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New Additions - Added Pleasure

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For those who attend Thursday morning worship services and for those who wish to pause a moment during the day, this new Memorial Union chapel will always have open doors.

New Additions — Added Pleasures

by Dorothy Will

Home Economics Sophomore

Tradition says that if you step on the stars of the zodiac at the entrance of Memorial Union, you will fail your next examination. In a short time, there will be even more tradition connected with this zodiac, because many co-eds will probably be married in the little chapel located directly under the Union entrance. This chapel is but a small part of the new additions to the Memorial Union now being built.

The chapel is a small five-sided room with red Roman brick walls located on the ground floor. The chapel seats forty people and one portion of the room is enclosed as the bride’s room where there will be a small organ. The only illumination comes from an artificially-lit stained glass window behind the altar. A large rough-bewn cross adorns one wall.

Browsing library

From the chapel, you may go out into the new browsing library, located in the area now used for coats located between the entrance to the Grill and the cafeteria line. Plans for this room designate that the front wall be entirely glass at eye-level and above to allow students to see in and know that they are welcome even though the door is closed to keep out noise.

“Every first-class college union,” says Colonel Pride, director of the Union, “has a browsing library where textbooks are forbidden. Inside students can read only the current and classical literature provided.”

On the west wall of ground floor is the vehicle entrance with its semi-circular drive branching off from the main road around the lake, three-level terrace, bronze doors and marble lobby. The entrance will be covered with an awning so that car passengers may go from car to Union without getting wet in rainy or snowy weather. Steam-pipes laid in the cement will melt the ice and snow in the winter. A large check room and a special built-in booth for ticket sales are located near the lobby across from the Grill entrance.

Town hall

Turning left from the entrance you’ll find a large room called Town Hall, which, though at present serves as a repair shop, will later be used as an arena for such things as exhibitions and square dances. Next to the arena is the large council chamber, an inside oak-paneled room which can be completely darkened for movies. Special sound and light equipment, a blackboard behind doors, and a cork wall for posting notices are other features of the chamber. The arena and council chamber can be used by conventions, allowing them to have meetings and exhibitions all in one area of the Union.

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To the right of the vehicle entrance is the area designed for recreation—three rooms with Roman brick walls and equipped for bowling, table tennis, and billiards. The billiards room features a rough corral on which onlookers may lean without getting in the way of the players.

Trophy Tavern, too, is having a face lifting. Special lighting effects, windows blacked out on the inside, and a fancy terraza floor are some of the features which are designed to give this room a nightclub atmosphere. Also on ground floor are eight student offices, a barber shop, storage rooms and a trinket shop.

On second floor you'll find the lobby across from the main desk enlarged to five times its original size. Modern furnishings, indirect lighting, and walls of a bright primary color are some of the features of the new lobby. Opening off the lobby will be offices for the alumni secretary, general service manager and general Union hostess.

Fashionable lounges for men and women are also found on this floor. The entrance to the women's lounge is located on the west wall of zodiac hall. Furnishings for this high-ceilenged room will include a grand piano. The lounge's fifteen foot windows overlook central campus.

The Gallery

A room which promises to be very popular on third floor is the Gallery, designed for exhibitions and dances. Its monkscloth walls will enable students to hang decorations and pictures anywhere they wish. Since music can be piped up from Great Hall, the Gallery will add more space for big dances. It is also equipped with a snack bar and kitchenette so refreshments can be obtained without going down many stairs to the Grill. Lighting will be furnished by three sets of lights, one of fluorescent and two incandescent, which can be focused anywhere in the room. This feature will be excellent for displays and also for dances since the incandescent used alone are much more flattering to complexions and dresses.

Offices for the Union director, orchestra agent, Cardinal Guild, Veishea and Ward system are located on third floor. Most of the offices will have wood paneling, indirect lighting and a cork carpet wall for posting notices.

Throughout the addition you will notice the generous use of color—ranging from the dark red halls on ground floor to the soft green chosen for the women's lounge.

In case, when you have finished your tour, you are wondering what made possible this big project, Colonel Pride has this explanation: "Our main reason for expansion is to provide more space for informal education and cultural activities. When we first built the Union, we were mainly concerned with those items which would bring in revenue, but now we can afford to give the students new facilities for both recreation and education."

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Norman Cassiday

720 Walnut Street Des Moines, Iowa

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