

NEW YORK STATE THEATER

at The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
New York City, New York

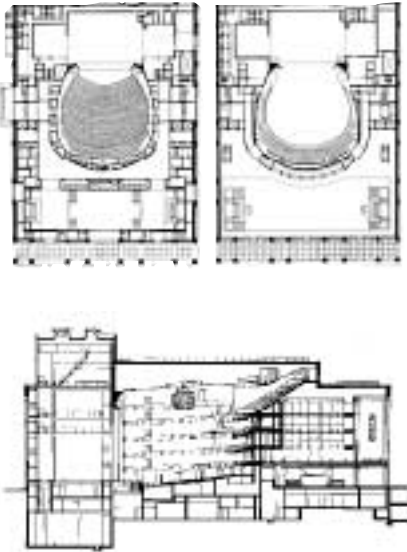
PHILIP JOHNSON • ALAN RITCHIE
A R C H I T E C T S



The New York State Theater was originally designed as a theater for dance, a home for the New York City Ballet. Today it also houses the New York City Opera. Johnson, who began the design in 1959, wanted to provide an elegant auditorium based on the 18th-century European model of small opera houses. In doing so, Johnson designed extraordinary public spaces as well as a sumptuous auditorium.

The problem of scale and organization of a theatre of over 2,000 seats was solved by presenting a simple means of entry and circulation for the public. There is a procession of monumental rooms, which may explain why The New York State Theatre is so often booked for special events. The theatre is festive and glamorous.

Presently, there is an ongoing plan of varied restorations throughout the structure. This includes design upgrades for code variances such as the replacement of the existing bronze handrails, the installation of new center rails and reworking of the particular marble junctions at the stairs. In addition, the renovation of the existing restrooms is presently under construction.



Client: Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
Completion Date: 1967
Area: 295,000 sq. ft.

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