

World's Biggest Stage



Peter Clark, New York architect, and designer of the remarkable stage for Radio City Music Hall, is showing the model used in building the stage

AS THIS issue goes to press, the world's largest indoor stage, a wonderland of ingenious mechanisms at the Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Center, New York City, is ready for its first performance. Elaborate mechanical features, shown here by our artist, will make possible the presentation of super-spectacles, ballets, band concerts, choruses, variety acts, circus performances, minstrels, with scenic effects never before attained.

The stage, 144 feet wide and eighty feet deep, can be raised or lowered hydraulically in three sections, presenting different levels. In addition, a circular center section, fifty-five feet in diameter, can be revolved in either direction. When each position of the stage is assumed, the sections automatically lock in place. This is said to be the first time a revolving stage and a stage that can be raised and lowered have been combined. The design was worked out by the New York firm of theatrical architects, Peter Clark, Inc.

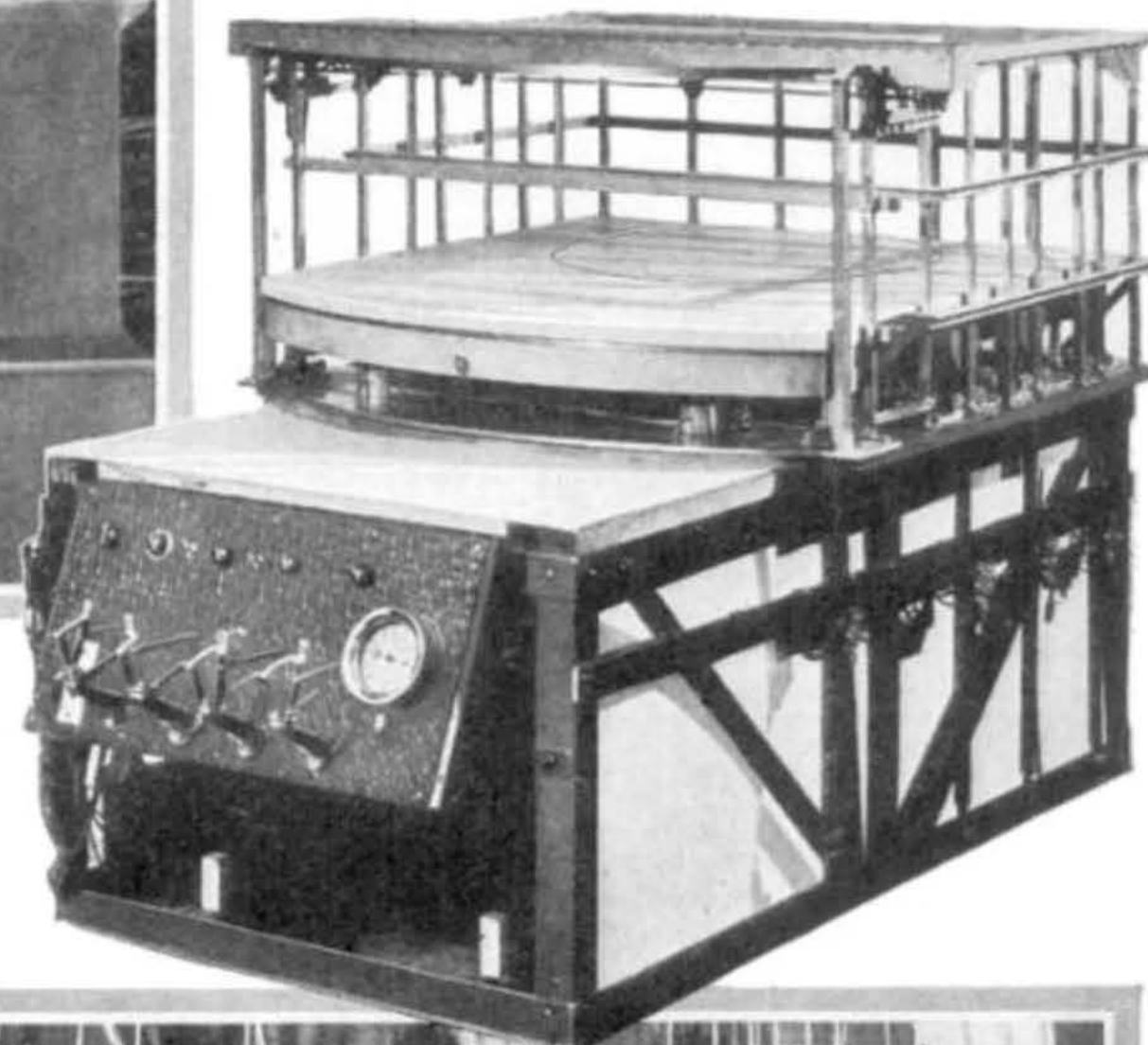
Twin pipe-organ consoles mounted on wheels roll into view, one on either side of the stage, when in use, and slip back into special alcoves when the organs are silent. Another feature is a motorized orchestra pit, seventy-five feet long and holding more than a hundred players, which rises into view at any one of three different positions on the stage.

Experts, standing before long rows of electric buttons in a small pit in front of the stage, control the movements of the various sections, the appearance and disappearance of the organ consoles and the rise and descent of the orchestra pit. In addition, they adjust the position of a mammoth contour curtain at the front of the stage. Thirteen lift cables, each with a separate electric motor, permit it to be draped into any one of a score of different positions to attain unusual scenic effects.

The unique armor-plate construction of the ceiling of the hall permits special spotlights to be played upon the stage from openings between the various overlapping sections. Runways and compartments for the operators of these lights have been incorporated in the design of the roof of the building.

On either side of the stage, steel light towers, thirty feet high, hold from seven to twenty-five spot and floodlights, fed by electric cables dropping from the ceiling. These towers are mounted on wheels so they can be moved about to provide spectacular lighting displays. Behind the stage a special room broadcasts sound effects while a projection booth adds to the realism of performances by scenic effects flashed upon a screen.

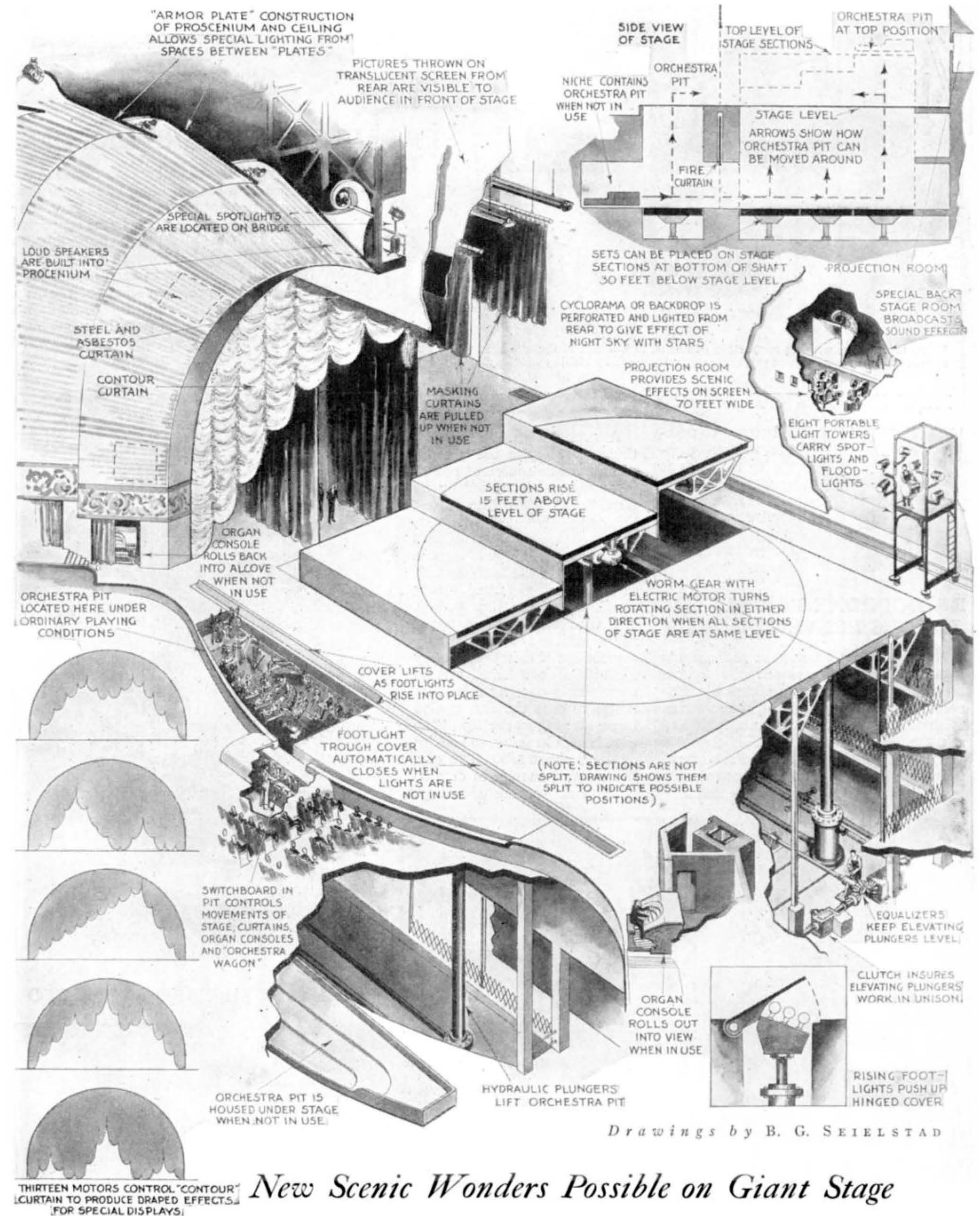
Radio City Music Hall Equipped for the Most Elaborate Effects in the History of the Theater



STAGE MODEL LOOKS LIKE REAL THING

A working model of the Music Hall stage, at top, in which many of its mechanical features can be seen. Above, a view of the stage as seen in a photograph of the model. Note the contour curtain at left

Is Marvel of Mechanics



Drawings by B. G. SEIELSTAD

New Scenic Wonders Possible on Giant Stage

Diagram of the world's biggest stage, showing in detail the sectional nature of the stage which can be raised to three different levels and also revolved in either direction. Note orchestra pit which can be dropped from view