

# The Fine Arts building

When the University's new Fine Arts Building opened for business several months ago, it brought into a single area three far-flung departments that for years had been ill-housed. Until moving day, the Art Department was scattered in attics and five temporary structures. The Department of Music lived dangerously in crumbling Lathrop Hall. The Speech and Dramatic Art Department was more substantially centered in the basement of Jesse Hall, but lacked a suitable stage for too long a time.

Now the three-in-one arrangement of the Fine Arts Building, which stems from a plan suggested by President Ellis when he was Arts and Science dean, provides modern and efficient housing—as well as a lift in morale—for each of the newly relocated departments.

Almost from the day it was occupied, the building became a bustling cultural center with its concentration of activities in music, art and drama. The public is quickly getting acquainted with the new facility, being attracted to presentations in the art gallery, the University Theater, and the music recital hall.

Meanwhile, instruction to students is enhanced by the most modern of teaching facilities, many of them designed or specified by the department heads.

The Fine Arts complex consists of two main units, two stories high, with a connecting art gallery between them. The building fronting on Lowry Street houses the music and drama sections; the other main building, fronting on University Avenue, is the home of the art department.

The music-drama building may be said to have two auditoriums "back-to-back;" one is the recital hall and the other is the University Theater. Surrounding them are two floors of classrooms, offices, studios and other facilities needed in the development of musical and dramatic presentations. Music alone has 40 practice rooms and 22 teaching studios. The University Theater has an 88 x 32 foot stage house and a 40 x 30 foot scene shop as well as an arena-studio theater seating about 85.

The \$1,800,000 building was built from funds provided by the 75-million-dollar State bond issue.

*The art gallery, which connects with the other sections of the building.*





*Lobby of recital hall which fronts on Lowry Street.  
A similar lobby connects the University Theater with art gallery.  
Below, two of the forty music practice rooms.*



## Fine Arts Building continued



*The Fine Arts Building, of buff brick with aluminum trim, from corner of Lowry and Hitt streets. Entrance to music section and recital hall on the south is at left. Tall portion at center is stage house for University Theater. Art wing is at far right. Below, the Theater looking toward glass-enclosed observation booth where spotlights and light and sound consoles are located. Auditorium seats 288.*





*A 250-seat recital hall is specifically designed for musical performances and recitals in the nature of laboratory work. There is no curtain or stage house to absorb the music. Stage lighting is from a panel suspended overhead. Below, painting studio on second floor of art wing, lighted by north windows to ceiling, by skylights, and grid lighting.*

