The grand tier foyer is one of the most impressive spaces within the Auditorium. From it one may look through the windows and down upon the carefully stepped terraces, walkways, gardens and fountain; or one may enjoy the interplay of elements on the interior. While exterior shapes are essentially rectilinear, interior forms are dominated by the powerful sweep of a curved wall ascending through all levels from orchestra to the balcony. This massive curvature is complemented by the foyer ceiling, which in turn curves downward from the windows to the wall, thereby further dynamizing the movement of interior space.

With this dynamic movement of the wall, one is encouraged to follow as it penetrates the various lobby levels and as it goes from end to end of the main foyer. The repeated usage of brick in the stairwells and in the upper balconies also helps to move the eye up through the interior space. But it is the movement of people through all the spaces that primarily catches the eye and causes one to explore the structure.

To the sides of the grand tier foyer are a number of pleasant lounges which provide more intimate intermission spaces. Here the ceilings are low and inviting, and smaller spaces open discreetly into one another. The broad, comfortable stairways encourage easy movement from level to level. Ascending and descending, one finds similar intermission areas on the balcony and orchestra levels.

Although the breadth of the large, curving foyer wall suggests the form of the grand performance hall, most visitors will be unprepared for the powerful, sculptural sweep of its spacious interior. Shaped like a broad amphitheater, the space is divided into three levels by the arched platforms of the grand tier and the balconies. With the dynamic ramps of the steps rising from the stage to flank the seating, it appears as though the interior were embraced by giant arms, and the seating brought intimately together.

The force of this total impression is effectively supported by the repeated flow of curved forms which carry the eye easily to the stage while they suggest an ascending expansion from it. Such an alteration of effect creates a feeling of easy flexibility which is borne out in the function of the hall itself.

It is significant that the only major element of color in the interior is the rich red of the "continental" seating. All other surfaces are essentially neutral and may be washed by a special lighting system to assume colors suitable to the mood of any given performance. This flexibility is well matched by an electronically operated system of reflectors and baffles which accommodate acoustical properties to given performances.

Unquestionably grand in scale, there is nevertheless a remarkable sense of warmth and ease in the carefully shaped interior. With this character, and with the soundness of its functional planning, Western Michigan University's new University Auditorium should prove to be one of the finest performance halls in the country.