

was completed by an incendiary bomb.

In 1951 a new Residenz Theatre was opened on the site but to a totally new design. Between 1956 and 1958 the Cuvilliés Theater was reconstructed within another part of the Residenz. All the essential parts had been saved and could be fitted into a shell constructed to the original design from archival material including eighteenth-century drawings. Indeed the accretions and alterations over the years were thereby not reproduced and so the theatre was recreated to the 1755 original as far as was possible within the safety and performance requirements of a modern twentieth-century opera house.

The restored theatre opened on June 14th 1958 with a performance of Mozart's 'Figaro' and the occasion marked the 800th anniversary of Munich. The stage is completely new and is linked to scene storage and workshop facilities shared with the new Residenz and National theatres. The acting area is a 40-foot revolve and the orchestra pit is an elevator which can sink 3 rows for a small pit or 5 for a bigger one. Alternatively it can rise to form a forestage. The theatre is used as the intimate stage of the National Theater. In 1961 I saw a performance of Mozart's 'Entführung' (or 'Seraglio' if you prefer) and it was one of the knockout experiences of my theatregoing life. My only slight misgiving, and I noted it at the time, was that everything seemed just a little too clean, a little too fresh, a little too sparkling. Twenty-one years later the decorations are fractionally, but only fractionally, worn. This summer painters were at work freshening the foyers, although the un-freshened portions would qualify as pristine in most other cities of the world.



View from elector's box in the Cuvilliés Theater

ARSENAL THEATRE IN HVAR

The stone lintel above the door of this theatre carries the carved inscription *Anno Secundo Pacis MDCXII*. The peace referred to was the resolution of a serious rebellion by an agreement giving certain basic civil rights to both nobles and commoners alike. Hvar Theatre was opened in 1612, the second year of that peace.

The theatre is located in the upper storey of the Arsenal which formed a covered dock for the city's naval galley. The theatre is therefore adjacent to the harbour although the ground floor of the arsenal has become a cinema. The present interior of the theatre dates from a restoration in 1803, with some subsequent refurbishing being carried out in 1900 and 1955. Only occasional performances take place, mainly concerts, but the theatre may be visited daily.

Current stalls seating is wooden tip-ups on flat parquet flooring. The stage is old timbers but there is no evidence of machinery, while the lighting equipment features open lamp batten and some outdoor type floods on rusty scaffolding poles.

The auditorium is a simple courtyard with the corners rounded off. The proscenium is unstressed with the top virtually formed by the cessation of the low ceiling



The Arsenal in Hvar, the harbour town of Hvar Island, off the Dalmatian coast of Yugoslavia. The upper storey dates from 1612 and was built to house the theatre. The lower storey originally formed a dock for a naval galley and is now a cinema.