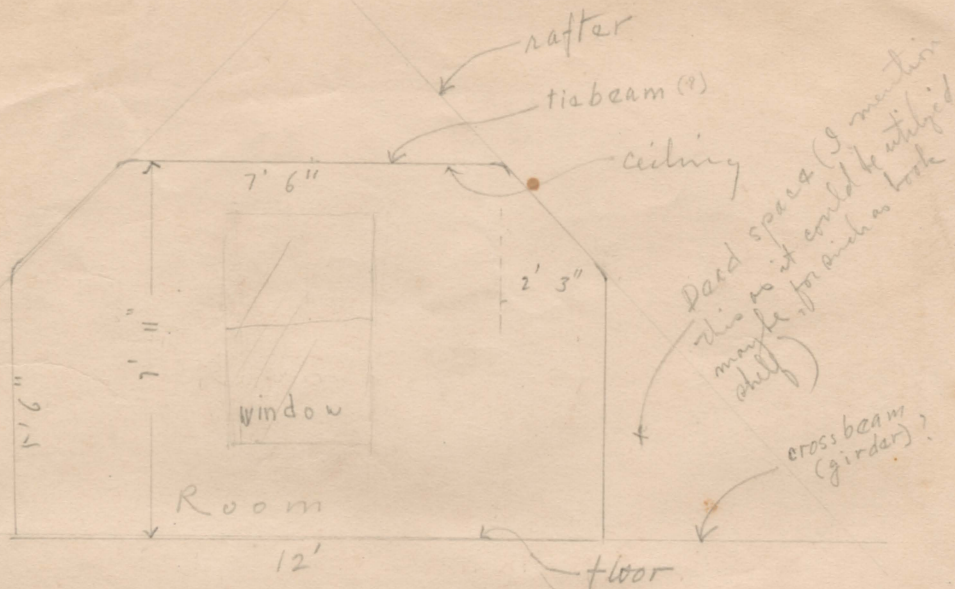
You might be interested in a recent book by Lewis Mumford. I think it deals with city planning.

I see Mr. Wright has other interests than architecture. There is a book by Walter Millis called "Road to War" which is timely. It recounts the steps which led to U S entrance in the last war.

Yours truly,

IM







*Announcing the opening of  
a New Camera Shop  
and Photo Finishing Plant  
At*

*223 California Street  
Between Battery and Front Streets*

*November 13th, 1939*

*Eastman, Carl Leiss, Laica  
Bell and Howell, Agfa & Argus  
Cameras and Photographic Supplies*

*California Street Camera Mart*

*H. J. Misumi*

*Photo finishing since 1898.*

*Phone Yukon 0582*



VIA AIR MAIL  
RICHMOND  
JUL 17  
4 30 PM  
1939  
CALIF.



MR KAN DOMOTO  
TALIESIEN  
SPRING GREEN  
WISCONSIN