

RECOMMENDATIONS



Dhokrar Daake July 5-12 A group sculpture exhibition goes on at the Indian High Commission cultural center at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition focuses on dhokra casting. The show is open everyday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Concert July 12 A charity concert to help a kidney patient will be held at the Army Stadium in the city from afternoon onwards. The show is being participated by some of the leading bands of the country including Nagarbaul, LRB and Shadinota.

Workshop July 7-12 Indian theatre trainer Devendra Raj conducts a five-day playwright workshop titled, 'Play-writing: Narrative style' and a seminar those are to be organized by Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) from July 7 to 12. The seminar is open to the audience at 5:00 p.m. on July 12 at the auditorium of Goethe Institut at Dhanmondi in the city.

Jazz July 14 A Jazz evening will be held at the Alliance Francaise at Mirpur road in the city. 9:30 p.m. onwards in observance of the National Day of France. For further information, please contact the office of Alliance Francaise.

Cabaret Pasteur July 19 An exhibition on French scientist Louis Pasteur will be held at the cafeteria premises of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka at 7 p.m. The display is open to all.

Exhibition

Pictorial focus on baroque architecture

Exhibition of European architecture at Alliance Francaise

FAYZA HAQ

BAROQUE architecture, which had begun in Italy, had developed in France and then had spread to the rest of Europe, was showcased at the Galerie of Alliance Francaise. This commenced in the 18th century and stretched to the 20th century. The colour photographs of 23 theatres were presented for the exhibition and included entries from Poland, Portugal, Italy, Hungary, Germany, France etc. The theatre used to be a social event in which both the rich and the bourgeoisie met.

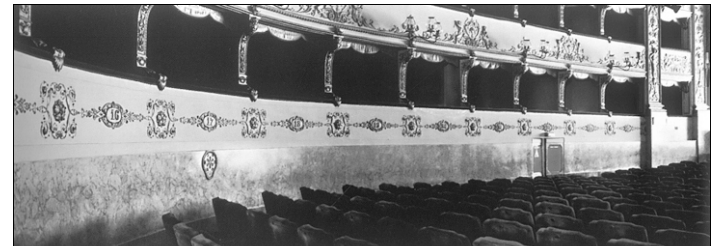
Theatre Drottningholm in Stockholm, built in 1766, had marble balconies decorated with carvings and benches in front decorated with designs of tiny crowns. There were chandeliers and heavy curtain of velvet beyond which was the stage. Another scene of the theatre showed columns of marble, comfortable chairs, windows and doors. Marble walls and polished wooden walls were brought in. The Theatre Nationale de Slovaque, built between 1884-1886 was made by Ferdinand Fellner and Henrike Helmer brought in once more the grandeur of the balconies that were carved with leaf motifs while the balustrades were also decorated with vine relief. The stage had a heavy white curtain with the figure of a man from the 18th century. Details of the theatre brought in the roof, balcony and pillars that supported the balcony decorated with human figures stripped bare down to the waist, with folds of clothes around the middle. These were seen in brown, gold and red.

Moving on to the Theatre of the Odeon of Romania we saw crimson seats with white marble pillars at the sides with carvings of human beings, leaves, flowers and other motifs. Close ups of pillars from which hang red curtains were also on display. Next there was the Theatre Nationale Saint Jean de Porto of Portugal, built in 1798. Here we had rich decorations on the walls and balconies done in gold brining in details of horns,



leaves and statues. There was brocade on the walls while the seats were of a rich crimson hue. Even the details of the staircase that leads up was photographed and it had motifs of leaves and other patterns.

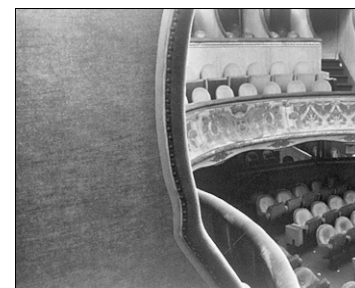
Theatre Ponaranczarnia in Warsaw built in 1785- 1788 showed the decoration with statues, heavy curtains and even the ropes at the back that work the mechanism of the stage curtains were photographed to emphasize the details. The doors were gilded while the thick velvet curtains had gold braiding. In Theatre Saowacki, also in Poland, there was a very rich tapestry hanging on the stage and this was matched with wine red curtains with their gold fringes.



and leaves done in gold. The heavy curtain was in red, black and gold.

In the portrayal of Theatre Fraschini, also in Italy, built in 1771, one was amazed with the neat green chairs, the white marble balconies and balustrades all around with inlays of floral and geometrical motifs. There was a picture of one of the entrances to the stage with heavy curtains and this was in shades of dramatic pink. In Theatre de la Pergola, France, built from 1652-1656, we saw the curled and looped motifs with flowers and initials which was typical of the Baroque style. There was the photo of the crimson chairs at the side. Another photographic angle depicted the chairs arranged in the different tiers of the balconies, decorated with gold and white. The ceiling had paintings of cupids at play along with gold floral motifs. The doors too were depicted with motifs of white and gold.

The Theatre Vig, in Hungary, built in 1896, had heavy pillars decorated with branches of leaves and neat doors with carvings on them. The chairs were again a

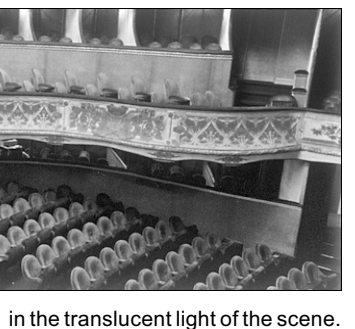


brilliant blood red while the walls had decorations in forms of leaves. Along with the gold rods dividing the seating arrangement, one could see the balconies at the sides. In Theatre De la Coupe D'or, France, built in 1769, had mauve-brown chairs along with decorations of brocade with masks, musical instruments and patterns of flowers on the top. The motifs of geometrical patterns in gold, green and blue brought in more richness to the décor.

Theatre Champs- Elysee, built in 1913, had a scene on the ceiling



with women, some fully clad and the others nude. There was a woman with a striped dress with a hat decorated with flowers. Along with them there were some dancing eastern women. Others had harps in their hands and were dressed in a quaint manner. On the mural were also people sitting and reading, surrounded by leaves, flowers, grass and trees. In Theatre Dullin, built in 1824 we saw the pillars, staircase, arches, balconies and green chairs. The pictures had been taken from various angles as in the case of all the theatres. The balconies had been decorated with floral motifs and geometrical patterns. The chairs and walls appeared a vibrant red



in the translucent light of the scene. Theatre D'Arras, in France, built in 1785, had chairs with gold checks on red in their upholstery. A scene emphasized a division in the grouping of the chairs in gold and red. In Teatro Lara, in Spain, built around 1879, the photos had emphasized on the black pillars decorated with gold. There was focus also on the filigree work along the balustrade. The chairs had brown upholstery and curtains were the traditional festive red. In Denmark, Theatre Royale de Copenhagen, Kongelige, had

was a clear depiction of where the royalty sat along with the area where the average run of the theatre goers sat. Rich curtains, more drapery and beautiful carvings at the side of the stage with detailed filigree work made the view undoubtedly grand.

There was the Renaissance Theatre at Charlottenburg in Berlin, built in 1902, had a scene set with modern setting on the stage. The chairs of the audience were in gold with wooden hand rests. There were statues to be found in the corners and bright lights. Hebbel Theatre in Berlin, built from 1907 to 1908 brought in beige chairs and wooden partitions



In Croatia, the Theatre Nationale de Croatie which was built in 1880, appeared to be a palatial building with decorations on a grand scale at the top. There were figures playing music all over the ceiling while there were staircases leading up to arches. The chairs were the conventional claret red and the tiers were divided by filigree work in gold. Decorations were with figures of cupids, vases and flowers. In the Allemagne Theatre Cuvillies in Munich, built in 1753, we saw realistic figures of human beings, seen from waist upwards, holding up the pillars of the building. The chairs were gold and red matched by the richness of the polished wooden floor. There

that separated the galleries. In Markgrafliches Operhaus Theatre built in 1748 we saw green marble walls with decoration of grapes and leaves and curls, with deep blue curtains with fringes of gold. The chairs were blue with a deep brown wooden balcony.

The photographs did a splendid job of presenting the beauty of the craft work that had gone into the completion of the Baroque theatres around Europe. Sitting in Dhaka you felt you had toured all these superb theatre halls of the past.



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