You are asked to design an institute for the exchange of ideas, modeled after the Eranos Conferences established in 1933 by Olga Frobe-Kapteyn at the Casa Eranos.

In ancient Greece, the name “Eranos” meant a banquet at which each guest had to show himself worthy of having been invited by presenting an intellectual gift: a song, a poem, an improvised speech. Originally, Eranos was dedicated, according to its founder’s wishes, to the encounter of West and East, to Western and Eastern religion and spirituality. Over the years, Eranos developed far beyond its original boundaries to become a center where ideas were exchanged on science and the humanities, on religion and myth, on psychology and gnostics. Carl Jung was a frequent participant, as was Joseph Campbell years later.

The facility you will design, on a site in Portland Oregon yet to be chosen, will include a range of meeting rooms, all of them beautiful and inspiring, some of them outdoors. In addition, you will design accommodations for the guests for sleeping and bathing and solitude. There will be a large lecture/presentation hall, a library, as well as food preparation facilities. Support spaces for staff and fundraising will be necessary as well.

The complex will be moderate in size, perhaps 30,000-35,000 square feet, not including garden rooms. The building, with gardens, will be approximately 4 stories tall. Issues regarding vertical wholeness and connectivity will be stressed. In addition, we will focus on certain key rooms and will develop them in detail. Other primary issues that will be emphasized include:

- a well-developed primary structural system and palette of materials;
- detailed development of the garden as a setting for meditation and intellectual exchange;
- detailed development of beautiful rooms in which to meet and retreat.

To design in detail and to convey the results poetically requires discipline, motivation, and effort beyond the ordinary: be prepared to work hard.