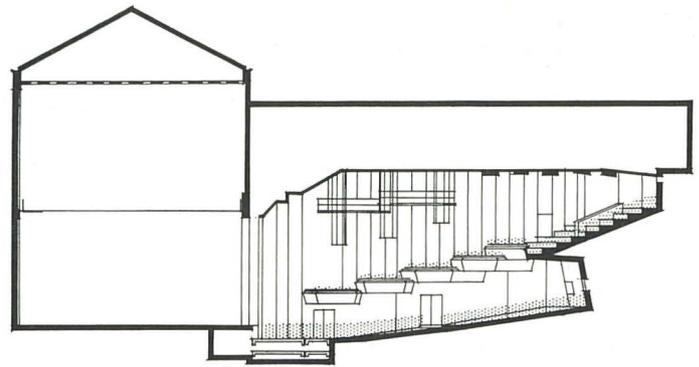
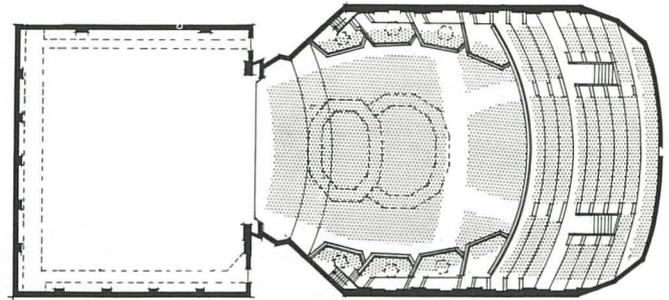
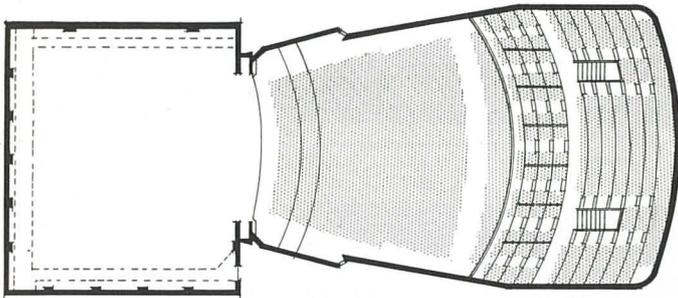


0 1 2 3 4 5 10 Metres
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 Feet



0 1 2 3 4 5 10 Metres
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 Feet



Long section and plan of large auditorium before and after remodelling.

sense of freedom. Thus the bookshops and the cafe open on both to the new pedestrianised street and also on to the inner foyer. The theatre cafe has its own mirror image counterpart which can be kept clear for the interval through a system of sliding screens, there being nothing worse than finding at the interval that your bar is already crowded with all night drinkers, the product of a too open door policy.

The large auditorium was pronounced a success by the first users. Conductor Arpad Joo found the back of the pit a bit 'live' for Strauss brass, but this problem is both familiar and curable. In the auditorium, the lighting positions calculated by Theatre Projects and detailed by the architects will

provide future historians with easily read clues. The chandelier lighting arrangement is familiar from Bracknell where Francis Reid described it as "one of the best compromises yet devised, between visual design and technical requirements" (CUE Sept/Oct 1984) or even the St Lawrence Centre, Toronto, to which it bears a not unsurprising resemblance having been conceived at the same time (CUE May/June 1983). The stalactites are sheer Richard Pilbrow ex Olivier.

There are one or two other surprises in the auditorium. The box fronts are irregularly flecked with gold, using the simplest techniques familiar to any competent scenic artist. The boxes themselves are 'en

escalier' and succeed in totally transforming the previous tunnel into a space with a high degree of centrality which is in turn focussed onto the stage. Already the side boxes have become favourite positions for many regular theatre goers.

The small theatre has been returned to its old mid 19th Century glory. The cinema fixed rake has been replaced with the original flat floor with two important modifications: the first is that around the perimeter of the auditorium under the side balconies is an 400m raised ambulatory which at once provides easy access (this being the common level of the whole of the



Orchestra & choir out on the forestages of the large auditorium



The exterior of Twentse Schouwburg. The original mixed vintage facades were retained for cost reasons but were rejuvenated with a series of life size statues of actors, singers and dancers tumbling down the facade.