

ARCHITECTURE *for the* NEW THEATRE

EDITED BY EDITH J. R. ISAACS

THEATRE PLANNING, BY LEE SIMONSON
THEATRE TYPES, BY FREDERICK ARDEN
PAWLEY . . . A COMMUNITY THEATRE, BY
WILLIAM HOWARD LESCAZE . . . PROJECTS
BY NORMAN BEL GEDDES . . . NEW RUSSIAN
THEATRES . . . MODERN SWEDISH THEATRES

Published for the National Theatre Conference

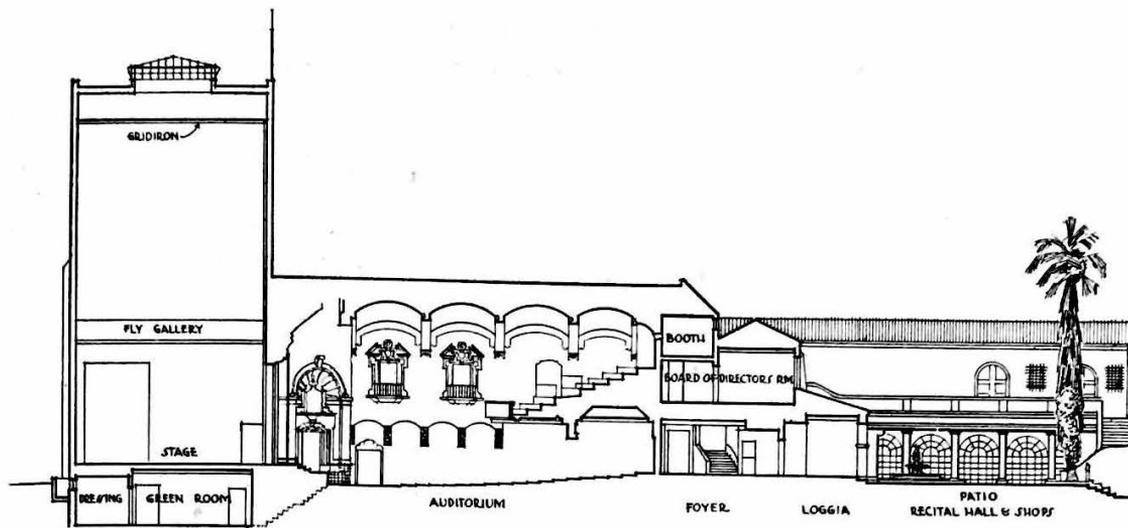
NEW YORK . . . THEATRE ARTS, INC. . . . 1935

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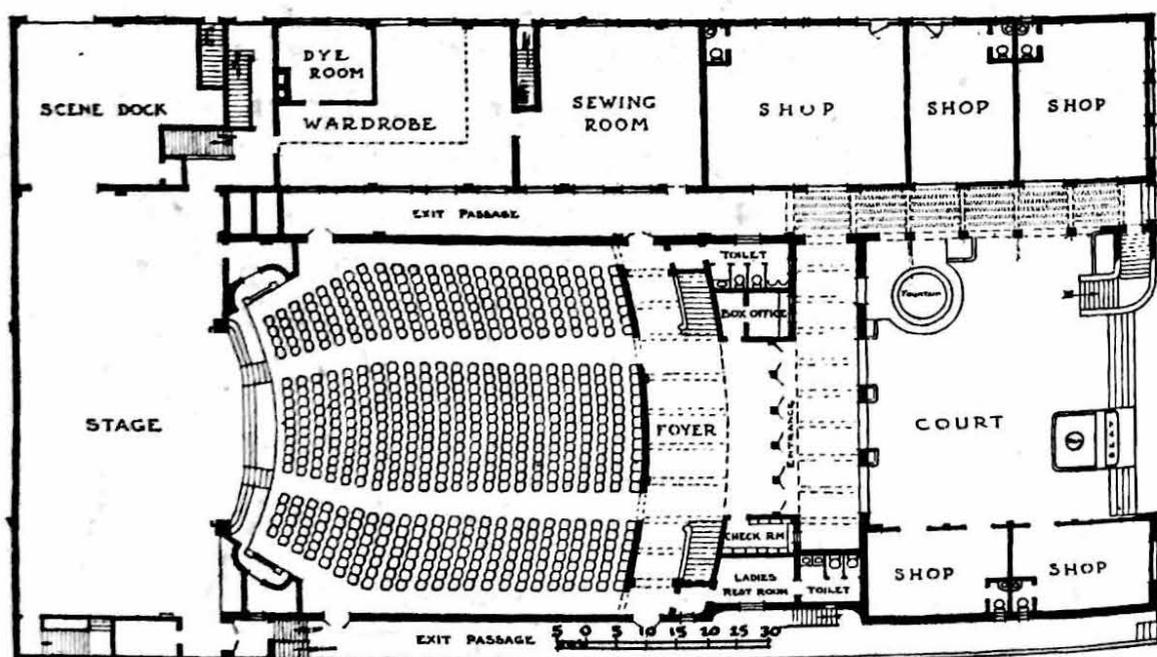


THE PASADENA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

THE architect of The Pasadena Community Playhouse was faced with the problem of providing adequate facilities for experimental productions, rehearsals of several plays simultaneously, and of unifying a row of shops with the theatre building.

California Mission style, heavy white stucco loggias and walls, red tile roofs and baroque scrolls. Entrance through open patio formed by small shops (with recital hall above), or by covered passage. Fountain and curving exterior stair to recital hall and offices. The auditorium is in Mexican Colonial Spanish with bold decorative forms. Side aisles of balcony continue in covered passages supported by heavy corbels along each side of the auditorium. Windows in the walls of these passages permit use as acting area. Heavily beamed and polychromed ceiling covered with two inches of felt under mesh for acoustic absorption. Sightlines fairly good. Foyer, lobby

and loggias give good area for handling exit crowd. Checkroom well-placed but small. Lavatories well located. Large green room under stage with access for audience through the orchestra pit. Excellent stage area. No traps because of green room below. Two wagon stages are used. Shop work done in another building. Costume department has good area and arrangement. Scene dock small. Elaborate switchboard stage right. Electricians' gallery, concealed spots in false boxes, and other front-of-the-house lighting from first ceiling beam. Disappearing footlights for apron and for plastered rear wall. Removable steps over orchestra pit with gauze risers enabling orchestra to play with steps in place. Two chorus rooms and ten triple dressing rooms below stage, opening into green room. Location of green room below stage of doubtful value. Traps, if possible, are not convenient. There is a theatre school with all-year classes. The inclusion of shops, one of which is a tea-room, is a good means of extra-income and if unrented may be used



as classrooms. Additional features: recital hall seating 300 if ante-room is included; two dressing rooms for same; make-up and costume rooms near main theatre dressing rooms; administrative offices; Board of Directors' room and library over entrance lobby; ushers' room and locker room in basement.

Hiller



THE PASADENA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE *Built 1925*

ELMER GREY, *architect*

Seats 832 (224 in balcony)

		PER SEAT
83.5%	Building & Fees	\$365,000. \$440.
1.1%	Stage Equipment	4,000. 5.
2.7%	All Electric Work	12,000. 14.
3.4%	Switchboard	15,000. 18.
4.6%	Heating & Ventilating	20,000. 24.
2.1%	Auditorium Chairs	9,500. 11.
2.6%	Decoration	11,500. 14.

Cubage 860,000 cu. ft.

Cost in 1925 @ .543 cu. ft. 467,000. 530.

Comparative Cost:

E.N.R. Jan. 1, 1933, .416 per cu. ft. 358,000. 406.

DIMENSIONAL DATA

Proscenium height 20 ft. Stage height to gridiron 69 ft.

Proscenium width 31 ft. 6 in. Stage clear width 73 ft. 6 in.

Stage depth from curtain 36 ft.

Stage height above room floor 47 in.

Back-to-back spacing of seats 33 in.

Cubage per seat 1035 cu. ft.

