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Murphy, Henry Killam  
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January 24, 1922

TRUSTEES OF  
PEKING UNIVERSITY

Murphy, McGill & Hamlin,  
331 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

A letter from Professor Gibb contains the following paragraph:

"Careful study of the plans reveals the fact that the details which we should have are not there. This is particularly true in the matter of the eaves of the various buildings. I suppose Murphy, McGill & Hamlin expect to provide these and I hope you will ask Mr. Black or some one to look over the sheet which they are preparing and see whether they think there are details enough to enable us to do the work out here."

If you will be so kind as to let me know when the detail sheets are in condition for Mr. Black to examine, I will appreciate it in order that he may check up upon them for us, and satisfy Mr. Gibb's inquiry. I have no doubt that there will be no difficulty in that respect.

Cordially yours,

EMH  
JL

0315



M-90

MURPHY MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY  
HENRY JOSEPH MCGILL  
TALBOT FAULKNER HAMLIN

HEAD OFFICE—NEW YORK CITY  
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TIENTSIN OFFICE—12 RUE COURBET  
PEKING OFFICE—3 TA SHA MAO HUTUNG

RE: PEKING UNIV.

New York City.  
January 25, 1922.

Eric M. North,  
156 - 5th Avenue,  
New York City.

TRUSTEES OF  
PEKING UNIVERSITY

Dear Mr. North:-

We have your letter of January 24th quoting a paragraph from a letter from Professor Gibb, about needing detail drawings.

The program, you may recall, was briefly that Mr. Gibb take with him what drawings were needed for estimating purposes and that further detail drawings (a distinct section of the contract) would be forwarded to him later. On Dec. 3rd (see copy of letter sent you Dec. 3rd) we sent him *a set* of revised drawings completely dimensioned, ~~a set~~, containing <sup>also</sup> a sheet of general details for each building to further assist him in taking estimates, and which he probably had not yet received when he wrote you as quoted.

Since completing the Working Drawings of the Womans College, we have been working out other details not needed for estimating, but which will be needed when actual construction begins;—covering difficult work in connection with eaves, windows, stairs, trusses, beams, etc.

We are well along on these details and will probably complete all within the next two weeks.

In the meantime, we <sup>would</sup> welcome Mr. Black to examine and check the dozen or more sheets of details already completed, but which are being held until the remaining sheets are finished.

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Mr. Eric M. North

-2-

1/25/22.

We would be very much interested in learning from time to time the progress which Mr. Gibb reports.

Very truly yours,

*Murphy McCall Hamilton*

HJMcG/W.

Copy to Mr. Gibb  
" " MMH, Shanghai.

RECEIVED BY	
MR. M. NORTH ( )	
(DATE)	
1/26/22	
BY	

0317



MURPHY MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY  
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TIENTSIN OFFICE-12 RUE COURBET  
PEKING OFFICE-3 TA SHA MAO HUTUNG

RE: PEKING UNIVERSITY.

New York City.  
April 26, 1922.

Dr. Eric North,  
156 - 5th Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

(1) We take pleasure in submitting to you the report on the proposal for the Academic quadrangle for the Woman's College in accordance with your request to us at the conference of April 19th. We are sending you this report enclosed, and are also enclosing one blueprint each of schemes A and B referred to in the report.

(2) We believe that either of these schemes would give a solution perfectly satisfactory, but if there is any choice between them, we believe that in some ways scheme B is to be preferred. The decision between the two schemes would have to be partly determined by the type and layout determined upon for the Dormitories.

(3) It might be well to leave the final decision with regard to the choice between schemes A and B to the authorities on the site with the cooperation of Mr. Murphy, who, we believe, will try and get to Peking some time during his present stay in China.

Yours very truly,

*Murphy, McGill & Hamlin*

TRH/EW.

Copy to MMH, Shanghai.

2  
RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1922

0318

MURPHY MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY  
HENRY JOSEPH MCGILL  
TALBOT FAULKNER HAMLIN

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TIENTSIN OFFICE-12 RUE COURBET  
PEKING OFFICE-3 TA SHA MAO HUTUNG

RE: PEKING UNIVERSITY.

April 25, 1922.

REPORT UPON THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE ACADEMIC QUADRANGLE OF THE  
WOMAN'S COLLEGE, PEKING UNIVERSITY.

(1) In accordance with the request of Dr. Eric North, we have given careful consideration to the two sketches prepared in Peking, and submitted to us for approval, embodying possible arrangements of a five building quadrangle. We are unable to give our approval to either of these schemes for the following reasons:-

(2) Of the two schemes, the scheme of March 7th is much more satisfactory in proportion. However, it does not allow of any impressive separate main entrance to the Woman's College group direct from the road. This we believe is absolutely a necessary part of any scheme adopted, and the absence of this entrance at once rules out the scheme of March 7th from further consideration. Moreover, it places the center of the rear of the Junior College building in much too important a position, for which the building was never designed.

(3) The scheme of March 8th has the important entrance which is necessary, but it spoils entirely the carefully studied relationship of the Woman's College group to the main group of the University. It is also open to the same objection with regard to the placing of the Junior College building as the other scheme. The original block plan contemplated having

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the Woman's College academic quadrangle composed around a double axis, one running east and west through the Social and Athletic Building, and out the main entrance to the Woman's College; the other running north and south through the Chapel of the University, and <sup>forming</sup> ~~is~~ one of the controlling factors in the design of the whole group. The road and path following this axis must run through unbroken, and to block this axis by the rear of the Junior College Building, which was designed to flank the axis and not to be on it, would be a very great mistake.

(4) In accordance with the suggestion of Dr. North, we are therefore making two alternate suggestions. One is shown in the sketch A. It embodies the following points.

1. The academic quadrangle of the Woman's College should be left of the same size and shape as shown on our general plan of January, 1922.

2. The two buildings upon the southern side of this quadrangle <sup>omitted</sup> are/leaving the south side of the academic quadrangle open to the Dormitory quadrangle.

3. It might be possible to study the northern-most Dormitory groups so as to act as the closing buildings on the south side of the Academic quadrangle. This, of course, would mean that these northern-most Dormitory buildings would, in style and roof treatment, have to match exactly the Academic buildings of the Junior College.

4. If this is impossible, and the type of Dormitory decided on will not allow it, the separation between the Academic quadrangle and the Dormitory quadrangle would have to be made by an enclosing wall along the south side of the quadrangle, with a large decorative gate-way on the ~~east~~ north-south axis.

(5) The second shown in sketch B embodies the following points.

1. If it is possible to change the orientation of the Junior College as suggested in the sketch of March 7th made in Peking, a solution, satisfactory from the architectural standpoint, could be made by running the Social and Athletic building east and west, and placing it along the southern side of the quadrangle.

2. The north side of the quadrangle would be occupied with the future main Academic building which might well be larger than the present Junior College building, and could be as long as the Social and Athletic building.

3. Both this building and the Social and Athletic building should be designed with passages through the center from the north to the south upon the ~~main~~ north-south axis of the entire university group.

4. The two small square buildings would remain at the west side of the quadrangle, flanking the main entrance as before. This would give an enclosed court of pleasant proportions and dignified effect, but it is open to <sup>the</sup> possible objection that the Junior College is given a position more important than is warranted.

(6) We would like to take this opportunity to thank the New York authorities for giving us the chance to pass upon a question so vitally affecting the entire conception of the design we have prepared. We would also like to bring again to the attention of the Peking University authorities the importance of having all portions of the group designed in such a way as to make a consistent and unified whole. This would not mean that all buildings would necessarily be of the monumental type of the large Academic buildings already designed. It should, however, mean that whatever the



REPORT OF WOMAN'S COLLEGE, PEKING UNIVERSITY.

April 25, 1922.

complexity of the buildings, and whatever their use, some generally controlling proportions, such as the average slope of the roofs, the general sizes of openings, etc., ought, as far as possible, to be retained. A study of the Peking buildings reveals many cases of the use of buildings of simple and monumental type in the same group, but in almost every case so found, the roof slopes throughout of both kinds of buildings are kept approximately the same so that no shock is experienced when the eye ranges from one to the other.

Respectfully submitted.

*Murphy, McGill & Hamilton*

TFH/EW.

Copy to MMH, Shanghai.

MURPHY MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY  
HENRY JOSEPH MCGILL  
TALBOT FAULKNER HAMLIN

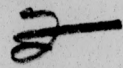
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PEKING OFFICE-3 TA SHA MAO HUTUNG

RE: PEKING UNIVERSITY.

New York City.  
May 9, 1922.

  
TRUSTEES OF  
PEKING UNIVERSITY

Dr. Eric M. North,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. North:-

(1) We thank you for your letter of May 5th enclosing copies of Mr. Gibb's two letters, one to Mr. Julian Arnold, dated February 23rd, and one to the Truscon Steel Company, (attention Mr. Silagi), dated March 14th.

(2) We have never questioned Mr. Gibb's justification. The fact is, we did not think that any part of the discussion was any of our business, but the two letters which Mr. McGill handed you personally came to us from the Truscon Steel Co., unsolicited, and in the course of things, we considered it advisable to pass the information along to you for whatever you thought it was worth.

(3) To repeat, we thank you very much for the copies of the letters which have evidently closed the matter and established in the minds of those in the Orient, most interested, the policy of Mr. Gibb and of the University.

Yours very truly,



HJMcG/EW.

Copy to MMH, Shanghai.



*For Finance Com<sup>ee</sup>*

May 18, 1922

Murphy, McGill & Hamlin,  
331 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith please find check of the Trustees of Peking University for \$2,875.35 which completes payment in full on six per cent of the assumed cost of a dormitory, dining hall, recitation and School of Religion buildings in accordance with contract of the 11th of August, 1921.

I note that complete adjustment of this account is to be made when the actual cost of building the buildings therein planned for is determined.

I note further that the payment which we have herewith made covers the cost, also, of the color studies which have not, so far as my present knowledge goes, been delivered to us here or to the Construction Bureau in Peking. I understand that these studies are to be made in Shanghai; the payment herewith made therefore represents, except in so far as the final settlement on the basis of actual cost is concerned, an advance payment.

You will be interested to learn that the construction of buildings has now been authorized and that for them considerable quantities of materials are already in hand, and that probably within another month two of the buildings for the Woman's College will be going forward. We have very high appreciation of your services and your skill in the entire range of the work which you have done for us.

Cordially yours,

EMM  
JL

Secretary

0324

MURPHY MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY  
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TALBOT FAULKNER HAMLIN

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TIENSIN OFFICE—12 RUE COURBET  
PEKING OFFICE—3 TA SHA MAO HUTUNG  
RE: PEKING UNIVERSITY

New York City.  
May 19, 1922.

TRUSTEES OF  
PEKING UNIVERSITY  
2

Mr. Eric North,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. North:-

- (1) We wish to acknowledge receipt of your check for \$1575.35 covering payment in full on 6% of the assumed cost of Dormitory, Dining Hall, Recitation and School of Religion Buildings.
- (2) We cannot locate a copy of the signed contract in our files and we doubt if we have been furnished with one, and we would appreciate your sending us a copy at your convenience.
- (3) It is our understanding also that adjustments in the fee will be made when the actual cost of constructing the buildings is known, that is if the buildings are carried out in strict accordance with the drawings, but if radical changes are made to reduce the costs, further adjustments must be made to compensate for this.
- (4) The 6% covers also the preparation of color charts, which are perhaps by this time completed in our Shanghai office; the charts were made in New York and taken to China by Mr. Murphy in February, and were complete except for the application of color which we thought could best be done in China; and which amounted to but a few hours work by one of our men familiar with this sort of thing; the full payment is not therefore in a sense an advance payment on this portion of the work, because most of the work on the color charts has been completed for sometime and the small additional work more than likely completed by now.



Mr. Eric North

-2-

May 19, 1922.

(5) We are happy to learn that some materials are on the site and that actual construction will probably start within a month. This is very encouraging news.

(6) We wish to thank you for the concluding remarks of your letter. " We have very high appreciation of your services and your skill in the entire range of work which you have done for us". This is indeed most satisfying and we quote it so that Mr. Murphy, who will read a copy of this letter, can see it. We have given our hearts and minds to this work and our interest in the work has been kept alive with the fine cooperation which we have enjoyed from you and all the other Gentlemen connected with this inspiring project.

Yours very truly,

*Murphy McMillan Hamilton*

HJMcG/EW.

Copy - Mr. Murphy.

0326

MURPHY MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY  
HENRY JOSEPH MCGILL  
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TIENTSIN OFFICE—12 RUE COURBET  
PEKING OFFICE—3 TA SHA MAO HUTUNG

New York City.  
June 23rd, 1922.

Dr. H. W. Luce,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Luce:

We are sending Mr. Hamlin at Vancouver this evening, for discussion with Pres. Stuart aboard the "CANADA"

1 Blue Print set plans of Faculty Residence in their present state, which are sufficient for their purpose.

2 Lithoprint sets of both perspectives of the Faculty Residence dated June 20th, 1922.

We are sending you under separate cover 1 set lithos of the perspectives. We intended three, but thought that it would be interesting to send two to Mr. Hamlin. We can have more printed Monday, but we will wait until we hear from you just how many you would like.

This will record the fact that Mr. Mc Gill handed you to-day one set of lithos of the perspectives on brown paper. A similar set Mr. Mc Gill is coloring as you directed, this will not be ready until Tuesday or Wednesday because it is necessary for Mr. Mc Gill to be out of town on Monday.

At the same time or perhaps earlier, we will have the ink drawings of the plans finished ready for lithoprinting. We would appreciate your advising us just how many copies you would like.

We have returned to Dr. Cullen the framed photograph of a Chinese design residence.

HJMG:LAS

Very truly yours,

*Murphy McGill & Hamlin*

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DR. H. W. LUCE.

Page Two.

June 23rd, 1922.

P. S.

In reference to the approximate costs of the Faculty Residences, there are about 2436 square feet. At G. \$7 this would amount to G. \$17052. At G. \$6 per square foot, it would amount to G. \$14616.

In Mr. Mc Gill's opinion G. \$1500 would be a conservative sum for a non-fireproof house. G. \$7 was used in calculating the cost of the University Buildings, but these were fireproof.

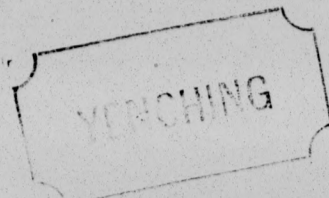
We believe also that G. \$7 per square foot represented the cost of a fairly nice residence building which we have just completed for Mr. H. Harold Tollar at Shanghai, but we presume that the Faculty residence would be finished somewhat more simply than this, and would cost, therefore, less money.

Very truly yours,

*Murphy McNeill & Stanley*

HJMCG:LAE

0328



7  
Murphy M. J.

Shanghai,  
August 9th, 1922.

re Peking University

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart, ✓  
Peking University,  
Peking.

Dear Dr. Stewart:-

Mrs. Murphy and I have decided to return to New York earlier than we expected when we saw you in Peking. We are leaving on Sunday, 13 Aug. (by the Pacific Mail "Pres. Lincoln") for Manila; and shall leave Manila on Sunday 20 Aug., (by the Admiral Line "Pres. Jefferson") spending Aug. 26-27 at Shanghai; and continue by same steamer to Seattle, where we are due 12th Sept. This will get us to New York about 18 Sept; and I may be able to see some of the Peking University authorities there shortly after that date.

The more we think over the Peking University situation, as developed during the conferences Mr. Hamlin and I had with Mr. Gibb the last week in July, the more serious it becomes; and we feel that we owe it to you, as President of the University, to let you know how dangerous to its architectural success is the present system of control of this great building project, and how absolutely essential it is to check the present tendency to regard the work still to be done as somewhat in the nature of merely architectural routine.

It is difficult to state our position without seeming to criticise Mr. Gibb; but the importance of the matter at stake is too great to allow our personal friendship for Mr. Gibb to influence our professional advice to you. It should be obvious to all that the



high estimate I placed on Mr. Gibb's qualifications for administering the Peking University project, (when I advised you last Spring to detach him from his regular University work for this job,) was comparative— that is, I felt (and still feel) that his qualifications are very much better than those of the average Missionary for such work; and I felt that there would be work enough for which he was fitted to warrant you in putting him in general charge. I had not, however, the slightest idea that he would take it upon himself to decide, without referring them to us, matters of architectural importance; and least of all that he would engage (or recommend the engagement of) another architect (Mr. Hill) in our place, when he felt that the carrying out of the construction work needed more architectural knowledge than he could himself supply. But the final proof of Mr. Gibb's complete inability to grasp matters in their true perspective came when this new Architect, (who was supposed to have gone to China to supply the technical architectural knowledge which Mr. Gibb lacked for the construction of the first group of our buildings,) was asked to make designs for two more of the buildings in our scheme — a course which would open to great objections for any of the buildings in the group, but absolutely fatal for these two main buildings — the Chapel and the Library-Administration Building. Mr. Gibb stresses the possibility (or probability) that Mr. Hill will be unwilling to remain with the Peking University Construction Bureau if he is not to be allowed to act as full Architect of the future University Buildings; and advances this as an argument for allowing Mr. Hill to supersede us. Without going into the question of Mr. Hill's personal ability, or of his general training, it is acknowledged that he knew nothing until a few months ago of the great problem of the adaptation of Chinese Architecture to modern, Western-

planned buildings - a field in which we have been engaged for many years, and which I personally have made my life-work. Mr. Gibb considers it of greater value to the University to retain the services of this one man, (with no special claims for this particular work, beyond those of any good Architect,) than to continue to utilize, to the fullest, the services of the one firm in existence which has built up, in actual practice, a cumulative fund of experience and ability that is unique in this special field, and that is now available for the University at no greater cost than <sup>the</sup> first-class architectural services in ordinary fields of work. This judgment of Mr. Gibb's shows him incapable of appreciating the broad scope of the architectural issues involved, or the tremendous importance of continuity and consistency in the architectural handling of the problem. So far from having completed the undertaking (on which we started in 1918) by preparation of a General Plan and a Birdseye Perspective, and by the completion of working drawings for six buildings, we consider that we have still before us the most important part of this great work; and it is incomprehensible that anyone should consider it good business to hamper and restrict us (as was the tendency during our work last ~~Spring~~ <sup>Spring and</sup> Summer, <sup>when</sup> when Mr. Gibb was in New York;) or, least of all, to allow possible obligations incurred with the past few months to Mr. Hill, to weigh against the much <sup>earlier</sup> ~~earlier~~ and larger moral obligation to us, which unquestionably grew out of our close relationship of four years as Architects and Clients; regardless of the legal phraseology introduced into the contract we were asked to sign last Summer, making it possible for the University to employ other Architects.

We believe the matter should be considered and judged on broad grounds such as I have outlined above; but if definite detailed



points are desired as examples of the necessity for much closer relationship with us than Mr. Gibb feels necessary, (or than Mr. Hill is ~~is~~ willing to submit to,) the case of the roof-tiles will serve.

There are only four points of importance in connection with roof-tiles:- (1) Color; (2) Shape; (3) Durability; (4) Cost. You already know how completely unsuitable is the color of the pale blue tiles Mr. Gibb had produced when we arrived in Peking two weeks ago, and of which he had already completed a considerable number. Fortunately we arrived in time to condemn these tiles before the money-loss to the University had become very great; but we should have been obliged to condemn them just the same if the entire lot had been completed for the first Group, as they would have ruined the architectural effect of these carefully studied buildings. We left instructions for the correct color of these tiles; but unless Mr. Hamlin can see the final color when he passes through Peking the latter part of October (on his way home to America via Korea) there is little assurance that this most vital feature of the buildings will be right.

You may not know that we found Mr. Gibb's tiles to be fundamentally wrong also in shape. On calling their attention to the excessive curvature of the pan-tiles, both Mr. Gibb and Mr. Lund informed us that we were wrong, as Mr. Gernow had personally measured the tiles of the Forbidden City, and that the tiles to which we objected were exact reproductions of the originals. After pointing out to Mr. Gibb and Mr. Lund that this is a purely architectural point, on which we have the final authority, we stated that we would investigate the Forbidden City tiles again to confirm our recollection of their shape. Mr. Hamlin and I found no tiles anywhere in the Forbidden

City even resembling the shape of the sharply-curved pan-tile which Mr. Gibb and Mr. Lund claimed to be exact reproductions; on the contrary, every one of the dozen or more buildings we investigated had very flat pan-tiles. This complete failure of Lund and Gernow to show even moderate accuracy in their work weakened our confidence in their value to the University.

On the third point in connection with these tiles (Durability) we have no data. On the fourth point (Cost) we can only repeat what we told Mr. Gibb in Peking - that we do not see how it is possible to get specially made cement-tiles of good quality as cheaply as the commonly-used dark gray Chinese tiles; and all the authorities with whom we discussed this matter of cost, agree with our feeling.

Another point that came up in our interview with Mr. Gibb and Mr. Lund (at Lund & Gernow's Office) was that if we insisted on changing the shape of these tiles, it would be necessary to send back to Denmark for new models. Personally, I do not see where Denmark comes in; and I think it a pity that we cannot use American methods in this work throughout. This is especially important in view of the wide-spread criticism that grew out of Mr. Gibb's award of the steel contract to Europe, (on the advice of his Danish Engineers) and at a price higher than the bid he received, within the next day or so, from an American firm.

For your information, I enclose copy of our letter of yesterday's date to Mr. Gibb regarding the revisions to be made in the form and color of the roof-tiles.

---



You have expressed the opinion that the action of the N.Y. authorities, in agreeing to the idea that Mr. Hill should supersede us, was based purely on financial grounds. We believe that on this basis also, as well as on the basis of actual building results, the argument is strongly in our favor. The amount paid to Architects is never a large fraction of the total expenditure in connection with a building operation — seldom more than one-tenth; while the difference between the amounts to be paid to one Architect rather than another, for a given operation, is necessarily an even smaller amount. It is much more to the point for the Peking University authorities to consider differences in the building-costs themselves, due to differences between the methods of one Architect and another in handling the problem. For example, the Library-Administration, <sup>1364</sup> if built in accordance with Mr. Hill's sketches which we saw in Peking, would require the expenditure of many thousands of dollars for Chinese features, which, though fine in themselves, we have learned to eliminate, getting our effects by much more economical ways of adapting the style.

This one point would wipe out, many times over, the entire saving in the cost of Mr. Hill's architectural services as compared with ours; — an illustration of the penny-wise policy of taking the expenditure of your very limited and painfully-acquired building-funds out of the hands of Architects especially trained by long study and practical experience in getting the greatest architectural value out of every dollar, and entrusting it to untried and inexperienced hands .

As for Mr. Hill's sketch of the Chapel, which we also saw in Peking I can only say that if it were ever built, Peking University would not only be open to the charge of great extravagance, but also would be guilty of dealing a serious blow to our hopes of showing the Chinese that their own beautiful forms can successfully be adapted. A respectful drawing of the exterior would show how badly the roofs would look in reality, while the interior is hopelessly out of accord with our conception of this project.

Frankly, I feel that we are justified in regarding this Peking University matter as a test-case, on the outcome of which we should decide whether or not we care to continue professional relations with the Missions. From the time I was first approached by Dr. Edw. Lincoln Smith in 1918, up to the Spring of 1921, Peking University has meant to us a noble work, with the greatest opportunity for accomplishment, in the <sup>special</sup> field of architecture to which I had been for some time largely devoting myself. Whatever the less intelligent Mission authorities might do, I felt that Peking University could always be relied upon to serve as an answer to my friends (who protested against my giving so much of myself to this class of work. But since the Spring of 1921, when we first began to feel the unsympathetic - almost unfriendly - attitude of the Peking University authorities, we have had to admit to ourselves that much of the cynical prophecies of our friend were apparently coming true; and that the Peking University authorities were not above throwing us over, in the middle of the job, to save a few dollars, as soon as they thought they saw a way to go on without us.

It was also very close to sharp practice for the New York authorities, through Mr. Gibb, to get us to make all the working drawings for the first group at a percentage-rate so low as to leave us no profit on the plea that it was a question whether they could go on at all under the conditions; we finally (very foolishly, as it <sup>has now</sup> ~~soon~~ turned out) agreed to do the work at this much reduced rate, with the idea of helping the University to tide-over a crisis; and to get our profits out of the working-drawings for the larger bulk of work still to come - which work the University now proposes to have done by Mr. Hill!



-2-

I understand you are planning to write (or perhaps you have already written) to your New York authorities on this whole matter and I wish to make sure that you realize the full seriousness of the situation, and the permanent and far-reaching injury to the University which will result unless these hastily adopted new ideas are checked with a firm hand, and the architectural development of the University put back on the firm and conservative basis on which it was started.

I am enclosing an extra copy of this letter for whatever use you may see fit.

Sincerely yours,

*A. K. Murphy*

HEM: S  
2 encls.  
CC NY

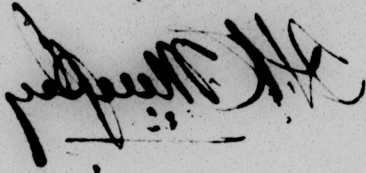
RECEIVED  
MAY 11 1954  
FBI - NEW YORK

0336

I understand you are planning to write (or perhaps you have already written) to your New York authorities on this whole matter and I wish to make sure that you realize the full seriousness of the situation, and the permanent and far-reaching injury to the University which will result unless these hastily adopted new ideas are checked with a firm hand, and the architectural development of the University put back on the firm and conservative basis on which it was started.

I am enclosing an extra copy of this letter for whatever use you may see fit.

Sincerely yours,



MEMO  
 2 encls.  
 9/13/22

DATE	9/13/22
TO WHOM REFERRED	DATE
BY WHOM ANSWERED	DATE
BY WHOM PASSED TO FILE	DATE
FILED	DATE

LEED



MURPHY, MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

#S-648

TRUST  
PEKING UNIVERSITY

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY  
HENRY JOSEPH MCGILL  
TALBOT FAULKNER HAMLIN

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RE: PEKING UNIVERSITY  
(Women's College)

New York City.  
15th January 1923.

Peking University,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Attention of Dr. E.M. North.

In accordance with the request of Dr. North and President Stuart, conveyed to us in their conference with Mr. Hamlin on January 9th, we have examined the preliminary sketches for the Women's Dormitories prepared by the Peking University Construction Bureau, and the memorandum "Extracts from Letter of H.E. Hill to E.M. North, 7/11/22", accompanying them; and we have also considered the suggestions made by the Yen Ching College authorities in Peking, noted in ink on that memorandum.

We have recorded the results of this consideration in a "Report on the Preliminary Plans for the Dormitories of the Women's College", two copies of which are enclosed herewith.

We are returning herewith the blue prints which Dr. North handed to Mr. Hamlin on January 9th, referred to above; as we understand you need them for today's meeting. We should like a set of these prints for our files; if you have not an extra set at present, we would appreciate it if you would write to Peking for an extra set.

Yours very truly,

*Murphy, McGill & Hamlin*

HKM:HM

0338

MURPHY, MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

#s-646

TRUSTEES OF  
PEKING UNIVERSITY.

2

HENRY KILLAM MURPHY  
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New York City.  
15th January 1923.

REPORT ON THE PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR THE DORMITORIES  
OF THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE OF PEKING UNIVERSITY,  
AS DRAWN UP BY THE UNIV. CONSTR. BUR. SEPT. 1922.

GENERAL LAYOUT.

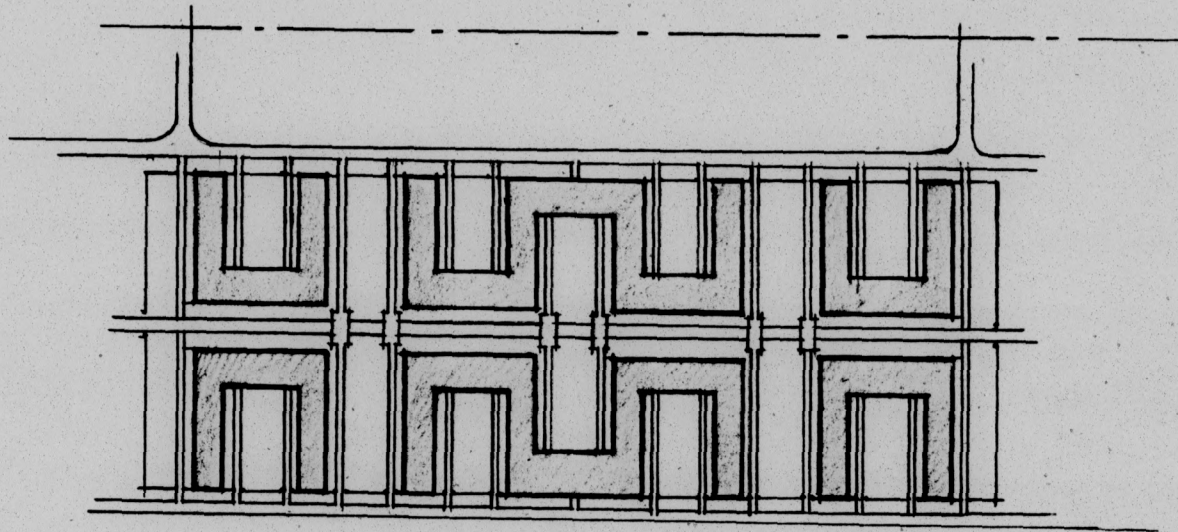
Provided that it is felt necessary to go to the expense of building dormitories with south exposure for every room, the scheme shown in logical and satisfactory. We especially note, and approve heartily, the sunken service drive; in fact, without sinking this drive, the scheme would be unsatisfactory. We believe also that the idea of raising the ground inside the quadrangles, in order to combine freedom of view and privacy, is excellent; the result can be made very attractive.

The chief questions the layout arouses are two:- FIRST, the question of whether quadrangles facing East and West are equally desirable; and SECOND, whether the eight closely grouped wing-ends, which will be seen from the Women's Campus, both on the East and on the West will not look monotonous and unduly regular.

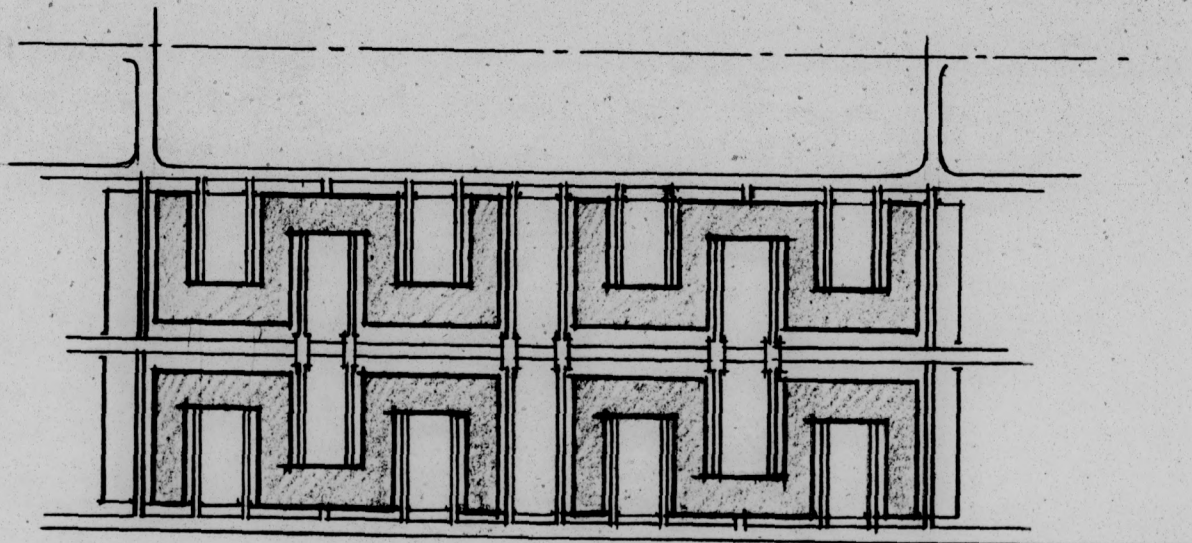
The first question can best be answered by those who have lived in Peking; the Second demands careful study. Not only should the details of gates etc., of each group be varied, but we should also like to get a real variation of form, such as would be given by putting extra north-south wings two stories high, connecting adjacent quadrangles on the outside face of the wing-ends; facing the campus or the outside, as the case might be. Either the two central quadrangles of each group could thus be connected, giving four such wings, or the two groups of the two end quadrangles, giving eight; all as shown on the sketch below:-

0339





Scheme A.



Scheme B. -- Preferrable.

0340

$\frac{13}{9}$   
 $\frac{11}{4}$   
 $\frac{120}{1276}$   
 $\frac{186}{23}$

$\frac{12}{5}$

... ..

~~12~~  
 10  
 13  
 6 | 130

$8 \times 9 = 72$   
 $12 \overline{) 6}$

5

1450



PLAN:

From the sketch we cannot tell whether or not fireproof construction is intended. If the building is not fireproof, the staircases ought to be entirely enclosed in firewalls, with wire-glass doors communicating to the corridors. In any case, firewalls with metal clad or wire glass doors should divide the three main unit - bed room wings and central connecting wing - from each other.

The relation of length of bed room wings to quadrangle width would be improved by omitting one room on each floor on each wing - four in all. Although this would diminish the capacity of each unit by eight, it would help the appearance immensely. Some space on the first floor could be saved by moving the toilet room from the interior angle to the outside end of the wing, and extending it entirely across the wing, thus saving considerable corridor space.

We would be inclined to consider the area of the kitchen insufficient did we not think it had been carefully considered on the field. We believe, however, there should be much larger storage facilities in each unit to take care of all staples, and avoid unnecessary deliveries and labor.

We believe that in a room so formal as the dining room, the tables should be placed in closer relation to the architecture than is indicated.

On the second floor, we question the arrangement of the Tubercular Ward. If this is actually to be used as a residence for tubercular students, or as an infirmary of any kind, we deem it essential for it to have its own bath and toilet rooms, and if possible, in addition a kitchenette and a separate stair. In any case we believe the separate plumbing is demanded by any consideration of health.

ELEVATIONS:

The Dining Room roof should be made higher in order to dominate the group as its position indicates it should.

The balconies shown at the ends of the bed room wings are not Chinese, they do not add to the appearance, and are too small for real use. They should be,

*Men's?  
How long  
Can you  
light  
place  
found  
Yes*

*1923  
only*

*How much?*

*if ridge - then higher than others*  
*at least 2ft + ridge*  
*As high as possible*  
*3ft*

omitted and a group of windows substituted - perhaps with round ventilating opening to attic above.

ROOFS:

The line given by round and pan tile is pleasanter than that given by the apparently tile indicated. These round and pan tile can also be procured of Chinese manufacture and unglazed, as they are used on Ginling College. There is no need to use them with ridges, however, as the curved ridge is common. We would suggest that in order to give additional dominance to the Dining Hall, this be detailed with a pointed ridge and high ridge tiles with decorations at the ends, while the bed room wings are left with curved ridges. (This variation is found in many Peking court-yards.)

The overhang of the roofs shown is 2'-5" beyond the column face, slightly over 3'-0" beyond the window line. In order to increase the amount of shadow given by this overhang, <sup>(if desired)</sup> the overhang can either be increased or the line of the roof with regard to the window head lowered. To lower the roof would mean difficulties of construction in the eaves. We do not, however, believe that the eaves could be increased more than a foot without necessitating a change in the type of detail used. We would therefore, suggest that the roof be lowered as much as is practical, and that the eaves projection be increased a foot. This would also necessitate increasing the length of the gable end walls, which would itself be an advantage as it would improve the proportion of height to length in the ends of the bed room wings.

MISCELLANEOUS DETAILS:

We would suggest that the wall treatment shown in the interior of the Dining Hall be simplified by treating the entire wall face of each bay under the band below the window sills as one panel, omitting the horizontal division. This we believe would make a simple, less expensive, and more dignified interior.

We would question the wall arrangement of the sitting room shown on print



13th January 1923.

2, as the big group of high windows on each side of the fire place would be disturbing to the eyes of those using the room. With the large south window shown, a single window in the center of the wall on each side of the fireplace, with the same sill height as the south window, would be entirely sufficient for light and ventilation, and would be easier to treat in the decoration and furnishing of the room.

We believe that the detailing of the window groups at the south end of each room must be considered with great care, particularly on the second floor. The section shows casements apparently opening to the floor, with a railing outside for protection. The level of the window sill and balcony is shown higher than the floor level of the room, which would make a sill extremely hard to keep weather-tight. From both the point of view of room comfort and simplicity, we would consider it better to keep a sill height in these rooms of the same height as the sill height on the first floor. The railing shown would then be omitted if desired, and panelling under the window sills would take its place. We also note that in each room the central sash is fixed and the side sash are hinged. With the table as shown and inward swinging casements this is a necessity, and therefore we believe that the question of using outward swinging casements should be carefully considered.

COST:

We trust that the university understands that for the same type of construction the dormitory scheme with bedrooms on one side of the corridor only is more expensive than that with rooms on both sides. There is only one saving (in width of roof span.) With the same size rooms, floor spans are identical in both schemes; but in the one room scheme the actual amount of materials - bricks, flooring, roof tiling, and so on is increased. The fact that all rooms face south is a great advantage, but one that must be paid for.

Respectfully Submitted

Worth it. *Stuart*  
Murphy, McGill & Hamilton

0344

#S-654.

MURPHY, MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

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RE: PEKING UNIVERSITY

New York City.  
27th January 1923.

Dr. Eric North,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

YENCHING

Dear Dr. North:

In accordance with the conference between yourself and Mr. Hamlin yesterday, we are sending you enclosed a copy of Mr. Hamlin's letter to Mr. Gibb dated October 26th, 1922, in which the question of tile is gone into in some detail.

In further confirmation of this conference, and in amplification of our letter, we would state our color preference as follows:-

SCHEME A: The head buildings of all groups, such as Junior College, School of Theology, Refectory and Dormitory building, Library, Administration, Chapel and Gymnasium Buildings to have green tile roofs. In addition to the buildings listed in our letter to Mr. Gibb, the following buildings should also have all green tile roofs:- Faculty house, Women's College Library and Administration Building, The four buildings running North and South at the entrance of the main group.

All other buildings and the two east-west buildings of the Women's Academic Quadrangle to have green ridges, hips and ornaments and green eaves borders.

SCHEME B: Head buildings of groups (as listed above, with the additions as listed above) to have green ridges, hips and ornaments and green eaves borders with a field of gray tile.

All other buildings to have all gray roofs.

In both of these schemes blue may be substituted for the green tile in the head buildings of subsidiary groups, such as the School of Theology, the proposed Library, and the Refectory and Dormitory Buildings.

Of these two schemes, scheme A is the one which we recommend, and scheme

0345



. Eric North

-2-

27th January 1923.

B should only be adopted in case the difference in cost between the two schemes is so enormous as to make the adoption of Scheme B an economic ~~is~~ necessity.

In order to make this decision Mr. Gibbs is to prepare accurate estimates of the cost of the two schemes as compared with the cost of gray tile now being manufactured. These estimates should be submitted to the trustees in order that an intelligent decision may be reached.

The ~~Colored documents~~ <sup>Diagrams</sup> which were left in Peking by Mr. Hamlin in October 1922 will not be affected by the change in the color of the tile, except as gray tile is indicated on these drawings.

Yours very truly,

*Murphy, McGill & Hamlin*

TFH:HM

DATE	1/29/23
BY	
DATE	
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DATE	

0346

MURPHY, MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

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Copy of Mr. Hamlin's letter (in longhand)  
already sent to Mr. Gibb.

On board train-Mukden-Seoul  
October 26th, 1922.

Re Peking University

Mr. John McGregor Gibb,  
Peking University,  
Peking, China.

Dear Mr. Gibb:-

In confirmation of our conference at the site, and further in accordance with my conversation on Saturday with Pres. Stuart, I am writing you as follows:-

I. TILE: Since Mr. Lund ~~is~~ uncertain about the porousness of his cement tile, the strictest possible test is necessary. You should therefore have laid up in an exposed position a section of the grey tile already made, exactly as it is to be finally placed, over roofing, and set in cement. This section should, I think, be at least 20 feet square. One half should be left plain, the other half varnished as per Mr. Lund's suggestion. This should be left all Winter. If the Winter is a dry one, water should be poured over it at frequent intervals, and its behavior carefully observed and reported to Pres. Stuart and ourselves. Its resistance to water, its water-tightness, the fastness of color, and its resistance to breakage, cracking or flaking in frost should especially be noted.

II. COLORED TILE FROM CANTON: Should the Cantonese roof tile prove economical in price so that it can be used, it is, in accordance with my conference on Tuesday with Pres. Stuart and Mrs. Frame, to be used as follows:-

Head Building of groups, such as Junior College, School of Theology, Refectory and Dormitory Building (of those already drawn) and Library, Administration, Chapel, and Gymnasium (of future work) to have all green tile roofs.

0347



Other buildings (Dormitories, Science and Recitation Buildings, Faculty House, Women's Library and Administration Building, and so on) to have green ridges, hips and ornaments, and green eaves borders.

To this end, and in order not to waste the designs already made, a test should be made of a painted cement dragon, painting the tile correct green, and then putting over it two or three coats of transparent Ningpo - varnish. This should be subjected to the same test as the roofs.

III. CABINET WORK: As I noticed several window frames and sash with very hard knots, pitch shakes, and holes, I would strongly recommend an immediate strict inspection with a view to rejecting all parts with such defects. This might also be an object lesson to the carpenters, who should be educated in the necessity of carefully choosing wood for specific uses.

IV. COLOR: The color diagrams I left with Mrs. Stuart I have wired to have the samples, which I left behind, sent to you at once. If you do not receive them, please wire our Shanghai Office, who will have others prepared.

V. MASONRY: In general I found the masonry work of an unusually high class. The only thing that needs comment is that the concrete foreman should be watched to see that the column reinforcement receives the proper outside cover. In some cases this reinforcement was too close to the forms, and needed adjustment.

Please give my very kindest regards to Mrs. Gibb and the children; and do thank her for the best tiffin I've had for a long time.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) Talbot Faulkner Hamlin

DATE	11/29/23
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DATE	
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DATE	

0348

*Arch*

*P*

April 19, 1923.

Murphy, McGill & Hamlin,  
331 Madison Avenue,  
New York.

Gentlemen:

We have reached a stage in our negotiations with the engineers for the installation of the various types of mechanical equipment where the question has been raised whether it would be advisable to utilize individual heating plants for the various buildings rather than a central heating plant. The item of expense is relatively much heavier for the latter than for the former. The whole question of the adaptation of the Chinese scheme of architecture to Western methods of construction seems to us to involve this point, whether in view of the necessity for economy in construction it is not possible in some way to take care of a chimney flue in a Chinese building. This problem is certainly one that will be connected with the construction of individual houses or buildings separated from any larger group, because it is absolutely necessary for any house or building to be heated. To incorporate the heating plant in the building itself naturally involves the necessity of a chimney. We are much concerned in this matter in connection with our Peking buildings, because it will be necessary for us very shortly to make our definite plans for the installation of the heating plant. If there is some way in which we can include chimneys in our buildings it is going to mean a very considerable saving over the present plan of having a central heating plant. We would therefore request that you give this matter your early consideration and advise us as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. - - President Stuart has asked me to convey to Mr. Murphy the following message: - He had hoped to have an opportunity to see Mr. Murphy personally and also to call socially upon Mrs. Murphy and himself, but the pressure of the financial campaign and his long continued absence from this city have made it impossible to do this. He very much regrets his inability to carry out his plans in this respect.

0349



MURPHY, MCGILL & HAMLIN #703-S

~~ARCHITECTS~~

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re: PELING UNIVERSITY

New York City.  
23rd April 1923.

Leslie B. Moss, Esq.,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 19th of April is received, saying the question has been raised in connection with the new buildings for Peking University, whether it would not be advisable to use individual heating-plants for the various buildings, rather than a central heating-plant; and asking whether it is not possible in some way to take care of chimney flues in adapted Chinese architecture.

We do not understand how either of these points can be raised at this time. The first question was definitely settled in favor of individual heating-plants, during our discussion with Mr. Gibb at our New York Office, in the Summer of 1922; and we have designed all the Peking University Buildings thus far taken up for individual plants. - (Each group of two dormitories and Dining Hall Building being treated as a unit.) As a result of ~~this item~~ <sup>the</sup> careful consideration ~~was~~ given to this matter last Summer, we prepared and sent to Mr. Gibb complete heating plans and specifications for all the buildings, showing piping, radiators, boiler <sup>in</sup> size, etc.

The second question is one to which we have devoted a great deal of thought during our long study of the adaptation of Chinese architecture for modern-planned buildings; and our construction drawings for the Peking University buildings, (as well as for Ginling College, Fukien University, Fuh Tan University

0350

23rd April 1923.

and others we are doing in this style) show the chimneys opening through ventilating ridges and ornamental finials.

The flue-sizes on our Peking University drawings were laid out by our Engineers for gas-fired boilers; in accordance with Mr. Gibbs plan for installing a central gas-manufacturing plant, from which gas was to be piped to the various buildings. This decision of Mr. Gibbs was based on his knowledge of Peking coal, which he considered to have a much higher efficiency as a gas-producer than as a fuel.

We have already allowed space in all the buildings for the possible storage of coal or other fuel, as a precautionary measure. Please advise us whether you wish us to take up with our engineers the question of possible increase in Flue-sizes to <sup>take care</sup> ~~save~~ of the possibility of using coal instead of gas as fuel.

Please advise us whether your reference, in the last paragraph of your letter of 19th April, to "the present plan of having a central heating plant" refers to the central gas-making plant, or whether a change from last Summer's decision on this important point has been made, of which we have not been informed.

Yours very truly,

*Murray Melville & Hamble*

HKM:HM

1550



CONFIDENTIAL

P

August 4, 1923.

Murphy, McGill & Hamlin,  
331 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Attention Mr. Hamlin:

In accordance with your request in conversation with Dr. Eric North and myself, I sent you on June 28th last a copy of extracts from the letter of Mr. Gibb dealing with the question of color for the buildings at Peking University. You were going to supply us with a statement setting forth your reasons for the color layout which you had suggested. Up to the present time this has not come to us and we are wondering if you are still planning to make this report. We would appreciate it at your early convenience.

Sincerely yours,

LBM/MPG

0352

MURPHY, MCGILL & HAMLIN  
ARCHITECTS

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RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITIES  
AUG 12 1923

MAIN ORIENTAL OFFICE—SHANGHAI  
UNION BUILDING No. 1 CANTON ROAD  
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 4706  
CABLE ADDRESS "MURDAN" SHANGHAI

RE: PEKING UNIVERSITY

New York City  
August 6, 1923

Mr. Leslie B. Moss  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Mr. Moss:-

We certainly owe you an apology for not having let you know the reasons why you have not received a report on the color matter before this date. When the report concerning the color scheme was prepared by Mr. Hamlin, it seemed to be such an important example of a very much broader question, namely, the entire relationship of ourselves and Mr. Gibb to the New York Office of Peking University, and also the Peking University Committee on the <sup>ground</sup> ~~matter~~, that Mr. Murphy felt a full answer should be delayed until he had heard from Dr. <sup>uart</sup> ~~Stewart~~.

In this way the matter was put off from day to day as Mr. Murphy was expecting news daily, and it seemed unwise to him to have the matter taken up piece-meal (as answering the color questions immediately would have necessitated it) instead of considering the entire matter as a whole in the light of whatever reports Dr. <sup>uart</sup> ~~Stewart~~ may send.

We should, of course, have let you know of this before, and are sorry that we did not do this. We hope that this frank explanation will show you what was behind the delay.

Although we cannot send you the full report upon the color matter at the present time, we can say that the present colors indicated on our details represent no fanciful choices but the most careful study of the Peking Buildings by a trained architect, and that, moreover, they are

0353



MURPHY, MCGILL & HAMLIN  
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2

August 6, 1923

carefully laid out with the idea of saving the University the large amount of money which absolutely archaeological Chinese reproductions would cost. We would also point out the effect of the detail shown varies very little from the suggestions incorporated in one letter by Mr. Gibb.

Considering our position as architects, we cannot, therefore, approve of any departure from the scheme prepared by us.

Very sincerely yours,

*Murphy, McGill & Hamlin*

TFH:CC

0354