

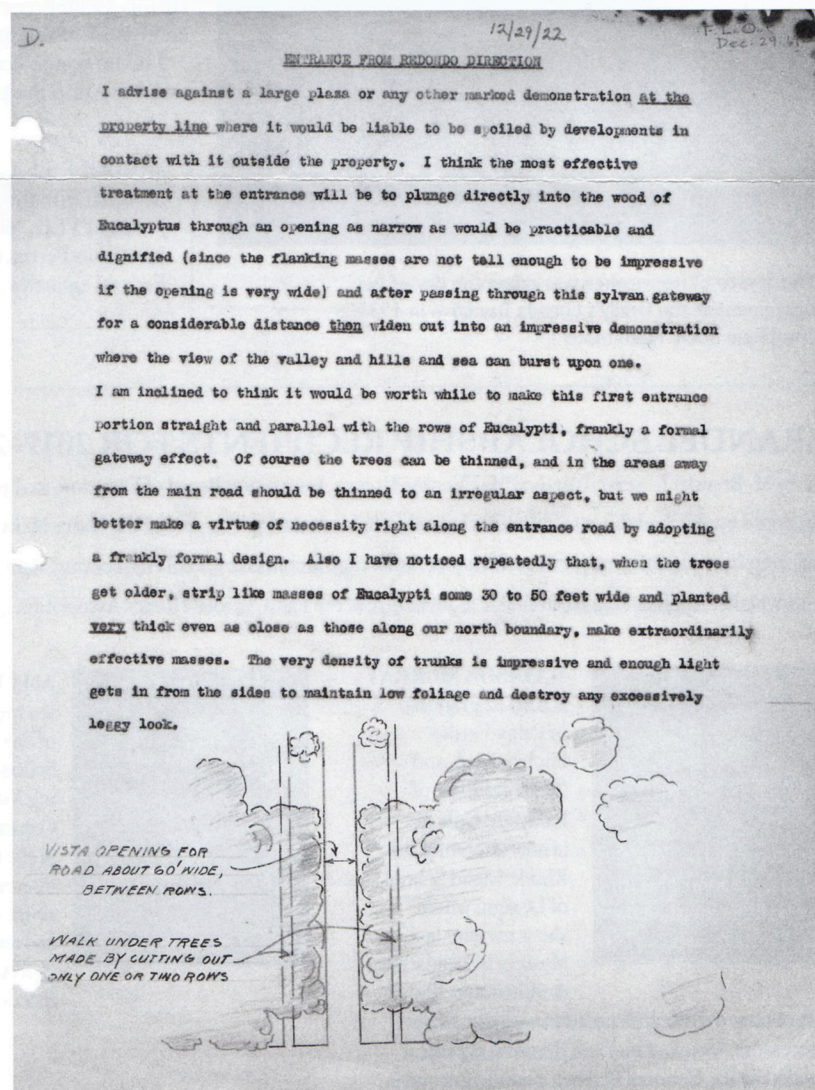
## PALOS VERDES HOMES ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES PROJECT

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In late 2016, the Palos Verdes Homes Association requested an archival needs assessment survey to evaluate the records held at the Homes Association and to create a plan for the archival preservation of historical materials. The survey itself concentrated on overall environment, storage, security, access, and usage of the materials at the Homes Association. Each of these factors influences the long-term sustainability and preservation of historical collections. The survey findings were used to determine the current status of the records based on collected observations and identified the level of preservation planning needed to bring the records up to general archival standards and best practices. Recommendations were then made on how to best access the materials without causing damage and how to properly preserve the historical materials held by the Homes Association and used by the Art Jury for the community. Currently an inventory of these rare and unique materials is being done, and the materials are being stabilized and protected.

Preservation and protection of these unique and rare pieces of Palos Verdes History includes removal of old fasteners and rehousing the items into acid-free archival housing, which will protect the materials and reduce deterioration. Materials held by the Homes Association encompass the substantial history of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, including the Palos Verdes Project. These materials include correspondence and sketches by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architecture Firm, alongside notes and drawings that outlined the vision of the Peninsula. The correspondence from the Olmsted Brothers, James Dawson and Jay Lawyer is dated as early as 1914 and includes maintenance plans, a preliminary freehand drawing of streets and terraces, and the original bylaws of the Palos Verdes Homes Association from 1923. Additional materials to be further preserved include: blueprints, photographs, correspondence associated with the design and building of the Point Vicente Lighthouse, correspondence from the beginning of the Palos Verdes Project, original documentation of utilities including the water supply and wiring for electricity, an original list of street names that is annotated, correspondence and initial planning for the never-to-be-constructed Zenith electric train line, and original budget proposals and notes for the Palos Verdes Project. Additionally, the Art Jury has a library which holds several books on architecture and art that are first editions dating back as early as 1900.

As part of the process of reviewing, inventorying and rehousing, the records held at the Homes Association are being streamlined and will aid the Homes Association staff and the Art Jury in serving the community. Working with the materials at the Homes Association is an exciting opportunity to uncover some of the original records that provide the foundation for a unique and beautiful part of Los Angeles and documents the intentions and fruition of protecting the beauty and integrity of the Peninsula. Preserving these heritage materials is an important part of the Peninsula's history and will safeguard the vision and the legacy of its design.



A page with pencil sketch from Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.'s Palos Verdes Project Notebook, December 29, 1922.

**STELLA CASTILLO** is an Archivist and Preservation Specialist. Stella earned her Master of Library Information Science at UCLA, specializing in Archival Studies, in 2015. For more information about Stella, visit [pvh.org](http://pvh.org).