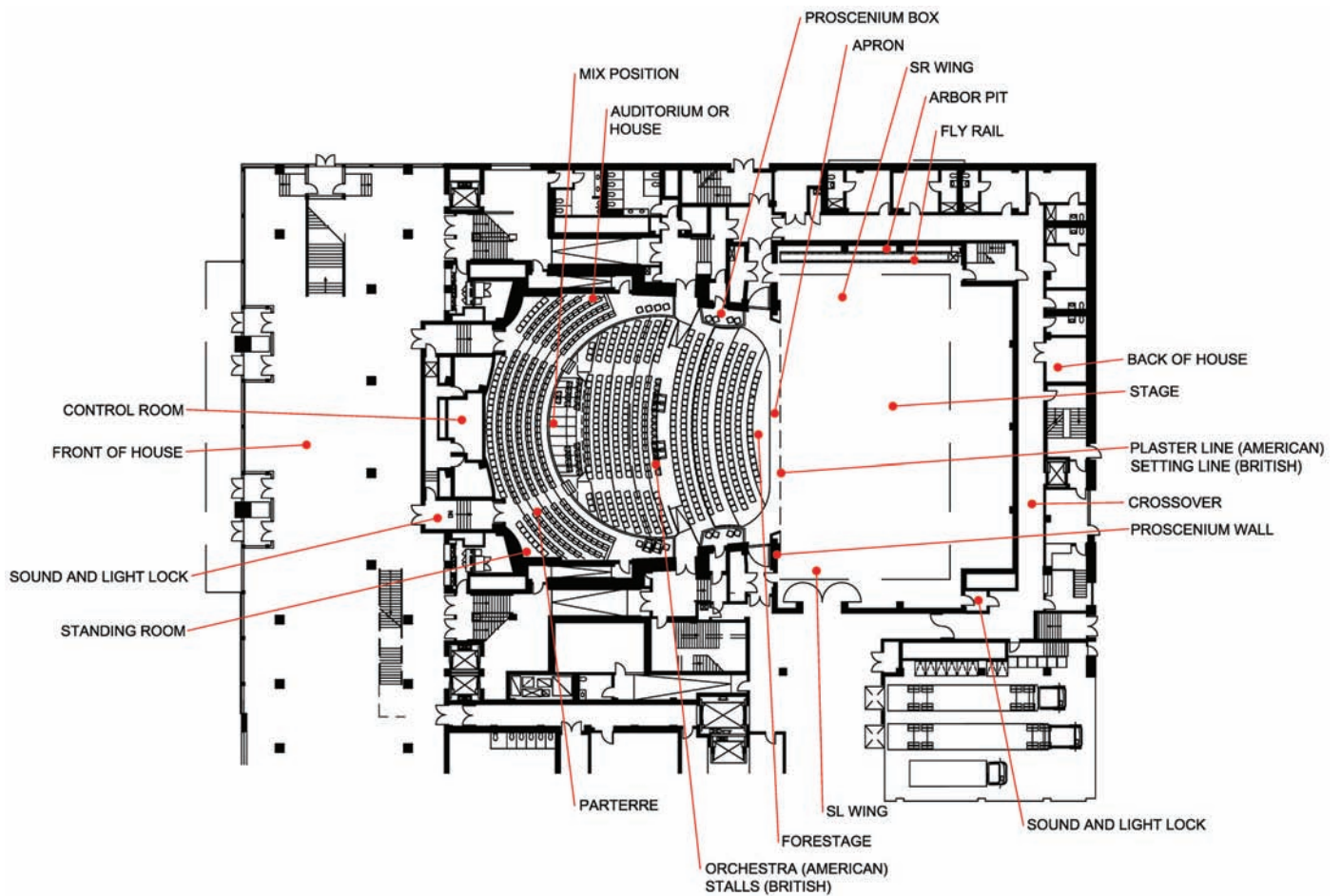
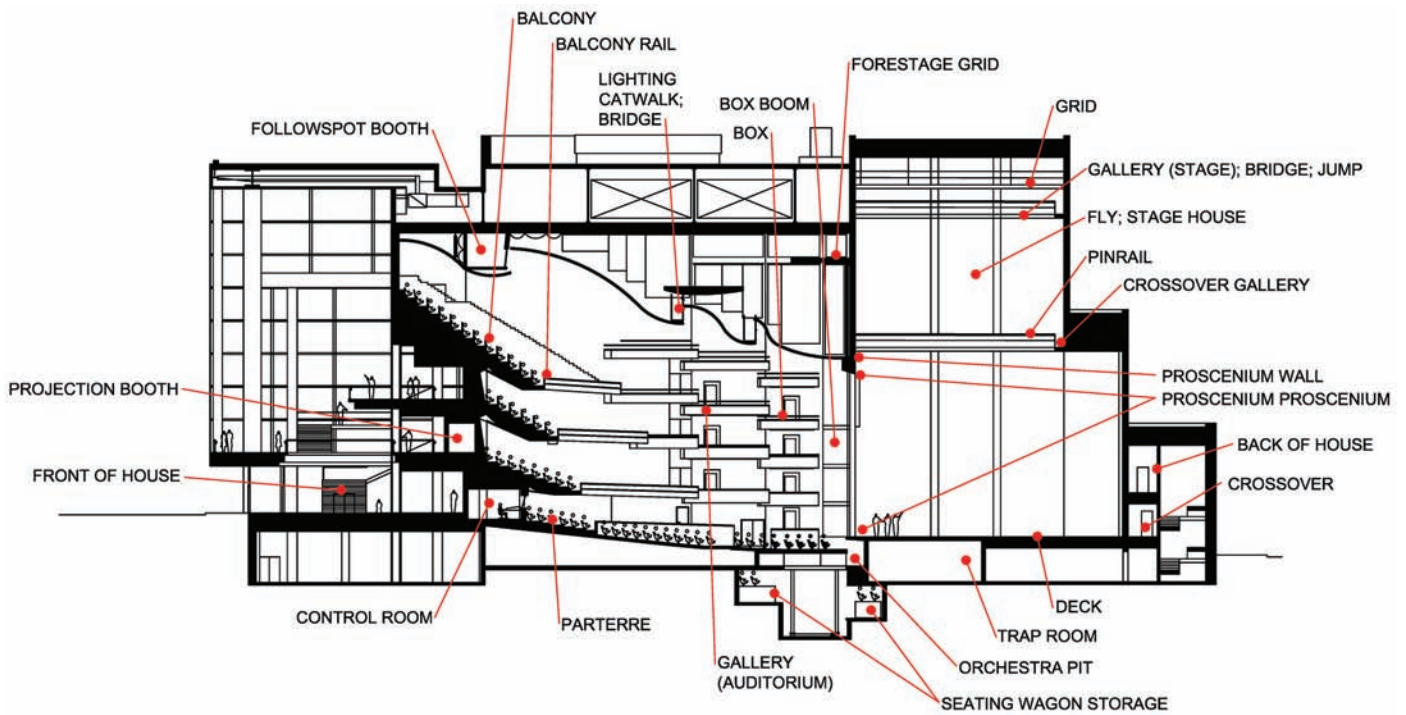


# Parts of a Theatre Building

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## Parts of a theatre building

### **apron**

(noun) the area of a proscenium stage located downstage of the proscenium wall and upstage of the orchestra pit. If the floor of the orchestra pit is raised to stage level (by machinery or with platforms) then it may form an extension of the apron, called a forestage or stage extension.

### **arbor pit**

(noun) an open slot in the stage floor below the rigging wall that allows the counterweight arbors to travel lower than the stage floor to provide increased batten travel. Also the room or space below that slot.

### **auditorium**

(noun) the seating area or audience chamber of a performance space; the house

### **back of house (BOH), backstage**

(noun) the area of a theatre not open to the public, where the performance is prepared

(adjective) in or relating to the areas of a theatre where the performance is prepared

### **balcony, circle, mezzanine, tier**

(noun) a raised seating area within an auditorium that extends over the seating area below

### **balcony rail**

(noun) a guardrail that forms the front of a balcony; or a bar for mounting stage spotlights on the front of a balcony

### **box boom**

(noun) a mounting position for stage spotlights at the front side of the auditorium, usually a vertical pipe

### **box, opera box**

(noun) a seating area in an auditorium, usually (a) seating between two and twelve spectators, (b) with loose instead of fixed chairs, and (c) separated from adjacent areas by railings or half walls

### **bridge**

(noun) a gallery or catwalk, sometimes suspended from overhead rigging to allow it to be raised, lowered, or repositioned

also lighting bridge, loading bridge

### **control room**

(noun) a room, usually at the rear of the auditorium, from which lighting, sound, and other control equipment is operated during the performance

also lighting control room, sound control room

### **crossover**

(noun) a passage, usually at the rear of the stage, used by performers and staff to move from one side of the stage to the other without coming into the view of the audience

also crossover corridor, crossover gallery

**deck**

(noun) the stage floor

**fly, fly loft, fly tower, loft, stage tower**

(noun) the upper part of the stage house where scenery, drapery, and equipment can be suspended out of the view of the audience

**fly rail, index rail, locking rail**

(noun) a railing at which stage rigging, usually counterweight rigging, is operated

**followspot booth**

(noun) a raised area, usually enclosed, from which high intensity spotlights are operated to “follow” performers

**forestage**

(noun) an extension of a proscenium stage downstage of the proscenium wall and apron  
(adjective) relating to the area above and around the forestage

**forestage grid**

(noun) a grid above the front part of the auditorium from which rigging may be employed

**front of house (FOH)**

(noun) the public areas of a theatre

(adjective) 1. in or relating to the public areas of a theatre; 2. relating to stage lighting located within the auditorium (front of house catwalks, slots, box booms)

**gallery**

(noun) 1. a raised audience seating area, balcony; a raised seating area at the side of an auditorium, often with only one or two rows of loose chairs; 2. a raised work platform within the stage house, providing walkways for staff and operating and mounting positions for theatre equipment

also crossover gallery, fly floor, fly gallery, lighting gallery, loading gallery, operating gallery

**grid, gridiron**

(noun) a floor of structural steel channel or grating which extends over the upper portion of the stage house. Provides mounting positions for theatre equipment and staff access to any point over the stage for rigging and maintenance.

**house**

(noun) 1. the seating area or audience chamber of a performance space; auditorium; 2. the audience

(adjective) in or relating to the audience chamber

**jump**

(noun) a raised work platform within the stage house; gallery

also lighting jump

**lighting catwalk**

(noun) a raised walkway, usually above the auditorium, with operating and mounting positions for stage spotlights

**mix position**

(noun) a location within the auditorium, often temporary, from which a sound mixing console is operated during the performance

**orchestra**

(noun) in American usage, the seating area on the main floor of the auditorium, or in the portion of the main floor closest to the stage; called stalls in British usage

(adjective) in or relating to this seating area

**orchestra pit**

(noun) a depressed floor area immediately downstage of (or partly under) the apron, where the orchestra plays during performances. The orchestra pit is often equipped with a lift or platforms to raise the floor level to form an extension of the audience seating area or a stage extension.

(adjective) in or relating to this area

**parterre, parquet circle, orchestra circle**

(noun) the seating area surrounding the rear of the orchestra (or stalls), usually slightly elevated and separated by a half wall

(adjective) in or relating to this seating area

**pin rail**

(noun) a railing at which spotline rigging is operated

**plaster line**

(noun) in American usage, the finished upstage face of the proscenium wall, fire curtain, or pilasters from which equipment and scenery are dimensioned. See also setting line.

**projection booth**

(noun) an elevated and enclosed room in which projection equipment is housed and operated

**proscenium, proscenium arch, proscenium opening, pros**

(noun) the opening in the proscenium wall through which the stage is seen by the audience

(adjective) in the area of or relating to the proscenium

**proscenium box, stage box**

(noun) a box adjacent to the proscenium wall

**proscenium wall**

(noun) the wall which separates the stage from the auditorium

**seating wagon**

(noun) a movable platform (on wheels or air casters) with fixed audience chairs. Seating wagons are placed on the orchestra pit lift to provide additional audience seating, and moved to storage when not needed.

**setting line**

(noun) in British usage, a line parallel to the proscenium and usually upstage of the house curtain that is clear of any permanent obstructions and from which equipment and scenery are dimensioned. See also plaster line.

**sound and light lock (SLL)**

(noun) a vestibule that separates the auditorium from the lobby or circulation areas, to keep noise and light out of the auditorium; a similar vestibule separating the stage from back of house

**stage**

(noun) an area used for the performance of plays or other entertainment. In a proscenium theatre, this area is usually raised above the first row of audience seating and partially enclosed by the stage house.

(adjective) in or relating to this area

**stage house**

(noun) the part of a theatre building upstage of the proscenium wall which includes the stage, wings, galleries, gridirons, and associated areas

(adjective) in or relating to this part of the theatre

**stalls**

(noun) in British usage, the seating area on the main floor of the auditorium, or in the portion of the main floor closest to the stage; called orchestra in American usage

**standing room**

(noun) an area, usually at the back of the auditorium or sides of a gallery, where standing audience members may view the performance for a reduced price

**trap room**

(noun) the room below the stage area which is used for scenic effects. The trap room can be opened to the stage house by removable traps in the stage floor.

(adjective) in or relating to this room

**wagon storage**

(noun) a space below the auditorium or stage, and either directly upstage or downstage of the orchestra pit, used to store seating wagons

**wing(s)**

(noun) the sides of the stage offstage left and offstage right used for scenery, performer preparation and circulation, and the operation of theatre equipment