RKO RUINS & THE SURREAL FRAGMENT:
Dreams, Film, and Architecture in Queens, New York

Valentina Contreras

Can architecture, like film and dream, blur the line between our perceived notation of reality and fiction?

“Speculative thought to become limited due to science’s interpretation of experience with its verifiable facts.”

-Henri Frankfort

“The world of the imaginary is not “unreal” *-Mircea Eliade*

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“The only valid revelation of reality” *-Mircea Eliade*

"A pre personal possession of the world exists prior to any cleavage between the dream world and the waking world, they are just seen as different modes of experience"

-Merleau Ponty

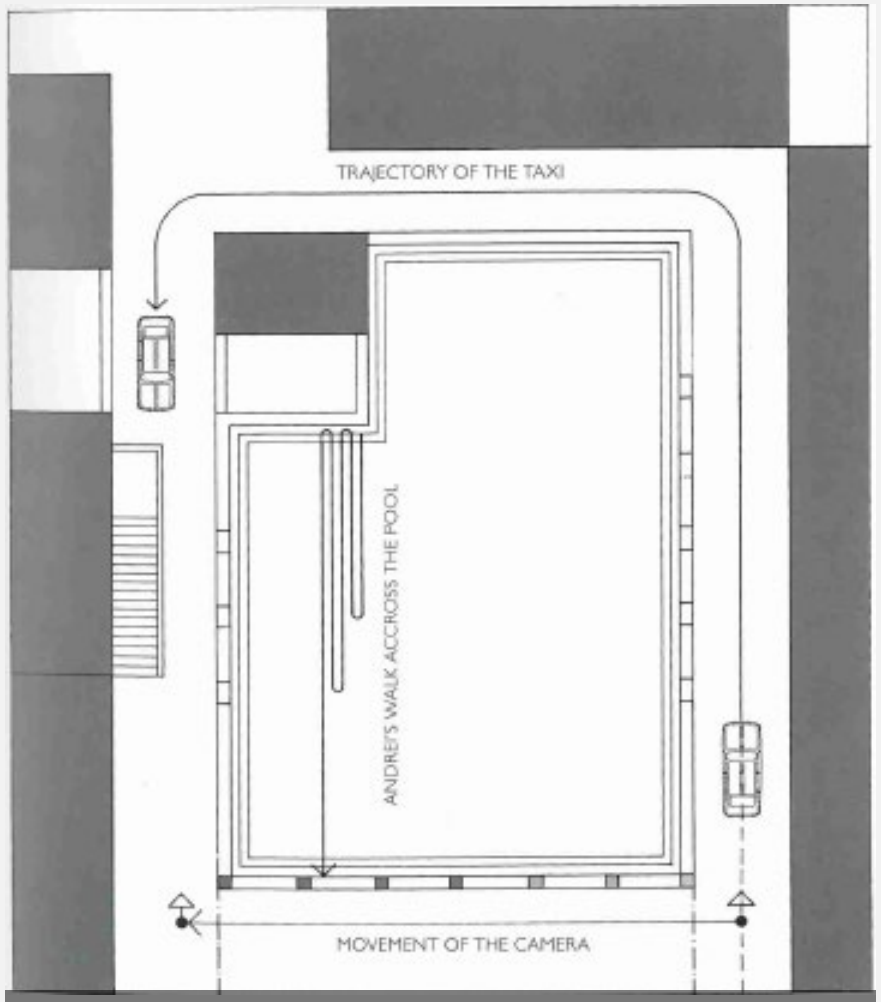
“Architecture exists, like cinema, in the dimension of time and movement. One thinks, conceives and reads a building in terms of sequence”

–Jean Nouvel

“Both architecture and cinema articulate lived space. These two art forms create and mediate comprehensive images of life”

–Juhani Pallasmaa

Andrei Tarkovsky, Nostalgia



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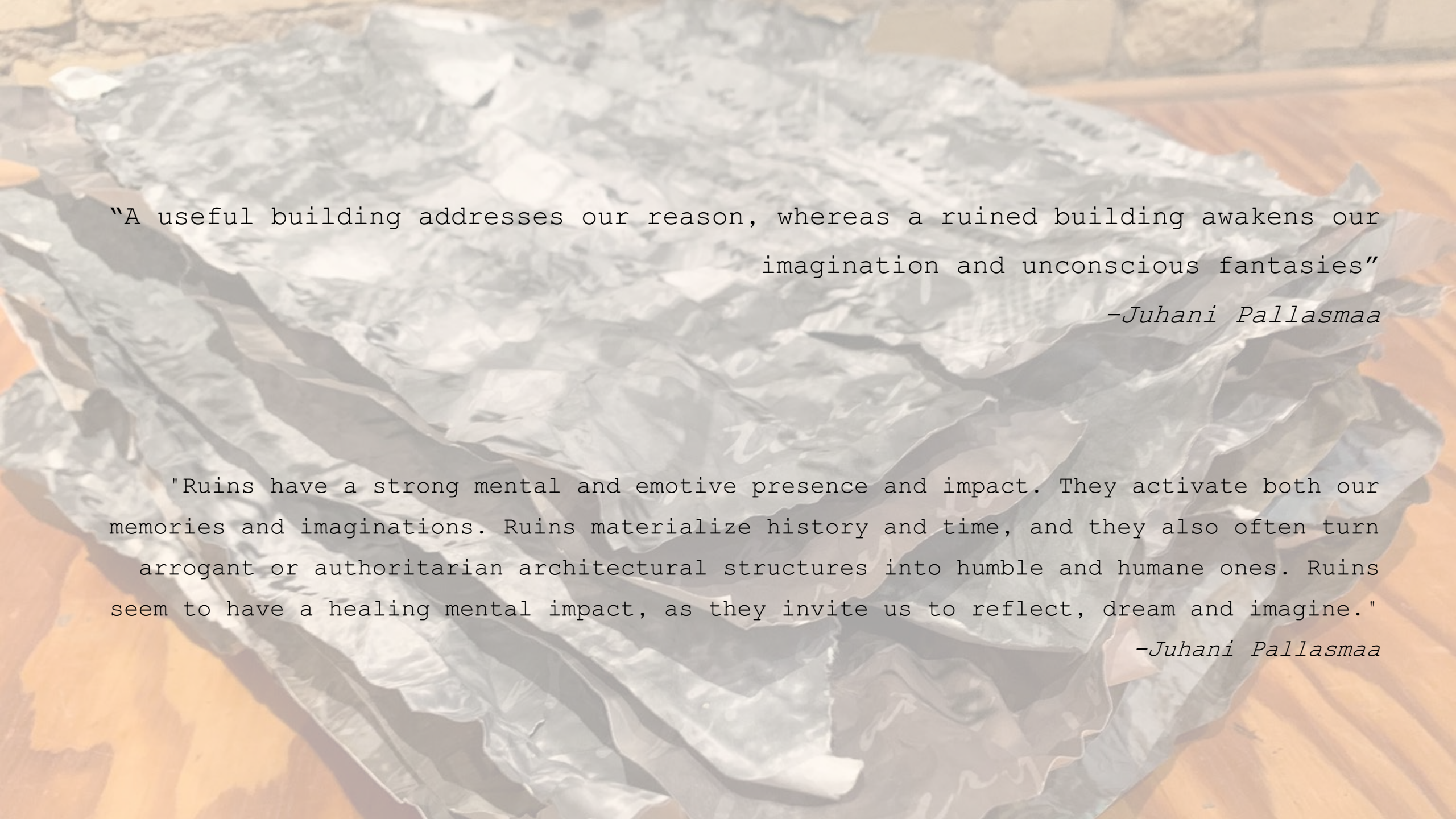
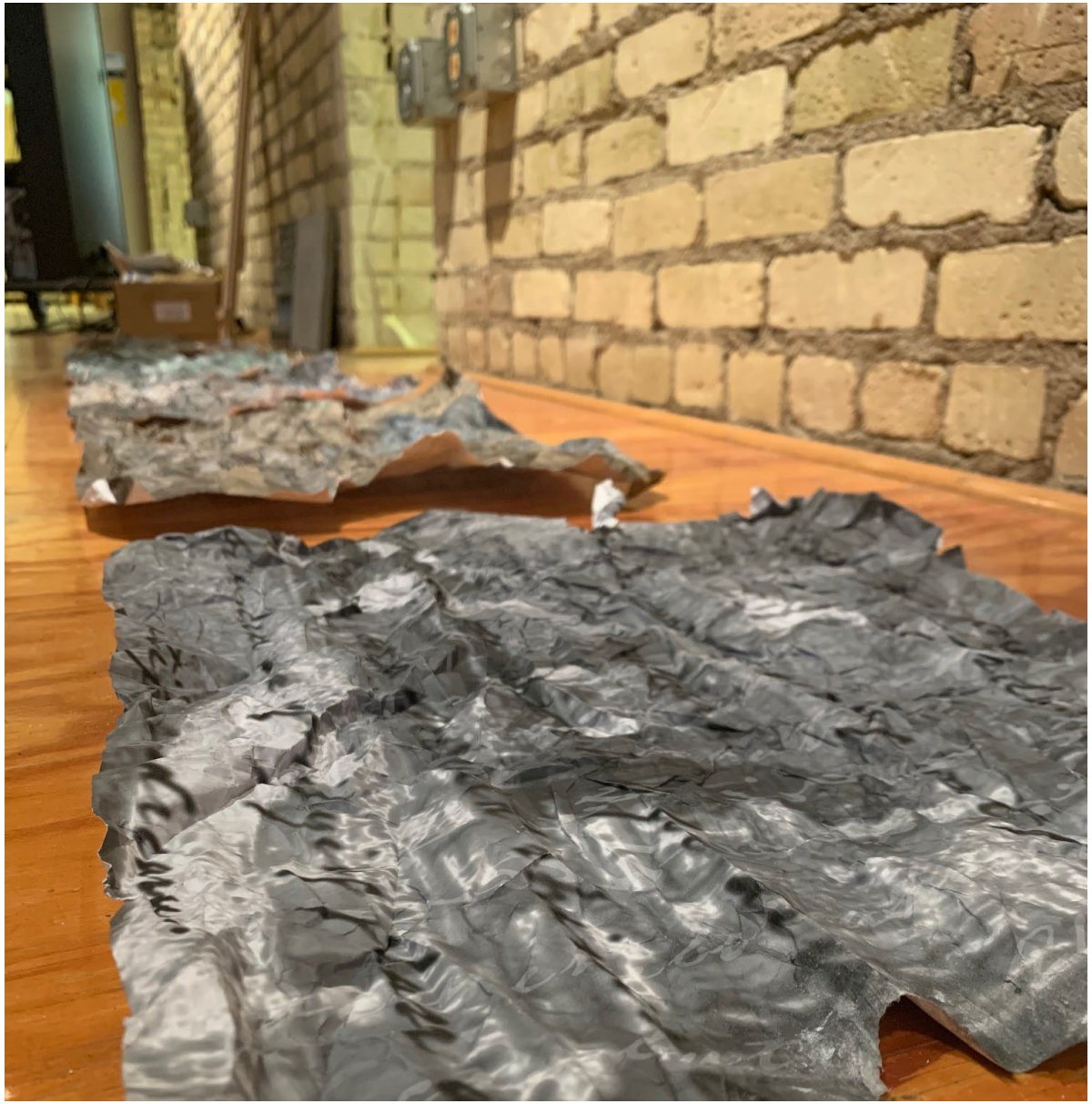


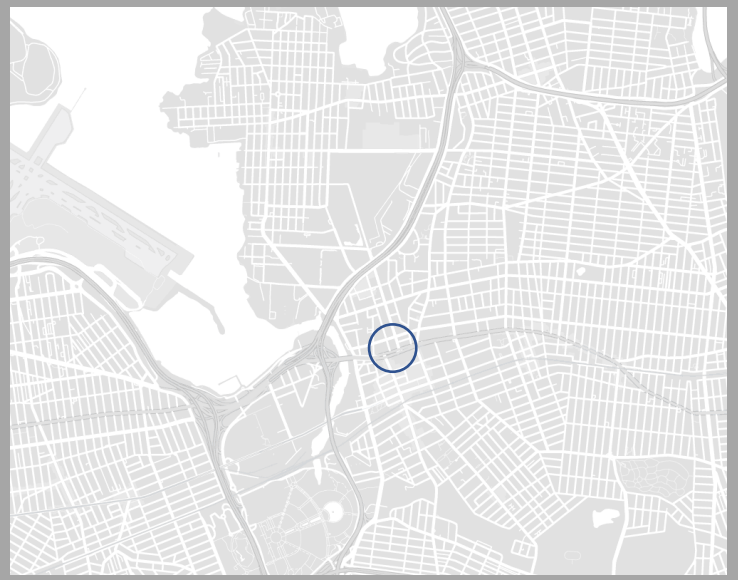
“A useful building addresses our reason, whereas a ruined building awakens our imagination and unconscious fantasies”

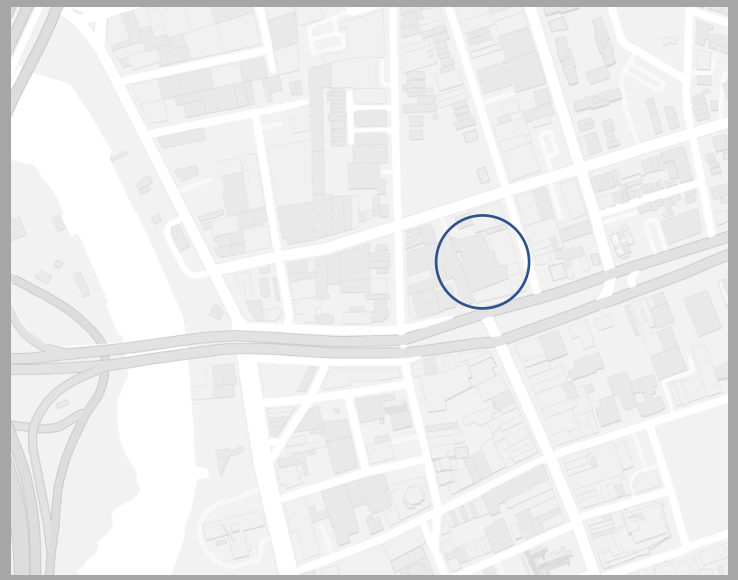
-Juhani Pallasmaa

"Ruins have a strong mental and emotive presence and impact. They activate both our memories and imaginations. Ruins materialize history and time, and they also often turn arrogant or authoritarian architectural structures into humble and humane ones. Ruins seem to have a healing mental impact, as they invite us to reflect, dream and imagine."

-Juhani Pallasmaa







Downtown Flushing, Queens

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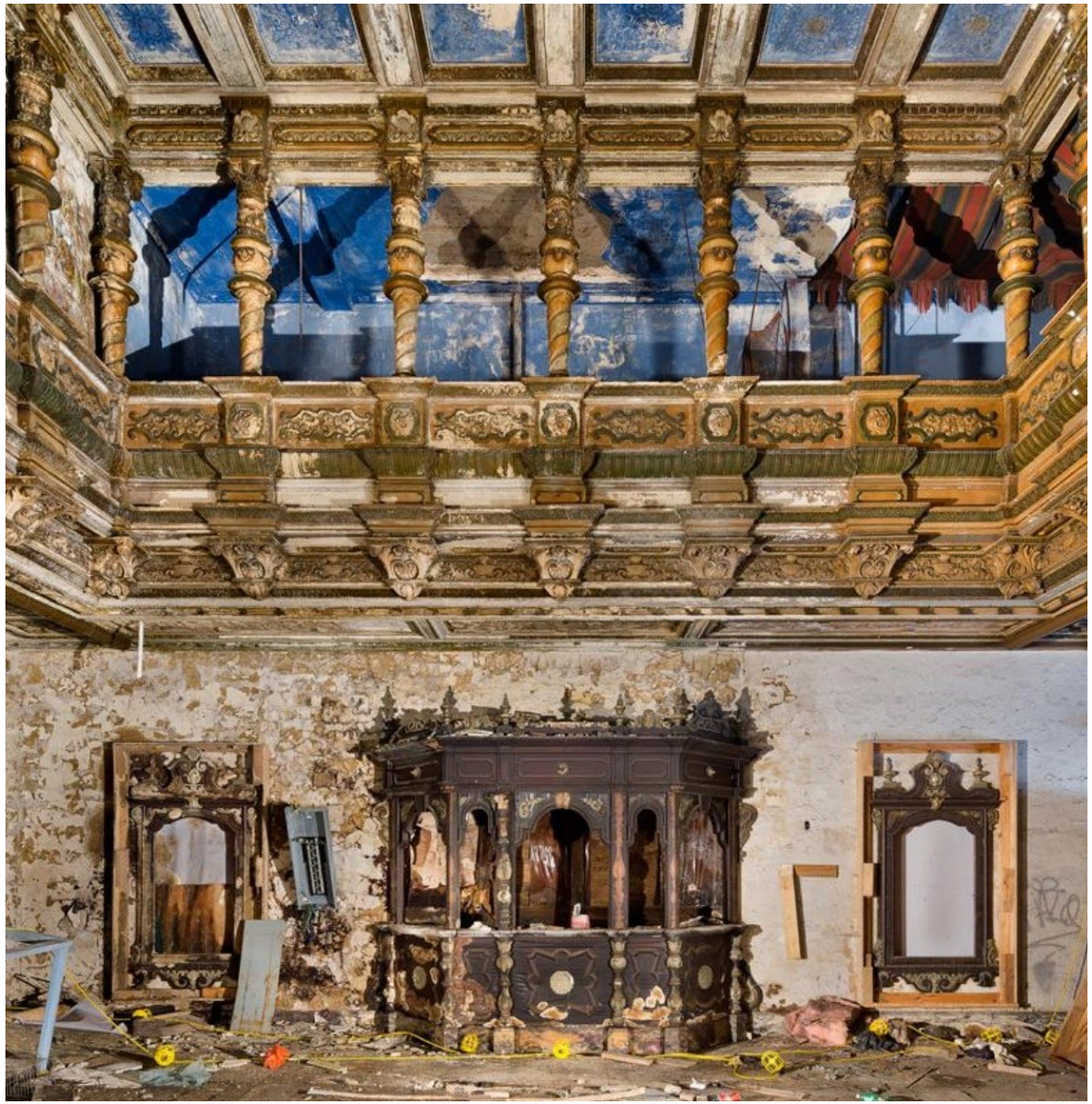
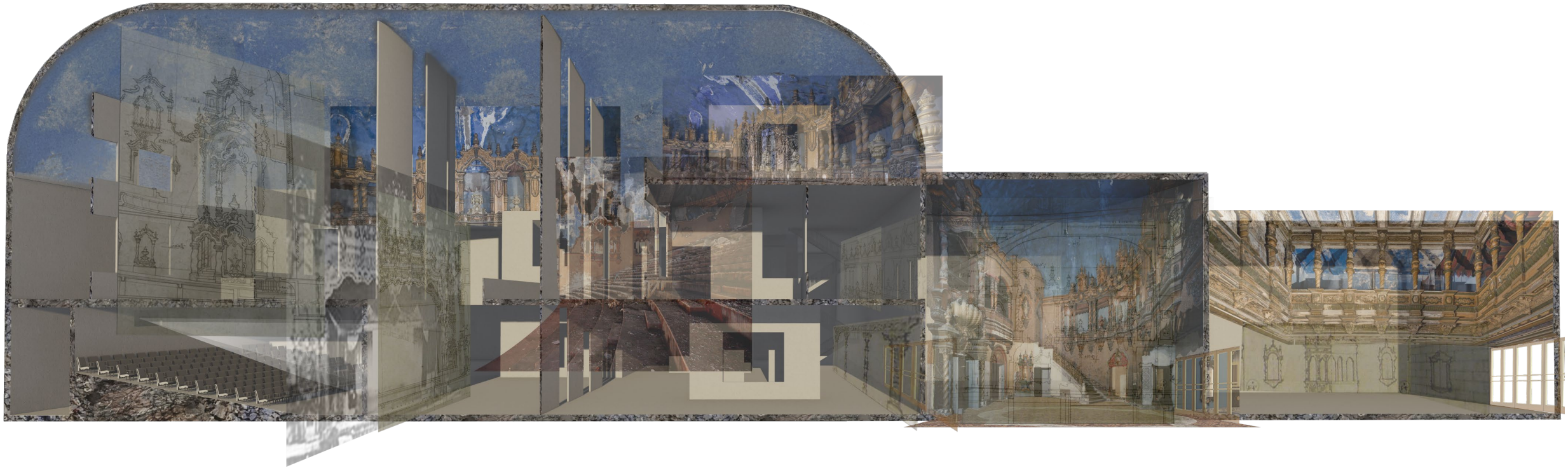
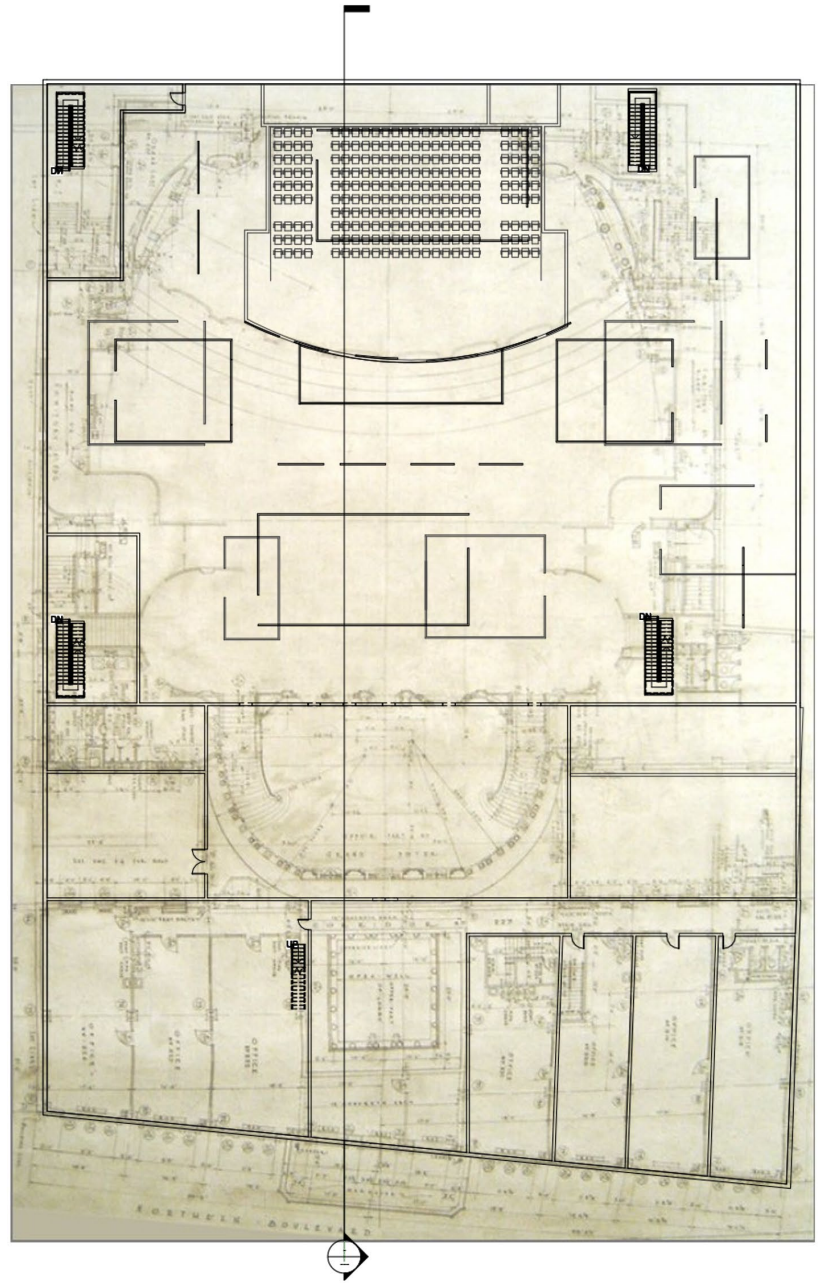


Can architecture, like film and dream, engage our memory and imagination to augment and enhance our notion of reality?





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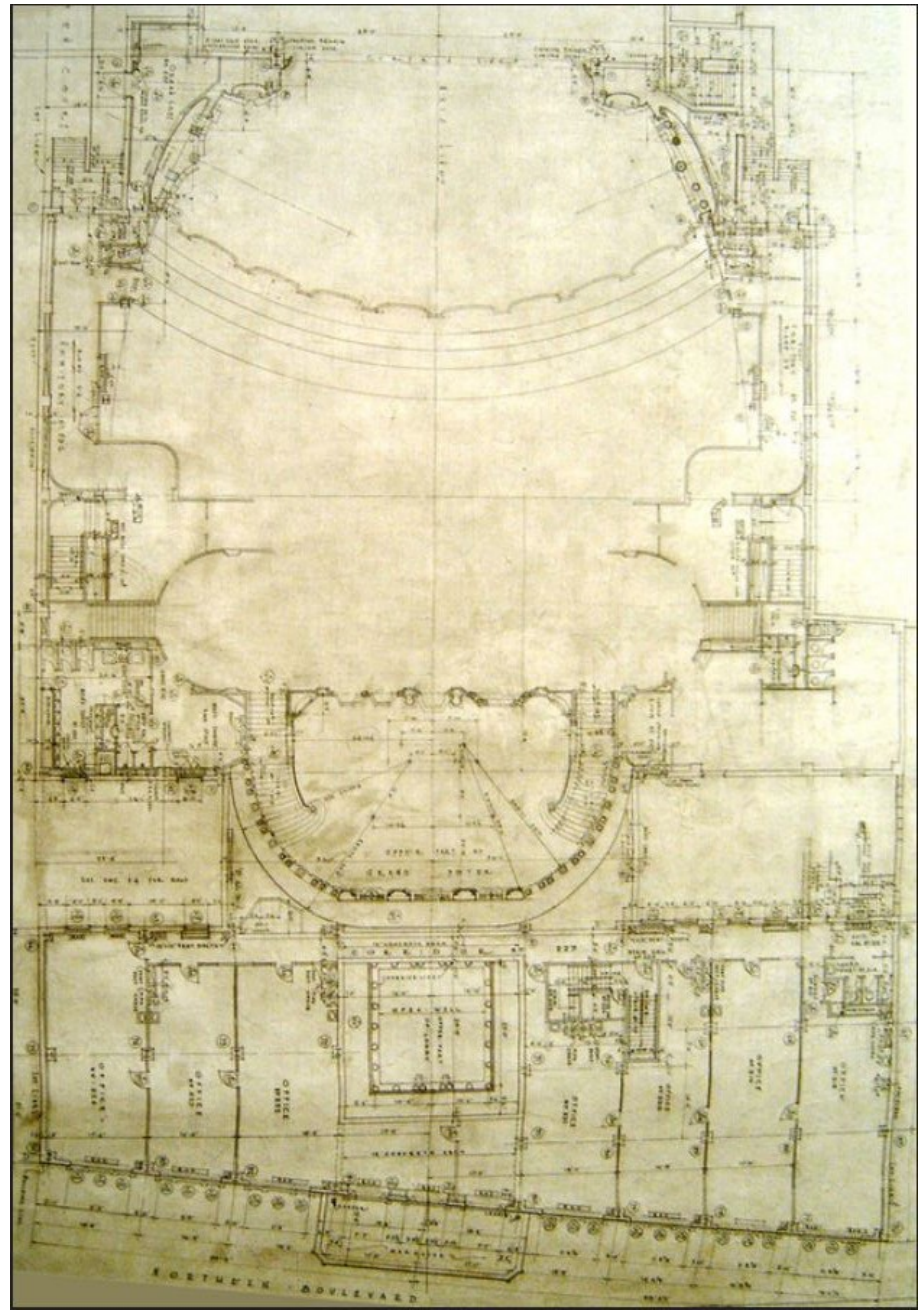
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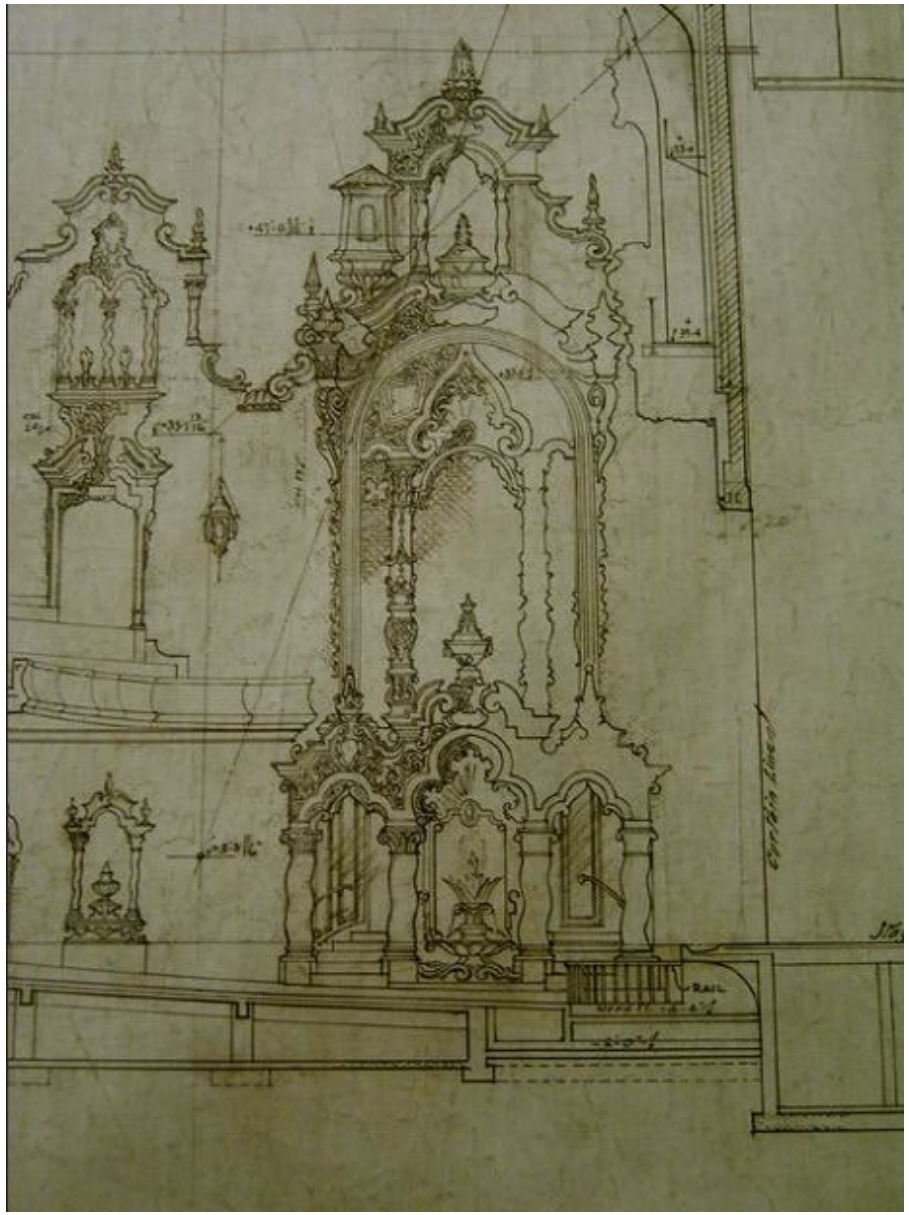

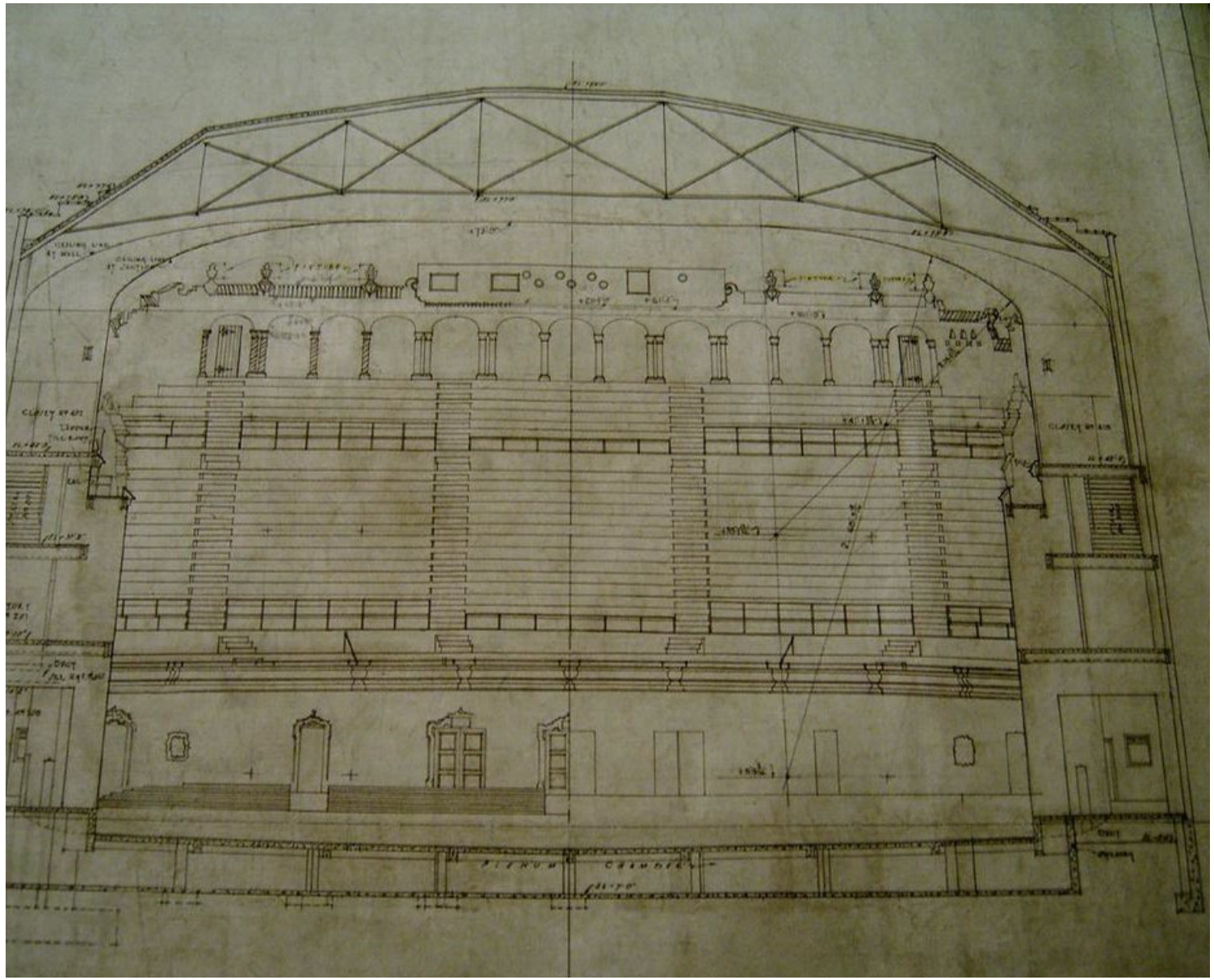

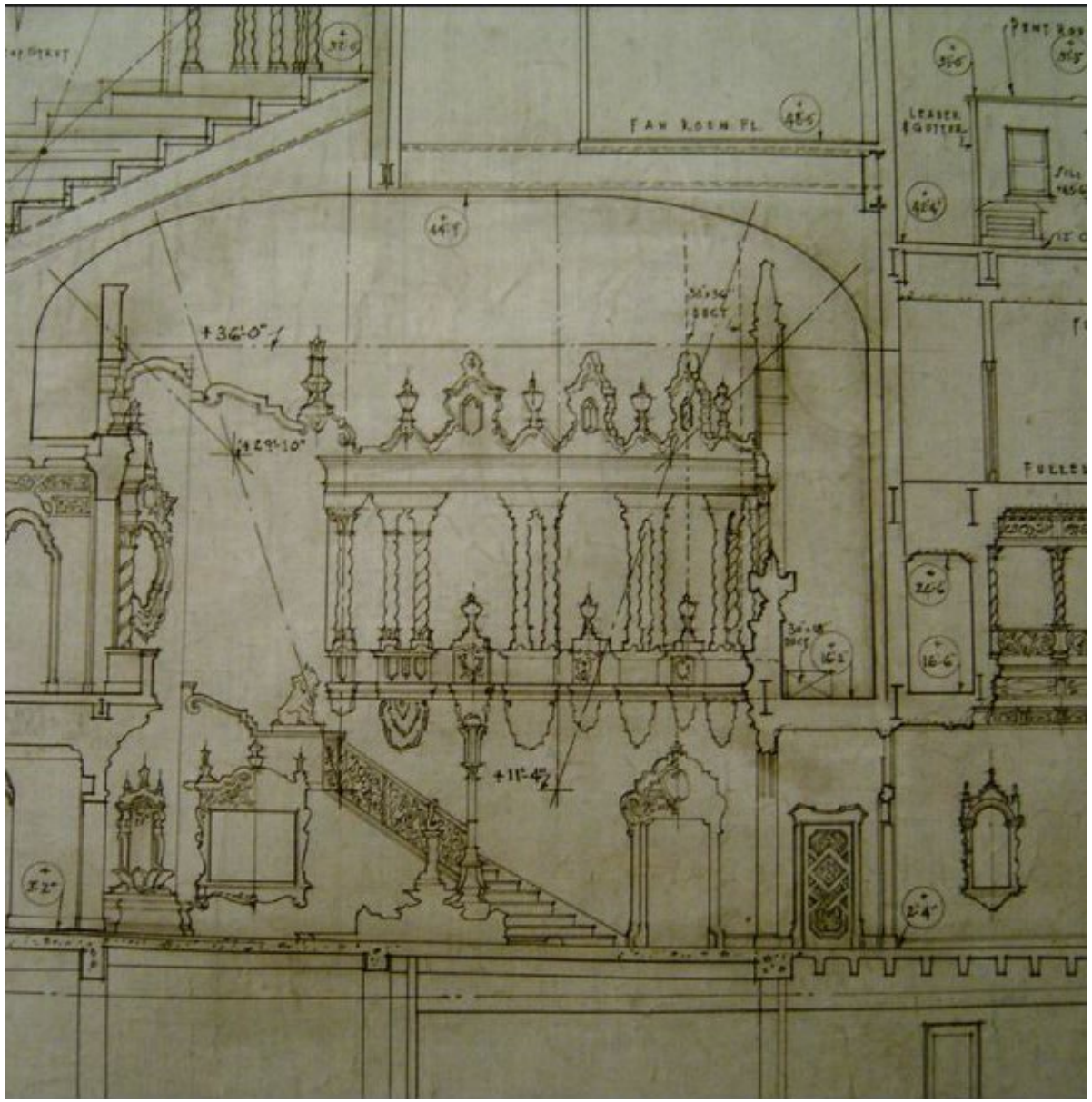
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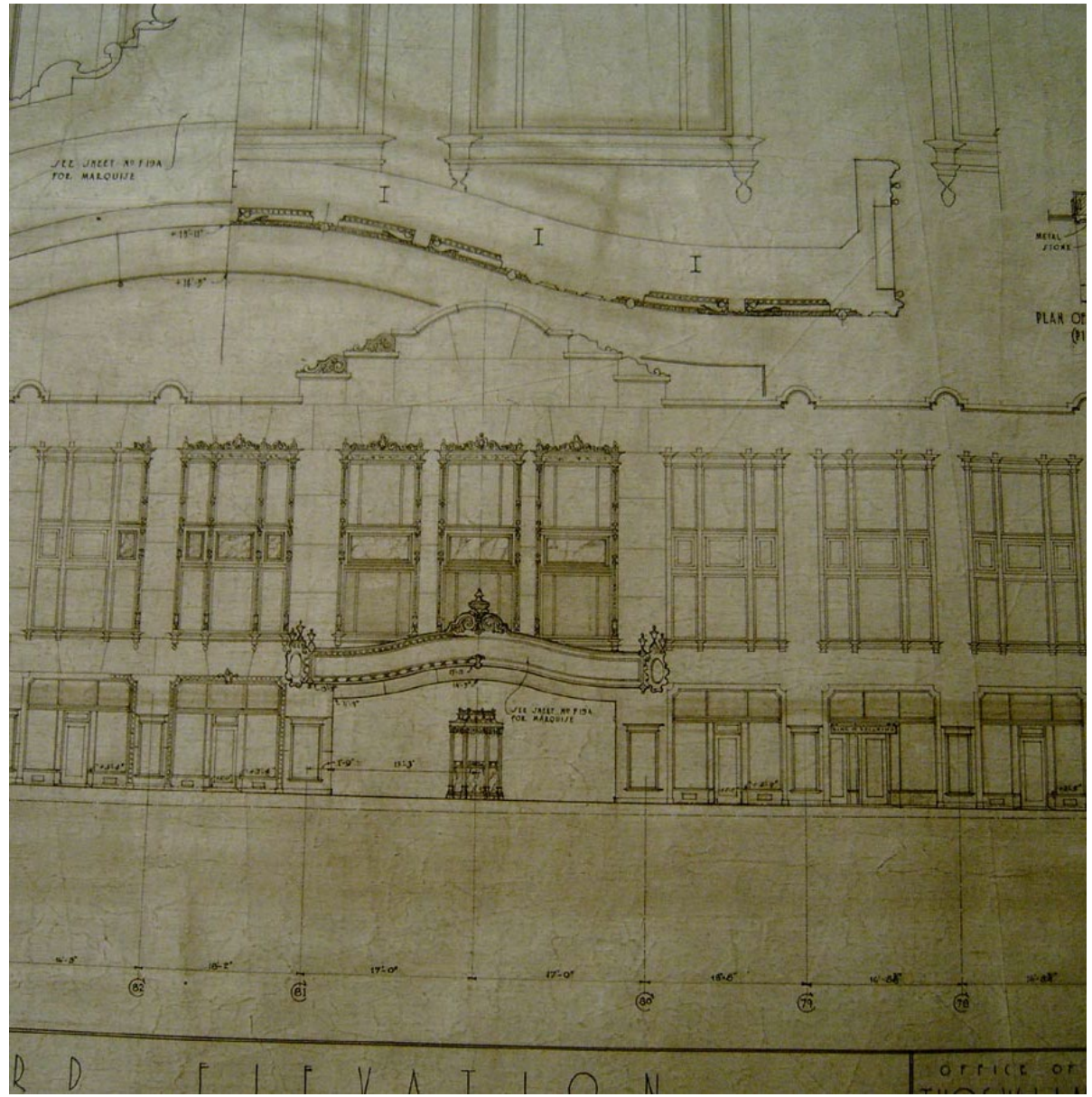
+29'-10"
+11'-4½"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