

architectural **FORUM**
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Miss Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico

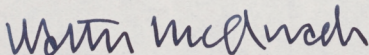
Dear Miss Gilpin:

Early next year, in our February issue, we are planning to publish Alexander Girard's house in Santa Fe, using a number of color photographs in addition to black-and-whites; since it marks the first house we have published in several years, and it is a fascinating one, we hope to publish it well. The pictures of course, tell the story, but sometimes -- as they say upstairs on LIFE -- one word is worth a thousand pictures, and that is why this letter. More specifically I am writing you after asking Girard for a list of friends who have visited him at Santa Fe, whom we might ask about the house. His response was a small but interesting list, and you are on it.

With the realization that it is something of an imposition on your time, especially in this season, may I ask you to write a short note describing the reaction you have had to Girard's environment? From the pictures, the house fits into none of the conventions, old or modern, but is a really pervasive piece of individualism. What particularly struck you about it? In summing up your reactions, could you also describe any of Girard's methods?

I'll be glad to check any quotes we might use from you, if you specify this. I am afraid, however, that the request on top of the request, as always on magazines, is speed. We need your letter early in the first week of January, to make our February deadline. We will appreciate your help in this, knowing that it will improve our presentation of the house.

Yours truly,



Walter McQuade
Associate Editor

WM/je