

Saturday, March 31, 1956

Some remarks made by Mr. Woollett at an informal meeting in the new theater at Mackinac Island:

The concept of these buildings came from a perfect ideal and we are even more convinced now than a year ago that our faith is going to be realized. With the thoughts that have come to all of us coming out at times like these is anything going to come of any value.

This next phase with the selection of materials etc. ... If you feel this morning it is the guidance of your own hearts, let us not think in terms of answers at all but in terms of guidance with these new drawings. We all have to be honest and the epitome of integrity. The boldness of it is thrilling. We are letting people in on a secret, the secret of our lives, not as we hide it but as we live it and give it out it becomes powerful.

Please don't let me minimize the value of letting us hear yourselves talk so we can pick it up in the expressions of the buildings. It is the thought of many and only in that way can we all feel we have had a part. We must know your thoughts so we can get them down and go on with these next steps. The wall papers, etc. the poems we had at the Club for inspiration about the murals.

Everything has to be planned and thought out in advance. It has to come from very definite guidance. It just doesn't happen. At lunch we were talking about the conception of feeding here this winter! What does all this have to do with the slope of a roof or the slant of a wall. You may make a remark about a certain thing but it gives an indication of something else. I can't encourage you enough to express your thoughts and not hold back. If it is guidance it is going to fit somewhere. It will be discovered and used.

The lounge! When I first saw this I thought - "The size of this temporary shed". Lounge - Entrance 2700 square feet. (spoke about kind of tiles that could be used on the floor and showed samples)(extra coat rooms will be put here as it is now an entrance rather than entering directly into the Great Hall)

The Great Hall: the screens. the rug of historic note that was in the gold room of the White House 24'x48'.

The men right here in this work who are geniuses for detail.

Don Birdsall: The battle between materialism and faith. The finishing will be a triumph of faith. The final using of these buildings to remake the world. God means that every person who has had anything to do with these buildings will be different because of it.

Mr. Woollett: God's will will prevail. We here are being challenged to the higher life similarly to the challenge meeting the team in Europe. Men will receive in Mackinac the electronics of the spirit the same way they are receiving it through these dedicated lives night after night in the theaters across Asia.

As we sat here a year ago on this naked ground we didn't know anything. We are going to be shown. It is happening before our very eyes.