

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

August 12, 1956

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss  
Care of Morgan Bank  
Place Vendome, Paris

Dear Mrs. Bliss---

Thank you for your card sent from Ravello. I enjoyed catching an echo of what a refreshing summer you must be having. Your vision of my slipping up on the arbor terrace caught me breathless as hardly a waking moment has been spent any other way since you left. It has been I think the hardest nut I have ever tried to crack and often I have wished that you were within hailing distance. Reconciling the grades---tieving in the scrolls with the steps---whether or not to step up to the balcony and raise the grade around the wall as everybody else seems to want---all these concerns and many others have been considered carefully even in rough model---and by the last of July I knew, with the deadline approaching, this had to be it---much as I would like to work over it longer. As I look over the old drawings I am glad I didn't jump headlong into it in June.

Meanwhile we have located beautiful great big junks of Doria in Long Island City, which is near New York, and persuaded Mr. Colonna, a marble dealer who had already sold it that his customer would let us have it and import some more by the time his job was ready to use it. Romborg is disappointed that we are not to use his limestone and is at odds with Amoroso. We could go to Phelps or even send the drawing for execution to the dealer in Tennessee who owned the Doria---probably the least expensive procedure but the most risky. Doria is the dearest stone we use and I feel we must use it economically but without pulling in our horns in the wrong place,---and the job must be as good a one as the Romborg firm can turn out. Mr. McLeash, a Romborg partner, has finally gotten everybody to work together and is busy now on the shop drawings. He expects to begin to deliver about Labor Day and Amoroso will be ready for him.

I hope you will think the plans are good. I like the shape if it can be tied strongly with Doria both to the arbor and to the South Gate. I saw the Doria and it is really handsome. Because of this and because the moulded inner face of the scrolls should cast a very pretty shadow I would like a plain center of the same gray crab orchard as the surrounding area---for its sun and shade value---some grayleaved wooly thyme which blooms white between the stones. In telling Amoroso to do this I have the reservation in mind that if you are disappointed not to have a pebble pattern the decision need not be too final. The gray crab orchard would be laid dry on the same foundation (gravel) we would use for pebble paving. It is a good stone and not easy to obtain and could be used elsewhere if you do not like it here.



In the center I visualize a rather free grouping of potted plants on and around two or three moveable shaped planks---either of Doria or teakwood and lead---and this seems to me a nice lazy place to use our snail motif.

As for other items---

Perspective Lattice---pretty well along but slow.

Arbor Inscription---both panels plastered---Coles working on lead letters

Swimming Pool Steps---Railing promised for August 31st. Have had to leave this entirely to Finelli---with crossed fingers.

R Street Gates---Main gate gilded. Kearney says it looks well and that they threw in a rather thorough job of scraping and painting the rest of the gate. Will see it tomorrow. They are anxious to go ahead and do the second gate but I think I will wait and see how our money holds out as I have been unable to get costs on the Arbor Terrace.

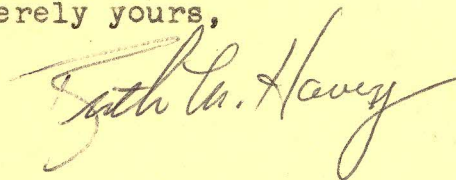
Seat in Bosquet---Promised for August 31st (Lank)

Didymus seat---Promised for September 30th (Lank)

Box Terrace Paving---no time for this yet. Will take it up as soon as the arbor terrace eases up.

Well---enjoy your moment of respite. Things are going as fast as I can possibly make them go here.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Seth C. Harvey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Seth C. Harvey".