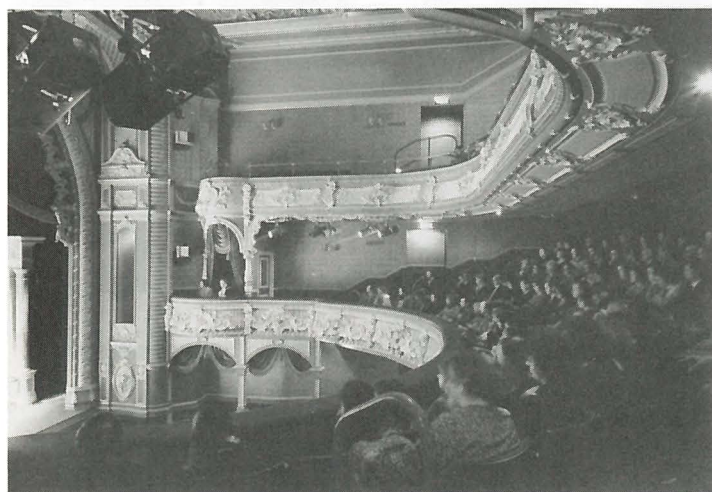


Before and After — the ceiling provided one of the greatest problems during reconstruction. The original 'artistic painting' in the four ceiling panels had long ago been painted out in a dark colour as seen in photo above taken in the sixties. Rather than restore such a flat effect it was decided to open up the ceiling and direct both ventilation and stage lighting through the spaces which had increased in size as a result of the widening of the proscenium.

The resulting decorative problem was solved by the installation of an open wire mesh, reminiscent of old radiators, which is near opaque when the chandelier is on and the front of house stage lights are off. Photo (right) shows both stage and auditorium lights on 'at half' to show the general arrangement.

The forestage area is flexible. The old theatre provided a fixed pit too small for most orchestras and too large a chasm

between actor and audience to be ignored. Today three arrangements are possible which are, reading below from left to right: with orchestra pit for 14 in 22m²; with lift raised to give a forestage for acting down to the limits of the site lines or for 'in front of the iron' recitals etc.; or with three further rows of stalls which brings the seating capacity from 499 to 537.



Matcham plaster plus people plus modern stage lighting on the first night.

LYRIC THEATRE HAMMERSMITH

Design Team and Specialist Theatre Equipment Suppliers.

<i>Architect:</i>	London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Architects Dept.
<i>Theatre Consultants:</i>	Job Architect: Derek Woolland Theatre Projects Consultants Project Leader: Jerry Godden Director in Charge: Iain Mackintosh
<i>Structural Engineers:</i>	Anthony Hunt Associates
<i>Services Engineers:</i>	Engineering Design Consultants
<i>Quantity Surveyors:</i>	Gardiner and Theobald
<i>Main Contractor:</i>	Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons
<i>Specialist Plasterwork:</i>	G. Jackson and Son Ltd.
<i>Production Lighting Equipment:</i>	Rank Strand Electric
<i>Stage Engineering Equipment:</i>	P. E. Kemp Engineers Limited
<i>Sound and Communications:</i>	Analogue Electronic Workshop
<i>House Curtain</i>	
<i>Masking & Seating:</i>	Rank Strand Electric

Photographs by Steve Stephens. Drawings by Janet Prestney
Text by Iain Mackintosh.