

It was a thrill to look over the rolling acres of the former Gateway Golf Course and to know that here we could mold a wholly new focal point for the university campus. Clearly evident were the enthusiasm of the professional staff as they spoke of this new project and the vibrant expectancy of the students as they moved about the campus. What we were about to do had to be exciting in the fullest meaning of the concept.

Excitement has been the key to this development—in its scope, in its concept, and in its realization. Today, dreams have become forms. Three-dimensional fantasy has become reality.

We visualized buildings acting as retaining walls for a plaza which would be some twenty feet above street level. There would be views of the Auditorium down a tree-lined avenue of buildings, and hills and valleys would grant a view and hide it from another angle.

The plaza would have a personality of its own—a place which would be serene for some and vibrant for others. As a backdrop would be the Auditorium, riding far above, with its height accentuated by strong vertical lines of doors and windows. The court would contain a pleasant pool, filtering the reflection of the Auditorium through a colorful spray of undulating lights.

The Auditorium, facing a great plaza on which many campus activities would be held, was seen as a central focus for the Western students, faculty and staff as well as for the entire community. It would have the excitement of crowds moving over paving contrasted with plantings, of sparkling fountains and color, and it would be lighted at night. To all this would be added the approaches from several levels and the variety of entrances.

An “over-the-shoulder” look from the foyer as it is entered from the main terrace serves as a warm reminder of the campus and gives a strong statement of the complex itself. The nearby Sprau Tower symbolizes the reaching for learning, stressing that culture grows through knowledge and that culture has a definite place in a program of education.