STAYER CENTER, Marian University, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, 2001

Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, was built in the 1960’s in a Late Modern architectural language, using glass, and stone from a nearby limestone quarry for virtually all of the buildings on campus. The buildings were configured in two types: simple rectangles for classroom buildings, and cylindrical buildings for unique functions like the Library and the Chapel. The new Stayer Center, a 50,000sf classroom building with a 250-person lecture Hall, accepted this pre-existing language and divided the program into a stone-clad classroom building, a stone cylinder for the lecture hall, and a glass atrium that wraps and connects the two. Pre-existing campus paths were extended onto the site, one passing through the new glass atrium and forming two main entries into the building. In this atrium, a monumental stairs leads up to a bridge connecting the second floor of the classroom building with the top of the lecture hall rake. The classroom building is single loaded, with circulation in the glass atrium on the first floor, and drawn into the stone building on the second with a series of balconies which protrude into the upper space of the glass atrium. Support spaces on the first floor protrude from the rectangle to form a roof terrace which serves the second floor classrooms.
The wood ceiling panels in the lecture hall are designed to reflect the natural sound of a speaker back down onto the audience.
Balconies protrude from the second floor of the classroom building into the 2-story atrium.

Section through the glass atrium with the stairs and the bridge hung from the steel structure above.

The bridge across the atrium connects the stone-clad classroom building (at left) with the cylindrical lecture hall.