

Letter and Plan from Robert Mylne to Lord Garlies

about the New House proposed to be built at Cally for James Murray of Broughton, his first cousin and brother-in-law.
Rome Jan 25th, 1759.

.... I have sent, as you desired me, a sketch for Mr Murray's house, which I am hopeful he will be so good as to think, as the bad digested principalls that a house should be built upon, rather than a house that I say is fit for him. From my last you will easily conceive how many disadvantages I have lain under in doing even that sketch, as the Data from which I ought to have reasoned were not given me... All the within sheet is concerning the house, which you may cut off...

(the rest of the letter to Lord Garlies, later 7th Earl, deals with the cameos, portraits, mandolines, and music Mylne is collecting in Rome for Lord Garlies)

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The situation is supposed to be upon a small rising ground, on the easy declivity of a hill, fronting S.S.E. An extended plain before, for prospect: and the hill rising behind to preserve it from the cold winds.

This house is divided into 4 stories.

The first is for the use of all servants who work in the house. It holds the kitchen and all the nauseous places that should not be seen or smelt by company. It is half sunk in the ground to keep it cool, and half above to give it light, and make a pedestal to the whole building. The entrance to it is by the private stair at one end to keep the front free of the drudgery servants. Below it are the cellars for coolness.

The second storey is entirely appropriate for the reception & entertainment of Strangers. In this storey the whole day is spent.

The 3rd Storey is all Bed chambers for the Master, Company, and children of the house.

The 4th Storey is rooms for the principal Servants, nursery, and a few rooms for more company.

The Garrets are for the lower servants who work in the house. The Roof is Bevelled all round, and has leads on the top. Round the easing of the roof are spouts to collect the rain water into a cistern on the 4th storey, for the preservation of the house against fire, and by pipes may be conveyed to the different Storeys for the use of the chambermaids.

In the 1st or ground Storey, A is a hall which gives admittance to all the rooms on this level without going through one another. It is lightened from the stair, and must be painted very white. B is the larder, which as it should be cool, is turned to the north. C is the servants hall, placed in this corner, that their noise may be out of hearing. D is the house keepers Storeroom, which as the housekeeper is often called in time of dinner, it is placed alongside the second table room E. F is a closet to the second table room. G is the Butler's Pantry. H is an easy descent for ale hogsheads down to the cellars, which come in by the great door on purpose No.5. I is the Stewards counting room for to admit those people who have business with him. K is the private stair which goes with one flight from this floor to the next above, and with another down from this floor to the cellars. At the end of it is the door for entry of servants, tenants, etc.. L is the Kitchen, which as it should be clean & cool, is turned to the morning sun and coolness of the north. It is placed under the library to keep its disagreeable smell from the rooms where company are. M is the coal house, by the window of which, the coals may be thrown in from the carts. N is the office house for this under storey, lightened from the kitchen. O is the Scullery, lightened from the Great stair P. All this Ground Storey must be vaulted for strength and fear against fire.

For the 2nd or principal Storey, A is the great hall, from which there is admittance to every room without going through one another. In the middle of it are 2 square pillars to support a wall in the 3rd storey. B is the small dining parlour which as it is principally made use of for winter and small companys it has its windows to the west and south to enjoy the sun at the time of dinner. C is the drawing room and is placed here for company to retire to either from the parlour or great dining room, its windows look west to enjoy the sun at the time of day that this room is made use of. D is the grand dining room, which is so placed that if it is too hot weather, it may be made cool by shutting the western windows. It is 5 feet higher in the ceiling than any room on this floor. E is the great Stair, open from top to bottom and to the halls, it must be made of wood all hanging. F is the Masters dressing room. It has its entrance from the great stair before it goes down to the first storey. For commodiousness it is placed along side of the Study or Library G, which has its windows to the East and North, to have the morning sun for Study and Business, and

these Winds for the preservation of books. It is placed above the kitchen that it may be the drier. It has its entry from the private stair for the easier reception of tenants. H has this commodiousness of a private stair, that with 3 flights of steps it brings you up to the 3rd floor, and the 4th flight is a level passage which gives admittance to the library. K is the finest room in the house for its ornaments. It is to receive visits in breakfast and dance in. L is the little house for this storey, and lightened from the library. M is the coal house for this storey and is lightened from the stair.

In the third Storey A is the hall which gives admittance to all the rooms on this floor. It is enlightened from the stair, and must be painted very white to make the more light by reflection. B is the principal Bedchamber for the Master and Lady of the house. it has its windows East for to enjoy the early sun, On one side it has a closet and little house, and recess for the head of the Bed. On the other side it may have a door to the private stair. C is the Lady's Bedchamber, turned to the South as more proper for the time of day it is made use in. Alongside is a closet for its use. D.D.D.D are 4 Excessive good Bedchambers for company with closets to each. E.E.E composes an apartment, 5 feet higher in the floor than the rest of the rooms on this floor, because of the height of the dining room below. it has its entry from the steps of the great stair in going up. It consists of an antechamber, and 2 bedrooms with closets to each. F is a sleeping room for a man servant. G is the coal house for this storey. H is the little house for this storey. and the private stair. I is the same as below.

The 4th storey is laid out in the same manner as the 3rd, for Bedrooms to the children, principal servants and Nursery. Off the Offices necessary to this house, it will be impossible to mention them here. Their situation and use would take up too much time. No ornaments is put on the front, because that depends on the quality of materials with which it will be built. If the house cannot front as it is directed above, the disposition of the inside must be altered. If the quality of the rooms are not according to Mr Murray's way of life it is easily altered. If the Measures of the whole house are too large or too small, decrease or enlarge the scale. The Principal defects of this house is the dinginess of the halls in 1st, 3rd and 4th storeys, the unequidistance of some of the windows on the outside, and their margins on the inside; but these, it might be hoped, may be removed by further study of the distribution. The proportion and size may be had for all the rooms from the Plan.