

Frère Marie-Victorin  
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Aug. 13. 1932

Dear Professor Victorin :

I received your letter of Aug. 10. and, of course, I shall be glad to meet Mr. Kivouac when he comes to New York, and I shall be happy to present to him my point of view. Still, I maintain that it would be much better, if I could come to Montreal, even, if it was only for a day or two. My expenses could not possibly amount to much, and, I am sure, that would serve in the best way the interests of your garden. The design which I have made for the corner in front of the building is still in pencil, and I hesitate to put it in ink, since it can be nothing but tentative, until I have seen your grounds and have had a talk with you. I remembered that you told me, that you would like to see a water- and bog-garden in front of the building, so I followed this suggestion. The design is strictly formal, at least in its center-portion, and it would, I am sure, prove to be not only very attractive and instructive but also thoroughly practical. Naturally, the building of all the basins would be expensive. But the design is of such a nature that you could develop it gradually. You could start with the grading and terracing and need not build any basins at all right away, if you can not afford them. Just treat the whole thing as a flowergarden for a few years, until you have money to spare to build the basins. Then build as many as you can, every year a few.

I have of late given much thought to the problem of the development of your garden, and I have reached the following conclusions. I know that you have never wanted me to do anything without pay and that on the other hand I have actually implored you frequently to let me help you. I am hungry for action, and your wonderful project intrigues me so much, that I should really be glad to lay out your whole garden on my own expense, if I could afford such a thing. The matter is only that I can not afford it, and that I really could use very well a few extra dollars. It seems to me that it would be much better for both of us, if we could somehow come to some kind of a business agreement on the whole matter.

The design to the corner in front of the building I should be glad to give to you under two conditions. Firstly that you give me a chance to see your grounds and to make sure that my design is really what you want. If any changes are desired, I shall be glad to change my plan, until it suits you. You need not pay me a salary when I come up there for a day or two, just refund my expenses for railroadfare and board. Secondly that when you lay out my plan, you will credit me with its authorship. No changes must be made on it later on without my knowledge and consent. I would give you this design not out of the goodness of my heart but as a sample of the work which I can do, in the hope that it will serve as an argument in favor of my employment. If it does not, it need not. I will take that chance. And, if you lay out my design, I can at least refer to it as a piece of my work.

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As to a design for the rest of the garden, I should be very glad, indeed, to work out until spring as well a general map for the grounds as detailed maps for the various gardens, entirely on my own time and without expense to you, provided that firstly you give me a chance to see your grounds for at least one day and secondly that you give me a reasonable assurance that either I will be employed to lay out the garden or that you will pay me for my work at the same rate as you would have to pay any other landscapearchitekt. Without such an assurance I feel that I should not do it.

I do hope that you will not misunderstand me, Dr. Victorin, because I really value your friendship higher than I can say. How easy would it be to talk all this over, if we could meet only once. On paper it sounds so cold and matter of fact, and you can not see how much it has cost me to put it down at all. But I felt that I had to do it.

Hoping to hear from you

I am, as always

Sincerely yours

H. Teuscher

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