



MacRobert Theatre, Stirling University. Exterior, showing restaurant (bottom right), recital room (next to restaurant centre right), fly tower. Main entrance is out of shot extreme left.

MacRobert and Brunton

Francis Reid

In Stirling they have built a theatre which I can get really enthusiastic about. This is my kind of theatre. This is a theatre which would give me audience pleasure if I sat in front, technical pleasure if I worked behind, and it has announced a programme composed entirely of my kind of show.

A subjective judgement perhaps, but theatre is a subjective place and anyone who is looking for an objective analysis of critical scenic paths or a reasoned criticism of the working-light switchboard should read no further. As far as I am concerned, it is with this building that *Theatre Consultancy* comes of age and justifies itself as a profession. For not only does this building avoid the technical pitfalls, it also avoids the technical excesses.

The MacRobert starts with tremendous natural advantages in its site. I would not insult the grandeur of this "University of the Hills" by attempting to describe it by means of such an inferior communication medium as Eng. Lit. Let me just say that the location is totally theatrical and that the architect has had the good sense to let his buildings be totally dominated by it and to concentrate on providing an environmental awareness of loch and hills for those who labour within the campus; and even the most megalomaniac theatre man must be cut down just a little by these hills and their Wallace monument floating in expertly cued dry-ice.

Stirling University is perhaps fortunate in having no department of drama; theatre is therefore free to serve its true master—the audience. And theatre in Stirling will