

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
BRONX PARK (FORDHAM BRANCH P. O.)
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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HENRY DE LA MONTAGNE, JR.

Frère Marie-Victorin
Directeur de l'Institut Botanique
Université de Montréal

Sept. 17. 1932

Dear Professor Victorin :

With the same mail I am sending you three sketches for a possible development of the corner in front of the Botanical Garden building. These can not be more than tentative sketches, of course, since I have not seen your grounds and know hardly anything about your local conditions, personal wishes etc., all of which I must know for a really all around satisfactory and workable solution. I am sending you these sketches only because of the indefinite delay of action concerning my visit to Montréal, and to demonstrate to you some of the possibilities of development. I am afraid that, as in the case of the location of the powerhouse, again some development might be decided upon - like, for instance, the building of a fence - which, if not very carefully considered, might rob you of other chances for a perfect arrangement and layout. The corner in front of the building must be very thoroughly studied before its development is decided upon, since that is the show-window of the garden and should be as beautiful and attractive as gardening art can make it.

To take as base for a development the paved street which runs into the garden, I consider to be absolutely undesirable. I have studied this possibility from every possible angle, and I can not arrive at a satisfactory solution with main entrances near the corner. The best solution which I can find, which justifies the cross-corner location of the building and at the same time reserves the ground in front of the building for a garden development, is the main road suggested in my sketches.

Sketch 1. which was the first I made, treats the whole corner as one rather large water- and bog-garden. You will observe that a lowered path runs along one side of the basins with the bogplants, which brings the plants closer to the eye and permits of their convenient study. The foot-paths on both sides of the long, central basin would be covered with flagstones. The long Iris beds would have a unifying effect. This development would undoubtedly be very effective and quite magnificent but also rather expensive in construction as well as in maintenance.

Sketch 2. is more intimate, allowing for two gardens instead of one but preserving a long, gradually widening, central view from the corner to the building. The pedestrian entrance provided for on the corner - Mr. Kerouak told me that you were in favor of that - might be opened only at special occasions or perhaps on certain days - like Saturdays and Sundays - when a guard may be placed there. At any

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Tauscher, H. to Marie-Victorin B

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rate, it would serve in an ideal way as a window from which the flower display may be viewed advantageously.

The five terraces of the Annual Flower Garden would have to be treated in different colors. For instance: the front terrace - next to the entrance - in orange and lilac, the center terrace in pink and white, the back terrace in gold and purple, and the two side terraces in blue and silver-grey. The two blocks of clipped hemlocks in the center of the sketch would serve as a dark background for the flower garden as well as a frame for the central view. From there the view would widen with the parting roads. The center triangle planted with roses would be about 1 ft. lower than the roads; it would be surrounded by a low stone wall and be not accessible to the public. Towards the main road in front of the building the triangle would be set off by a low, ornamental, wooden fence covered with climbing roses. The two side roads, hidden in the hemlock planting would serve also as service roads and would make the flower garden easily accessible for a light truck.

Sketch 3 presents only a modification of sketch 2, suggesting a water - and bog garden in place of the annual flower garden. Only the center part of this garden with the waterlily basins and the Iris beds would be seen from the entrance or the roads; the basins with bog plants would be hidden behind the Iris. Since the Iris make a show only for a comparatively short season, they should receive an edging with some other plant, perhaps an annual, which flowers after them. Also here the central view has been preserved and the general effect of this arrangement is also sure to be good.

Of course, there are other possibilities for the development of this corner, but these sketches - which, by the way, do not pretend to be accurate drawings - may serve as samples. Perhaps that you can show these to the city authorities and urge them on to grant me a visit. The year is rapidly advancing, and I am getting terribly impatient. If you really want to start your garden in the spring, there would be so many important preparations which could be made now and should be made before the ground freezes. But, what is the use to advise you by letter? You do not even answer me.

Hoping to hear from you soon

I am as always very sincerely yours

H. Teuscher

H. Teuscher
170 Truman Ave.
Nepera Park, N.Y.