

## PAVILION IX

In this State I will send it to you. If there is any thing in it which you think usefull, it is yours." Latrobe also lectured Jefferson on what he considered the very unfortunate "aspect" of the pavilions, as well as the dormitories, which faced east and west, rather than taking advantage of the climatically more desirable southern orientation.<sup>17</sup>

In his reply Jefferson stated that we would be "glad to receive your drawings...the elevations of pavilions will be most acceptable," and he enclosed "a very ragged sketch of the one now in hand," Pavilion VII. He also defended the orientation of the buildings, telling Latrobe that he had always been "well aware of all the importance of aspect, and have always laid it down as a rule that in drawing the plan of a house it's aspect is first to be known, that you may decide whether to give it most front or flank, and also on which side to throw passages & staircases in order to have the South, whether front or flank unembarrassed for windows." The site for the college, however, was "a law of nature to which we were bound to conform," he wrote. They had therefore made "our pavilions one room only in front, and 1. or 2. in flank as the family of the professor may require. in his apartments, or the best of them, his windows will open to the South. the lecturing room below has the same advantage, by substituting an open passage adjacent instead of a dormitory." The dormitories, he acknowledged, would not have the same southern exposure, but they would be outfitted with Venetian blinds and shaded by the "covered way"; besides, the pupils would be "in the lecture rooms for most of the day."<sup>18</sup> Jefferson would design Pavilion IX so that it had two windows on each story of the south façade, but the stairway, rather than more south-facing windows, was located in the southeast corner of the building. Jefferson marked the upper right corner of his own drawing of Pavilion IX with the word "Latrobe," apparently crediting him with an important role in its design.<sup>19</sup>

Latrobe did not reply to Jefferson's August letter until early October 1817, when he sent him a drawing for the university. On it, Latrobe wrote, "you will perceive that the pavilions are only sketches, but they have been perfectly studied, & I can furnish drawings in detail of any of them which may please You."<sup>20</sup> Jefferson replied immediately, thanking Latrobe for "the beautiful set of drawings" and telling him that the Visitors, "having decided to build two more pavilions the ensuing season, we shall certainly select their fronts from these." However, some of Latrobe's designs for the fronts of the other pavilions required "too great a width for us," Jefferson explained; they were instead "obliged to give the largest dimension to our flanks which look North & South."<sup>21</sup> The maximum width of the front facades was limited to 34 to 36 feet.<sup>22</sup> Later that month Latrobe wrote Jefferson that "I hope you will do me the favor to let me know which of the pavilions you approve for your first work next spring; with a sketch of its dimensions and its plan, that I may send you the working drawings & the details at large."<sup>23</sup>