

Dec. 29, 1956.

Mr. Walter McQuade,
Architectural Forum
9 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N.Y.

Dear Mr. McQuade:-

When your letter arrived last week, a quick glance revealed the name of Alexander Girard, and for a fleeting moment I hoped it was an assignment to photograph that house! But, of course I knew that Mr Eames had done a great deal of photography of it. Now you want me to WRITE about it. That indeed is hard to do, particularly with such a hurried deadline and Christmas in between. It is hard indeed not to use much worn out adjectives such as "unique" "fantastic". That house is a combination of so many things. It reveals the extraordinary selection of a man of great taste from all over the world and the embodiment of bits from many countries into a dwelling of great beauty. Color, wonderful splashes of color, picked out of Old Mexico, cerese, magenta, orange, red and blue. Used out of doors under a portal, again indoors as I am sure you will have seen in a photograph. The use of low sitting places, brought from the far east, the placing of beautiful objects selected most carefully from everywhere. Because of their quality, they are harmonious. To me the lighting is one of the outstanding features. To describe it one would give the impression that the house is theatrical. It isn't. But the lights are so placed and arranged that they benefit everything and every person in the room. One most entrancing bit is a minute garden in the entrance patio. A sort of checker board of alternate flagstones and small flower beds, the later planted with a mass of a single color in each bed. The alternate flagstone squares are set the stones on edge rather than flat, giving a wonderful texture and stone pattern. The one thing I do not understand is the lack of space about the house. There is none. In this country where space is much a part of our lives, this seems strange, but perhaps this is the very reason there isn't any! From the upper deck, so to speak, one has a wonderful panorama of the surrounding country.

I have not seen Mr. Eames photographs of the house. I know some of his wonderful short movies. BUT I wish I could photograph that house in 8x10 color film! All this seems most inadequate and I wish I could do better for you. The house gives one a tremendous lift by its originality, its beauty and its true expression of the man.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Most sincerely