

RUTH M. HAVEY · *Landscape Architect* ✻ TWENTY-FIVE FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

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Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
1537 Twenty-eighth Street
Georgetown, Washington 7, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Bliss,

The model for the Melisande Steps is finished---not an exhibition piece---but a good solid contraption and portable--- built to the scale of one inch equals one foot and showing a little more than half. I will shepherd it to Washington---it probably would not take kindly to shipping.

I am enthusiastic about the way it gives the whole story at a glance and shows the various curves of the steps and seat in relation to one another from various angles as no amount of drawing could have done. In fact I think we would find the study of several of our problems in small scale models even more useful than the full size dummies we used to erect, and much more flexible.

The fixed parts like the stone wall and the line of the steps are built solidly in wood and plaster and the parts we want to design, like the sides of the steps and the splay of the wall and the seat are done in clay so that we can change them around as much as we like. So be prepared with rubber gloves as I hope you are going to want to dig right in if I haven't caught the spirit of your brain-child.

It took three days to build it up and the cost of materials was an item but we can use them over and over and the next time it will not take so long to figure out ways and means of handling the medium.

Having brought this to a state where a conference is the next step I will now turn to some of the other things on the agenda on which some work has been done. I wish Ralph would send me the dimensions of the arbor garden and the parking space. The more I visualize a largish sundial of some sort on the ground in the arbor garden and the rest of the space gravel or paving---and the more I delve into the subject of telling the time by the sun---the more I like the picture. Did I remember to tell you I am enjoying working with you?

I had another thought for the Green Garden Inscription. The idea of sinking the panel and recutting it does not seem to me a permanent solution, though I will try to get Mr. Coles's views on this---Mr. Bryce told me he is living in New York now. But it also concerns me to think of cutting down the narrow margin that is around the inscription now with a moulding or a bevel or even a shadow if the cut is made straight back. Perhaps I am being too finicky but since we are searching anyway for the perfect durable stone for the finalities why not wait until we have had success here and then replace the other with the same stone

three or four inches thick, drilling back the surface of the present limestone and dowelling from behind, and not disturbing the panel on the swimming pool side.

Then it could be cut here where I know the Presbrey-Leland stone-cutter is good and where I could keep an eye on it, and shipped to Washington to be set by some local stone mason if need be. I suggest this because men who can do good hand-cut lettering are rare. The rubbing we have is pretty good and an even more accurate one could be made, but the safest and simplest way would be to ask Mrs. Farrand for three prints of the original drawing---as just a small difference in the thickness of the letters-----well, as you see, I bite my nails while an inscription is being cut.

Sincerely yours,

Frederic C. Harvey