

arts & architecture

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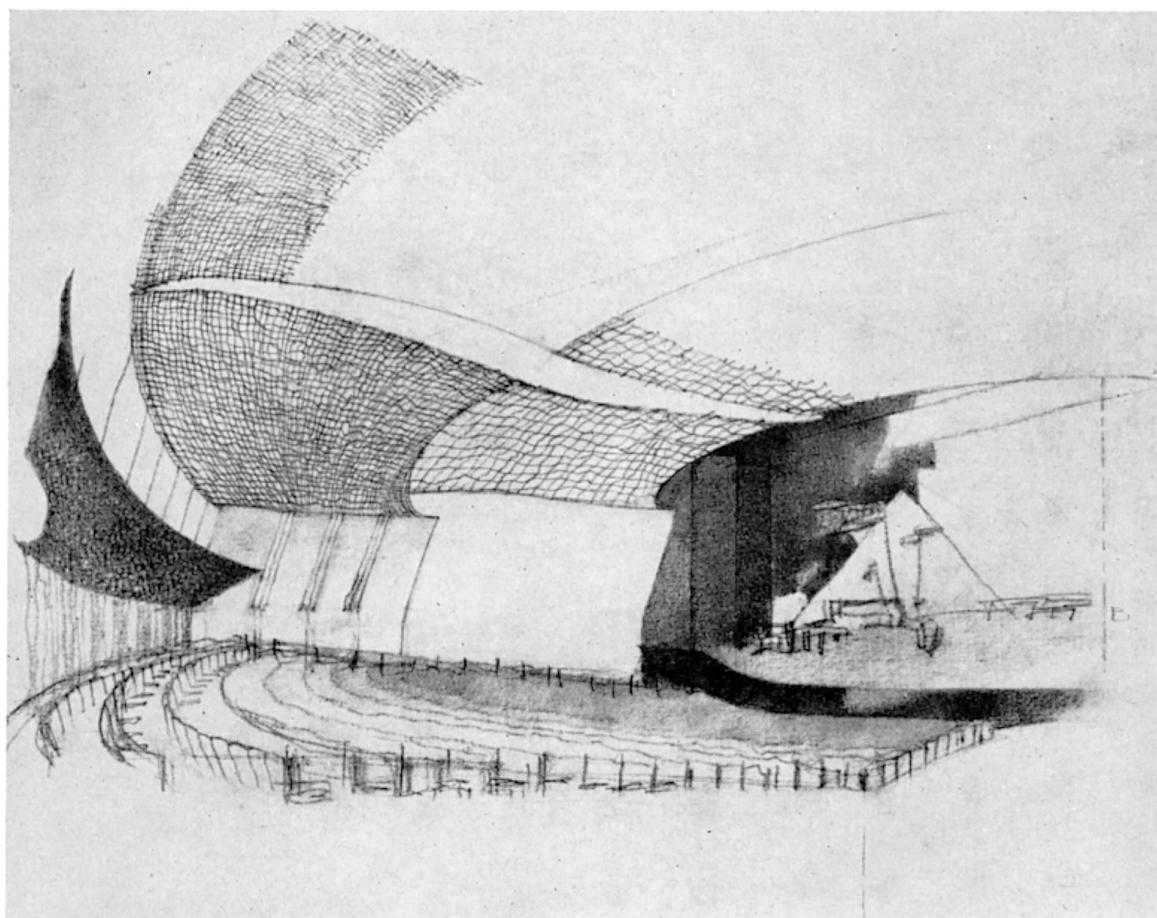
EXPERIENCE OF THE THEATER

ITS PHYSIOLOGY By Richard Neutra

Close by to the tallest, most distinguished office building in Europe, just finished for "Rheinrohr," a concern constructing fabulous pipelines in Arabia and Venezuela, is the site of one of the most prominent publicly maintained legitimate theaters of the whole Continent. It is a continent studded with theatrical culture.

The theater opens out on an ancient park of the 18th century and, due to its looming neighbor, the architect decided to distinguish it, not by a raised base, but by a sunken forecourt. It is the court of the original Three Muses. They stand there in an abstract sculptural chord; the fountain of the Hippocrene and a large mirror pool will enrich it. Over a bridge the visitors promenade onto a raised terrace during the intermission.

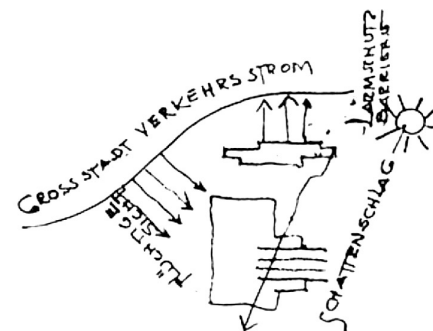
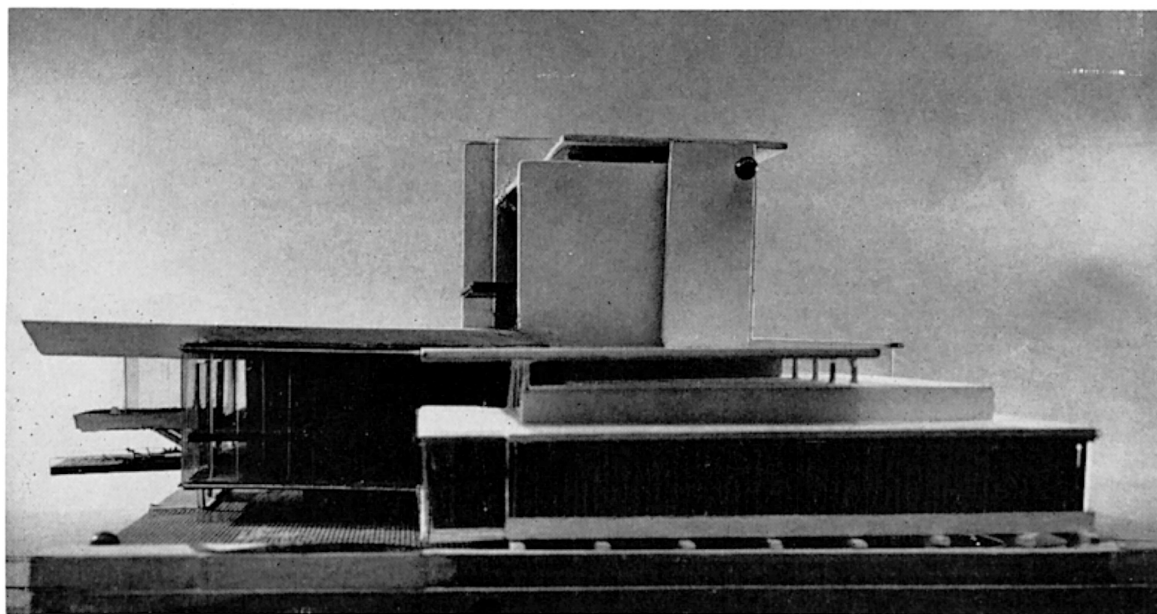
For Europe it is a very unusual matter to have a municipal monument like a theater



A MODERN THEATER BY RICHARD NEUTRA, ARCHITECT

A PROJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN DUSSELDORF, GERMANY

A FIRST HONOR AWARD IN THE INVITATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE CITY THEATER OF DUSSELDORF



Metropolitan traffic gives a view onto this central civic structure. The skyscraper at its side casts on its variegated roofplanes an interesting shadow.

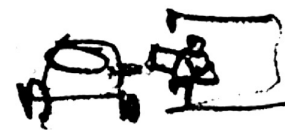
over-towered by a "glass slab," somewhat like the U.N. building, or seen and enjoyed from its roof terrace, something like 300 ft. above.

But, this theater is designed for an angel's view, rather than for frogs' perspective.

Shadows will be cast most interestingly by the tall neighbor over the two houses of the theater and the stage loft, on top of which one of the most honored functionaries of this rich German city holds his representative office—the "Superintendent," who will be visited by most important national guests, Heads of States and travelers from all continents.

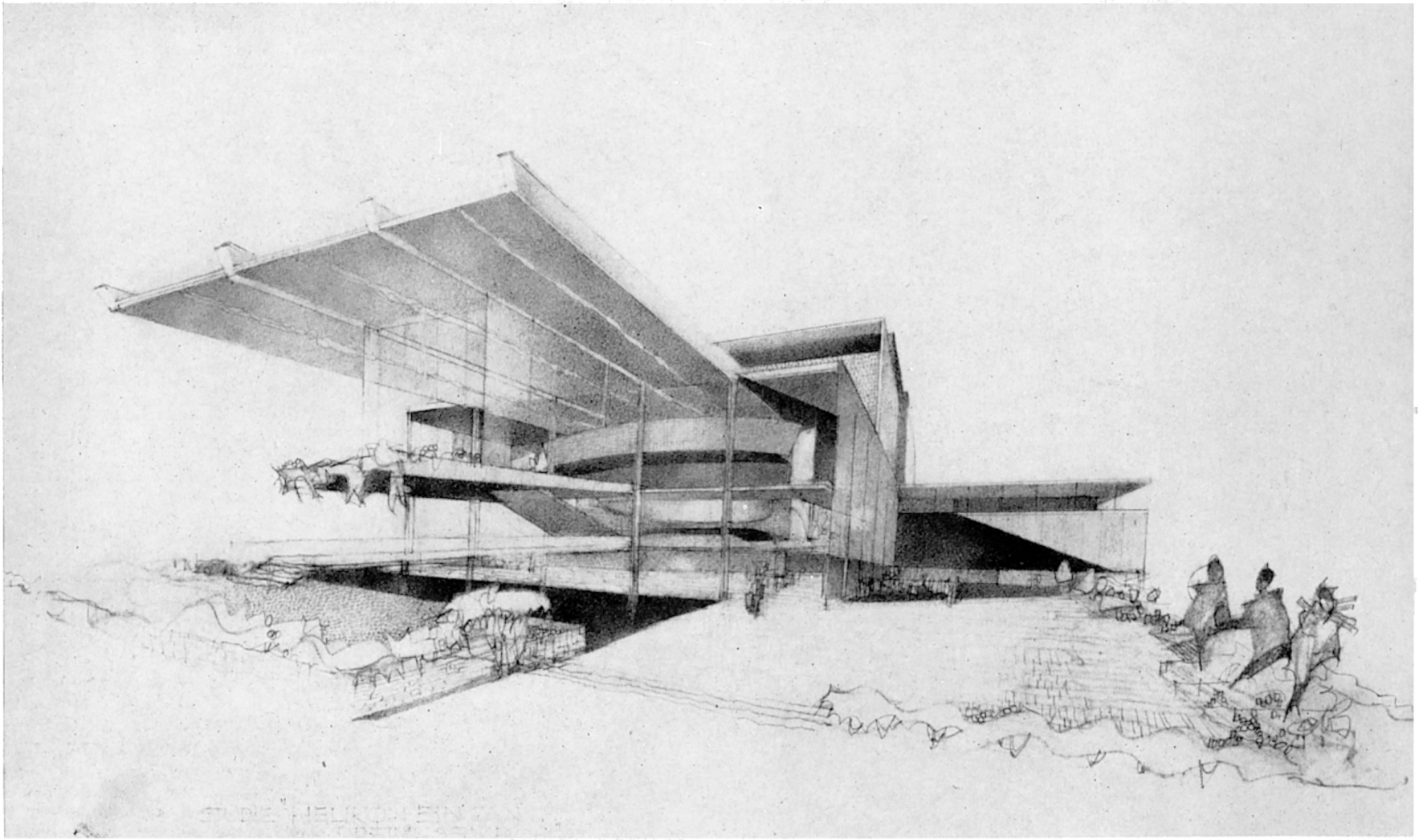
The whole building group and its surrounding terraces with garden areas and reflection pools will be a social center for many occasions and the pride of this city, which itself harbors few industries, but is the administrative center of the most far-flung, world-wide technological economics.

Every old tree has been preserved by the architect on this site, viewed from a dignified distance, by masses of people engaged in the stream of metropolitan traffic. Extensive park-



Ticket buying at day, right from the automobile, escalators up from underground parking garages are unusual features for a European theater.

ing spaces, especially under the building, are approached from the north and south and relayed by an underground concourse from which the theater guests reach, by escalators, the foyers of both houses and the ticket offices. An outer ticket office is operated by day for easy "drive-by" purchase.



A MODERN THEATER BY RICHARD NEUTRA

The architect extends his gratitude for the aid given by collaborators, assistants and model makers, and particularly for the engineering advice by D. Sykes-Free and Eugene Birnbaum, and for the scientific information for which he is indebted to Dr. N. Ishlondsky and Dr. Karl Pribram. The other prize winners of the first three in the Dusseldorf competition were Bernhard Pfau, of Dusseldorf, and E. F. Brockmann, of Hanover.

