



SENSORY EFFECTS
IN CONTEMPORARY
ARCHITECTURE

Alejandro Bahamón Ana Maria Álvarez

LIGHT COLOR SOUND

Light Color Sound
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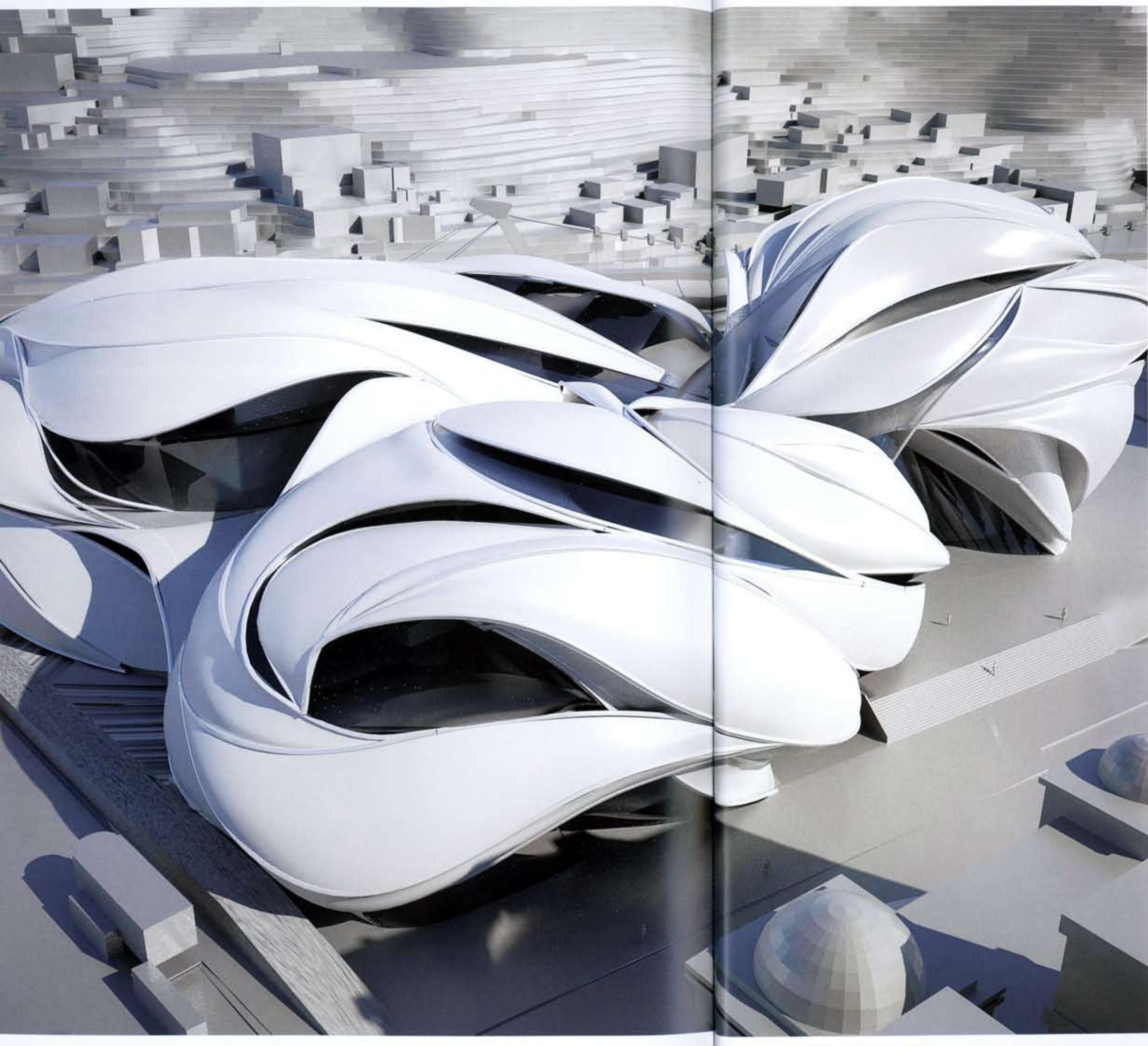
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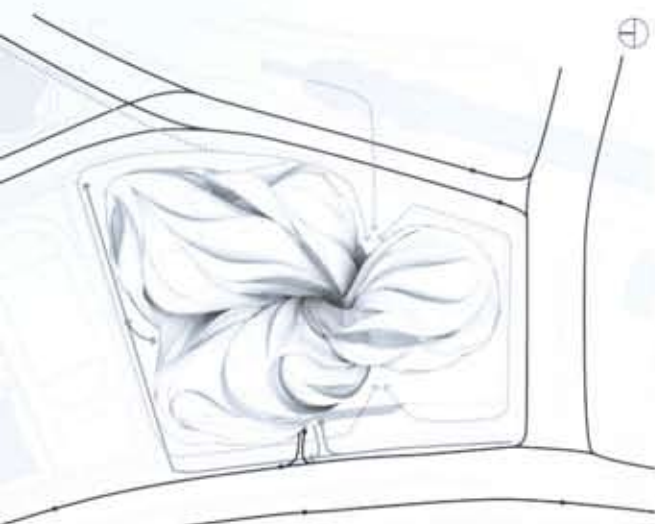
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Center for the Dramatic Arts

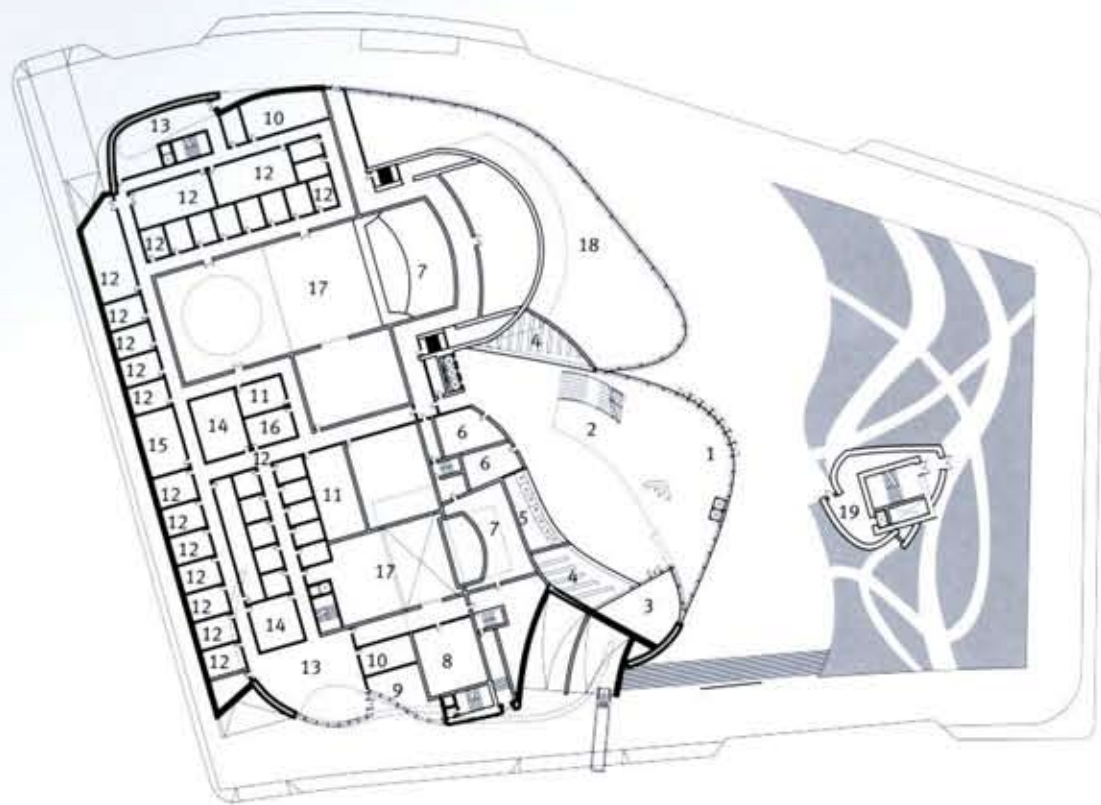


SITE PLAN

The members of the B+U team combine their musical training and architectural experience to come up with projects that involve both musical composition and digital media. They have created software that enables them to experiment with three-dimensional forms based on sonograms and sounds. Accordingly, their project for the competition to build the Center for the Dramatic Arts in Taipei was based on sound. They analyzed sound waves to transform them into vectors that provide the structure and exterior form of the building. In this way they sought to enhance the richness and diversity of an institution that has to serve as a reference point for the city. The glass and metal used on the exterior emphasize the wavy lines of the three volumes and offer glimpses of the activities underway inside.

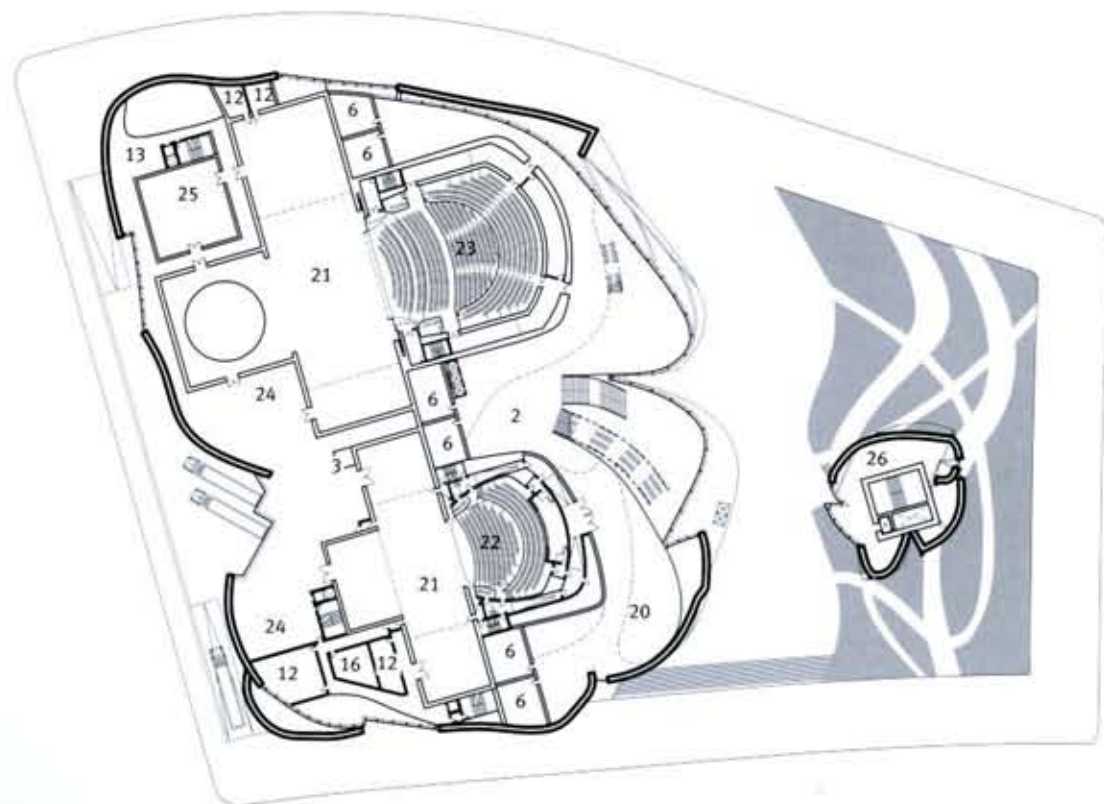
The building's location is a link between the Shilin nighttime market and the Jiantan train station. Bearing in mind that this nexus is destined to be a large square, the architects decided to raise the building above the ground. This approach links the streets in the vicinity and structures the central entrance onto the main foyer and the three theaters. On the level of the square itself, an area covered by the large roof of one of the theaters contains stores and restaurants, which can be reached from both the square and adjacent streets.



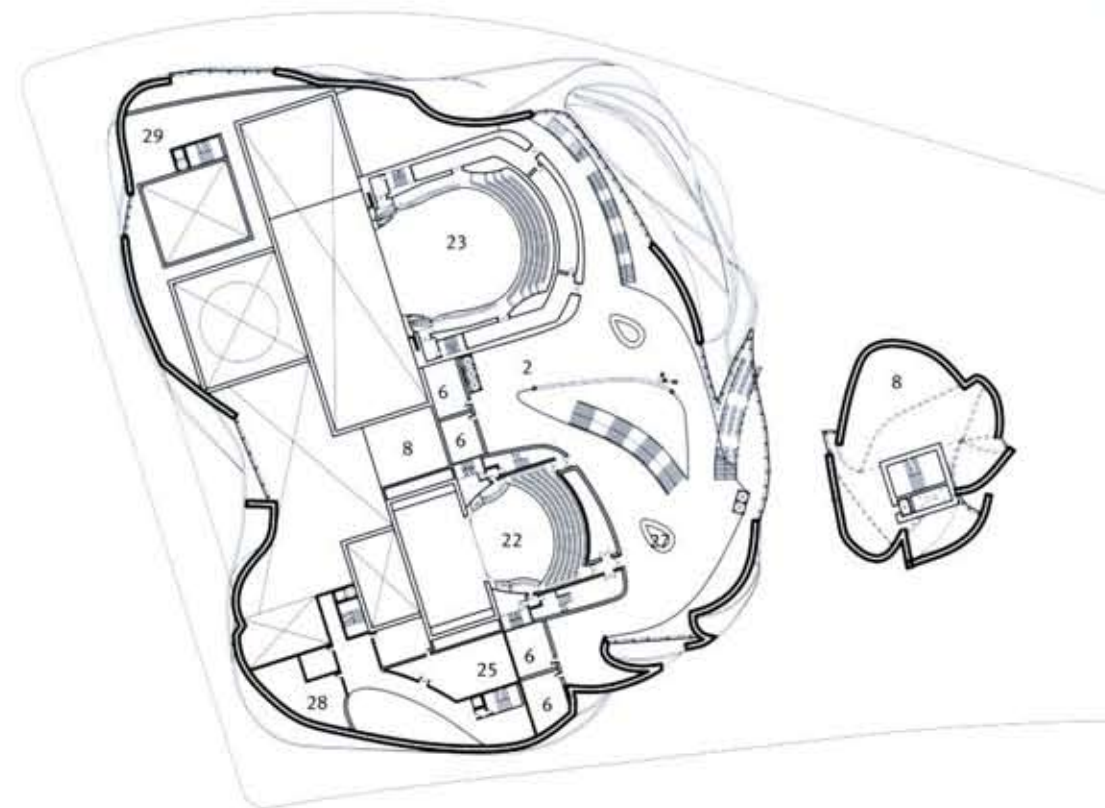


GROUND FLOOR

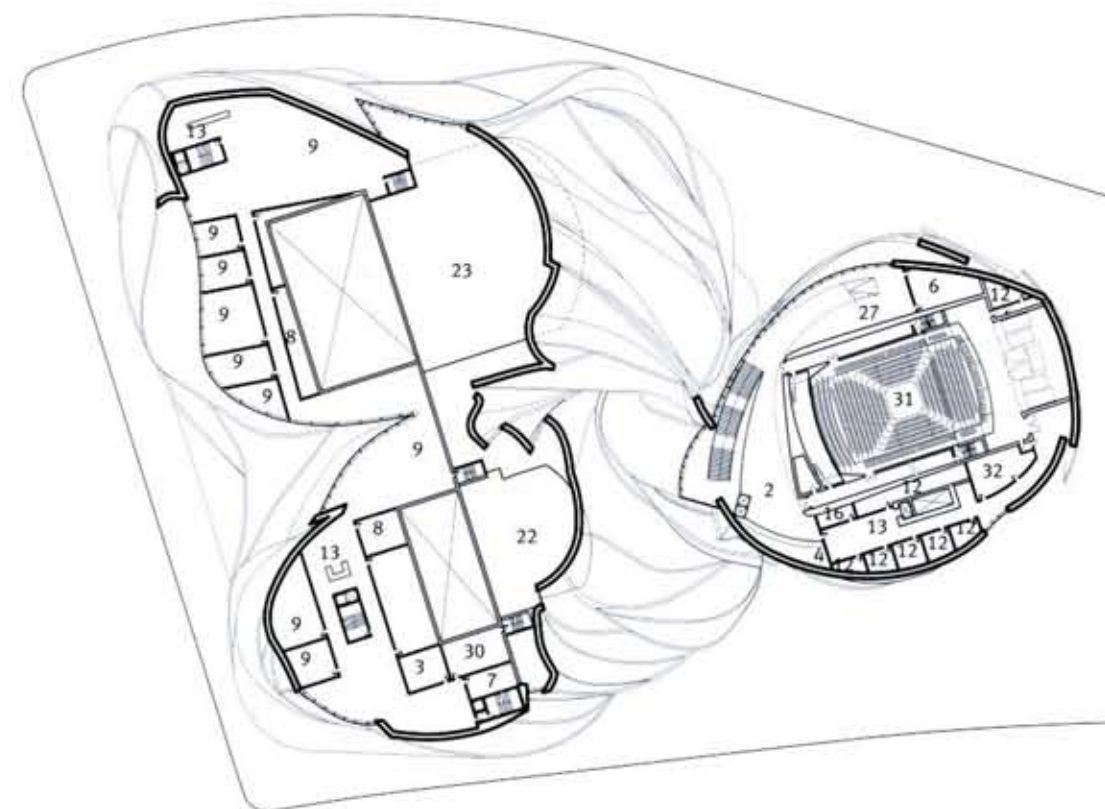
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SECOND FLOOR



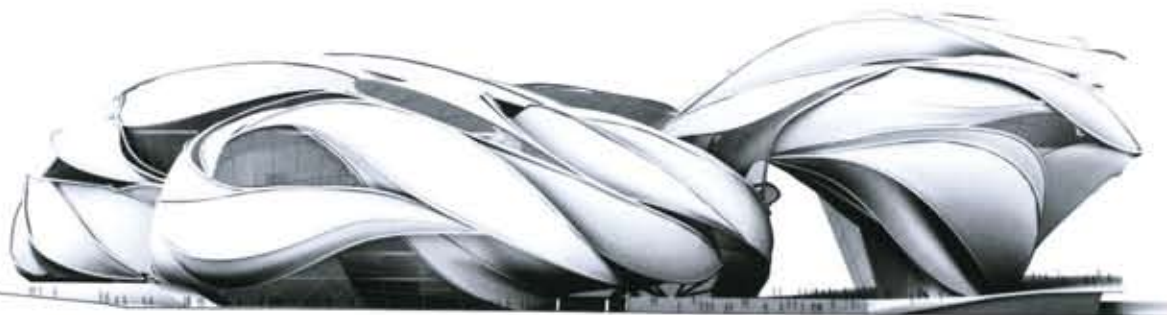
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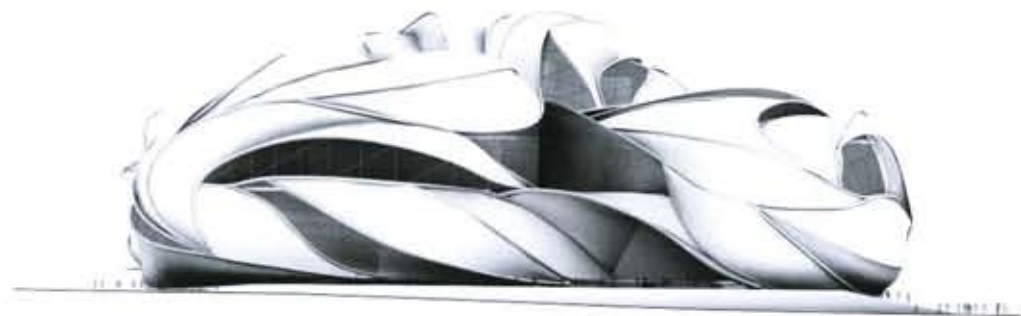
EIGHTH FLOOR



EAST ELEVATION



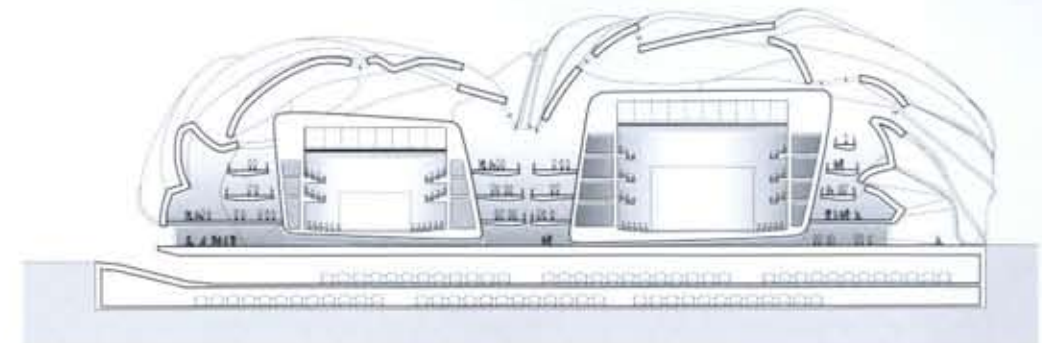
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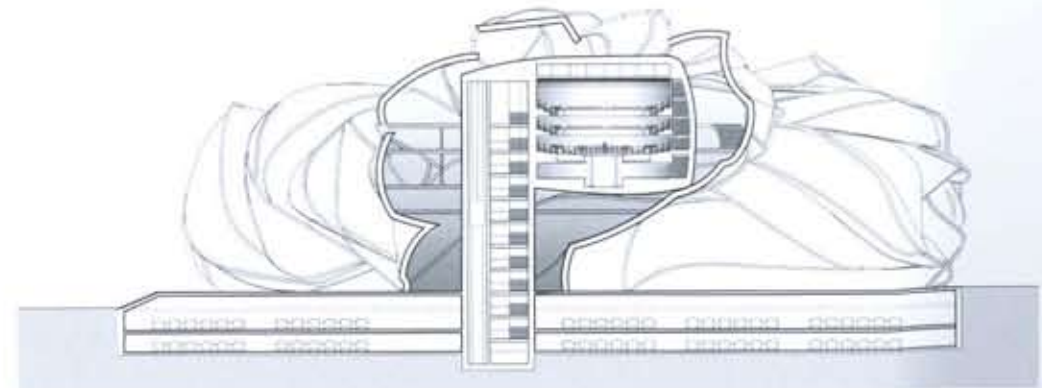
NORTH ELEVATION



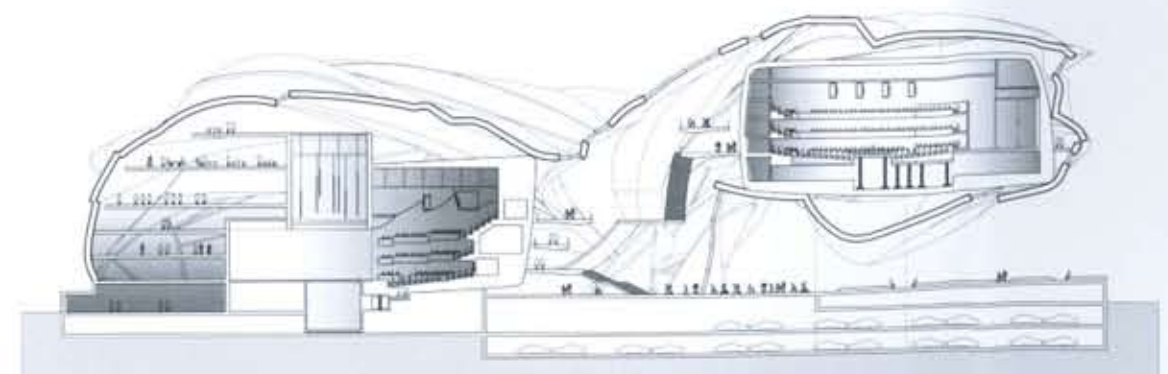
SOUTH ELEVATION



CROSS SECTION — PLAYHOUSE AND GRAND THEATER



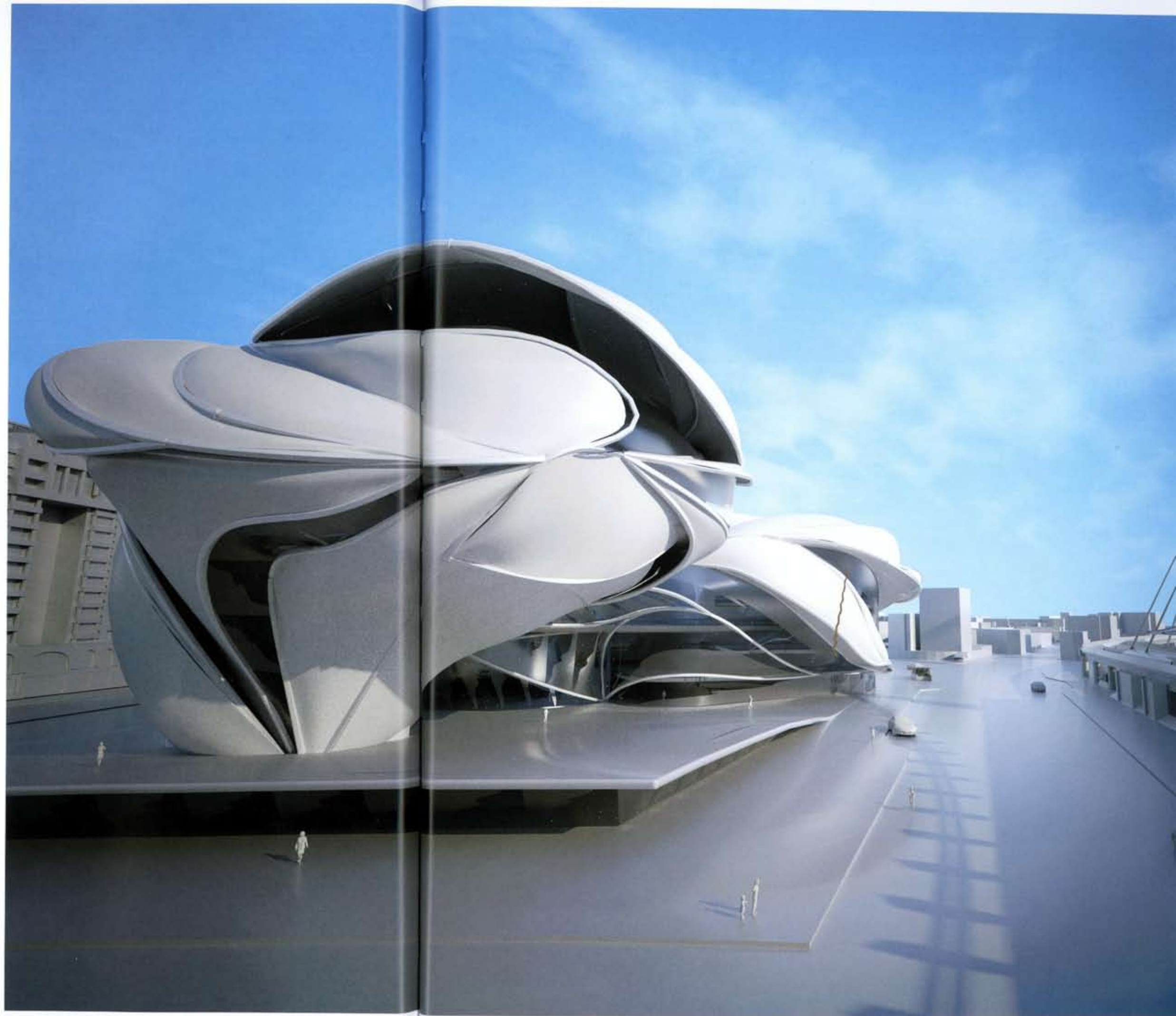
CROSS SECTION — MULTIFORM THEATER

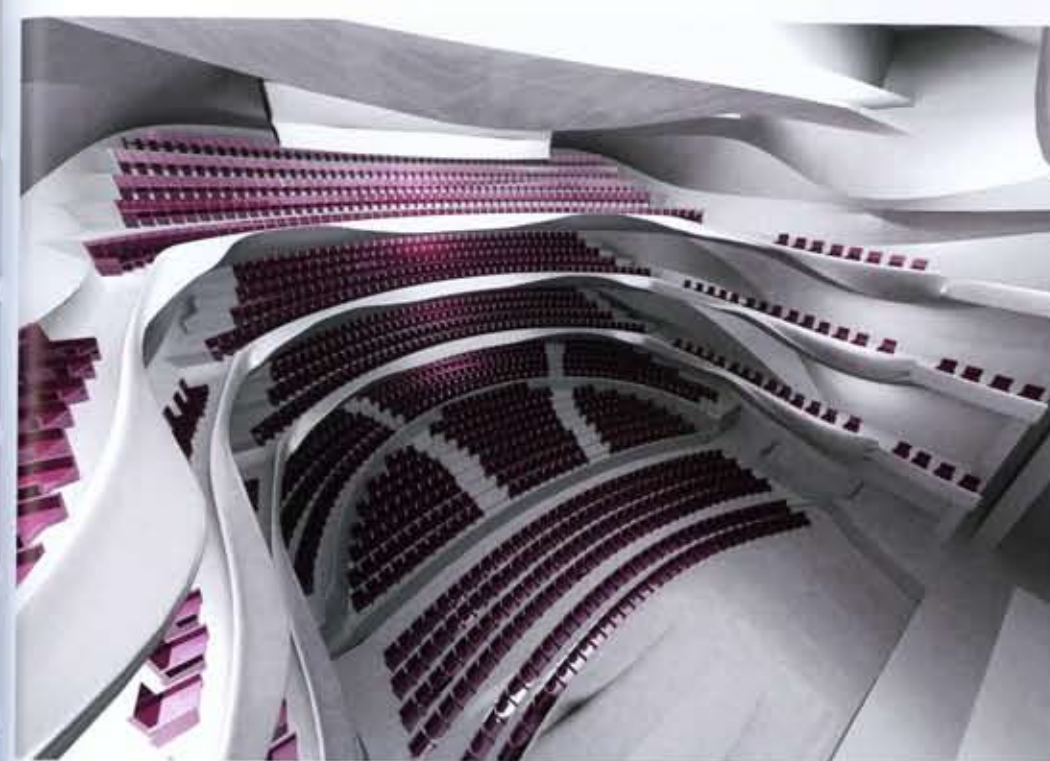


LONGITUDINAL SECTION — PLAYHOUSE AND MULTIFORM THEATER

The main priority was to design spaces specially adapted to the needs of Taiwanese dramatic arts while also remaining suitable for performances in various styles. The Grand Theater, with 1,500 seats and three levels, can put on operas, ballets, and orchestral concerts, as well as plays, dance pieces, multimedia events, percussion spectacles, martial art competitions, and even Zen meditation. The Playhouse was designed as a large proscenium auditorium, with 800 seats and two levels; the Multiform Theater, with 800 seats and two levels, has a stage that can be configured as required (in the center, in the front, or in the round).

The Grand Theater and Playhouse stand on the northern part of the lot, while the Multiform Theater is set to the south, raised slightly above ground level. In order to create a central space and a visual connection between the three volumes, the main foyer, which is covered with glass, gives rise to a large staircase leading to the entrance to all three theaters. The latter operate as independent buildings, each with its individual circulation, and they link up to the level of the central space. The general public can enter the area around the auditorium in each interior without having to see a show.





Backstage, the theaters are organized to cover the various requirements of different dramatic arts while also satisfying the needs of Taiwanese cultural forms. Each theater has its own stage door on one of the neighboring streets.

