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Joseph Sirkovich

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# The Midcoast Regional Theater

Wiscasset, Maine

Joseph Sirkovich

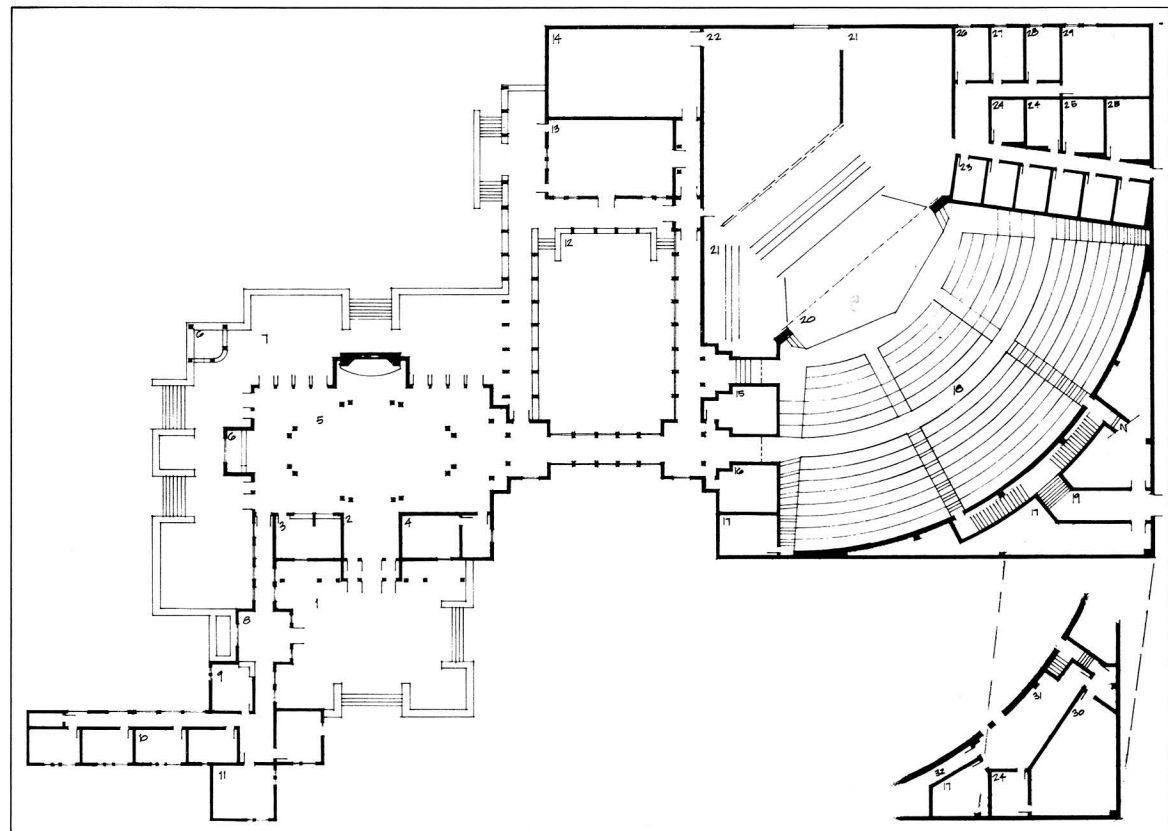
Critics: Bob Burham  
Richard Findley

Located on the southern edge of Wiscasset, Maine, overlooking the Shep-scott River, the Midcoast Regional Theater is a response to the requirement for a major performing arts facility. It will support a wide range of activities including summer stock performances of Broadway shows and community orchestra and theater productions.

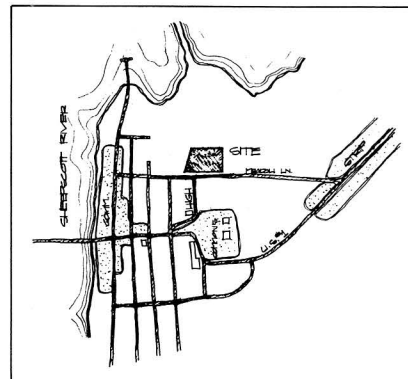
Included in the program requirements is a grand lobby space with an adjacent outdoor terrace where patrons can gather in advance of the show, and meet with the cast members following the performance. Another requirement is the provision of a green room that can function as a lounge for the cast and provide another area for contact between performers and audience. It needs to be easily accessible from both backstage and the lobby. Other requirements include a main house to seat eight-hundred, various offices, workshops, scene storage facilities, and a radio broadcast studio.

Since it is hoped that many of the patrons will choose to walk to the theater, the main entrance is placed on axis with High Street, the primary pedestrian approach from the town. The approach from the parking area joins this major path in the forecourt adjacent to the lobby.

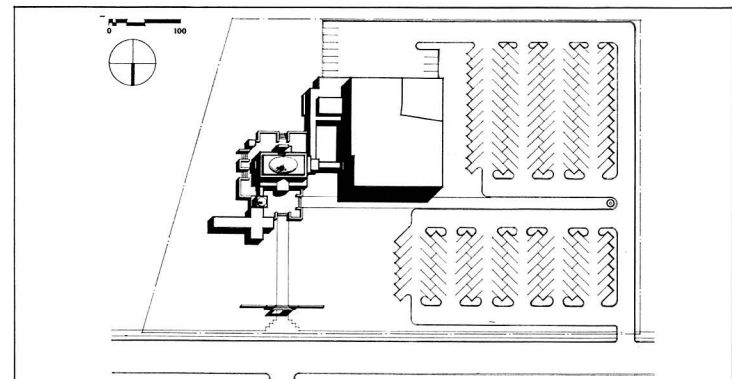
The lobby itself encompasses a cross-axial plan which uses an oval de-



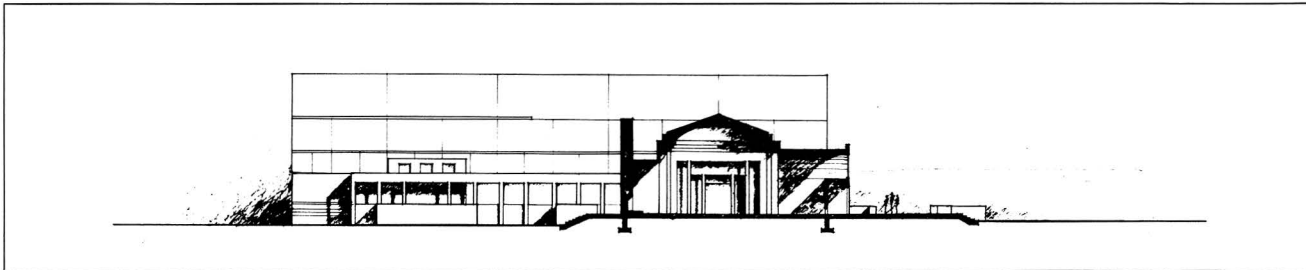
Floor plan.



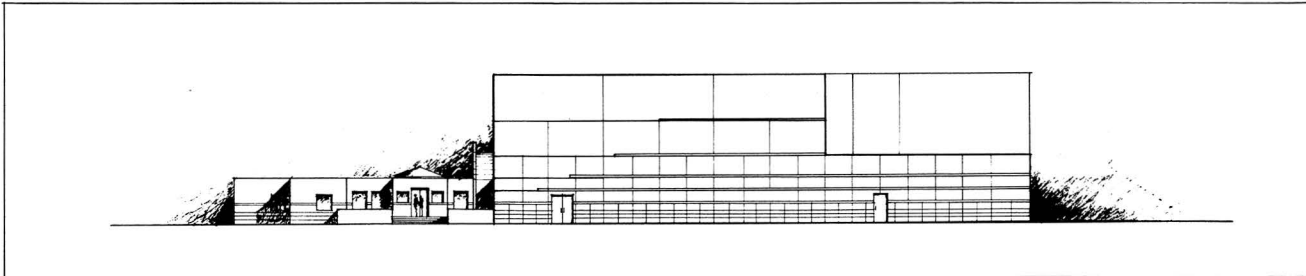
Location map.



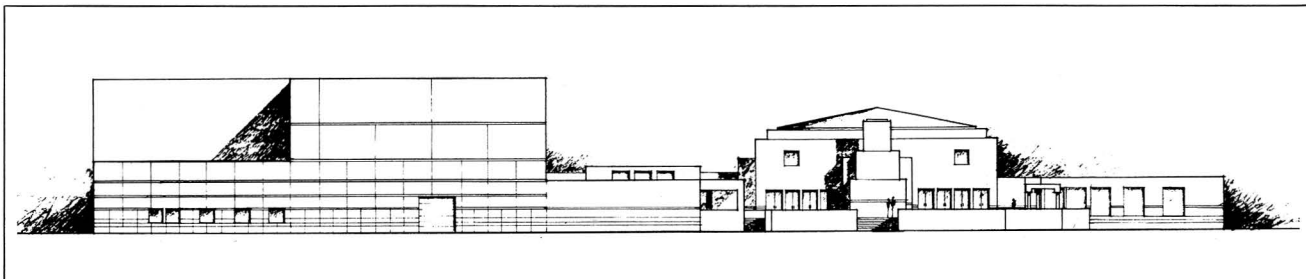
Site plan.



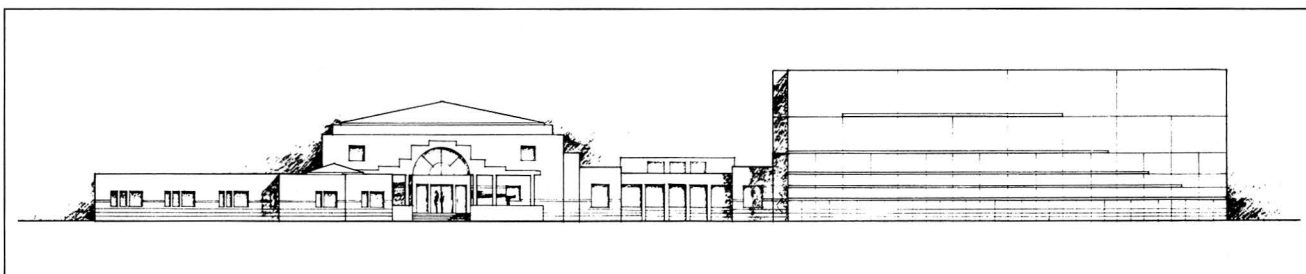
**Section.**



**West elevation.**



**South elevation.**



**North elevation.**

marked by columns to define the central space. The oval is also used to establish the axial approach to the main house. French doors open out to the terraces on the east and south for use in the summer months, while the fireplace serves as the focal point during the long winter season. Protection from the street is provided by the office wing, and the auditorium protects the terrace from the parking area to the west. The axial gallery strengthens the approach to the auditorium and is used with secondary arcades as a device to enclose a court for the Green Room. Frank Lloyd Wright's design for the Dwight D. Martin house provided the model for the axial relationships while the elevations and massing suggest a classical relationship. The horizontal banding of the theater block is an embodiment of circulation and the perception of spaces along the path.