

# The First Goetheanum

designed by Rudolf Steiner as a Temple for 'Anthroposophia'

## **Part 5: The Art within.**

Anthroposophy is the awareness of the divine wisdom incorporated in the complete human being

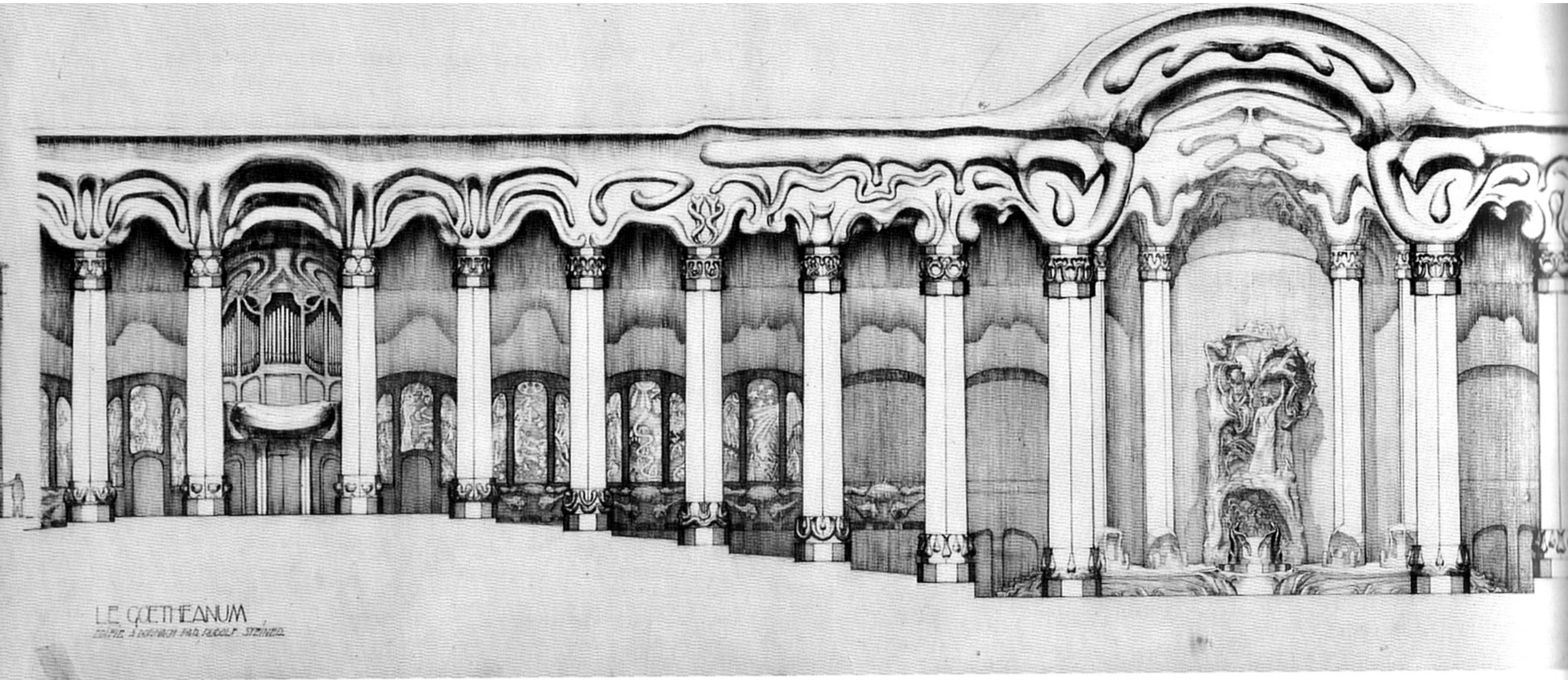
# Rudolf Steiner's First Goetheanum

This unique building was in existence for less than ten years just over a hundred years ago. It was designed by Rudolf Steiner as an earthly home for the spirit of anthroposophy: **Anthroposophia**.

In this presentation I will give some background on:

- ❖ Part 1: Rudolf Steiner and his artistic architectural impulse.
- ❖ Part 2: The evolution of architectural monuments/temples through the ages.
- ❖ Part 3: The Geometry of the Building.
- ❖ Part 4: Building construction.
- ❖ **Part 5: The Art within.**

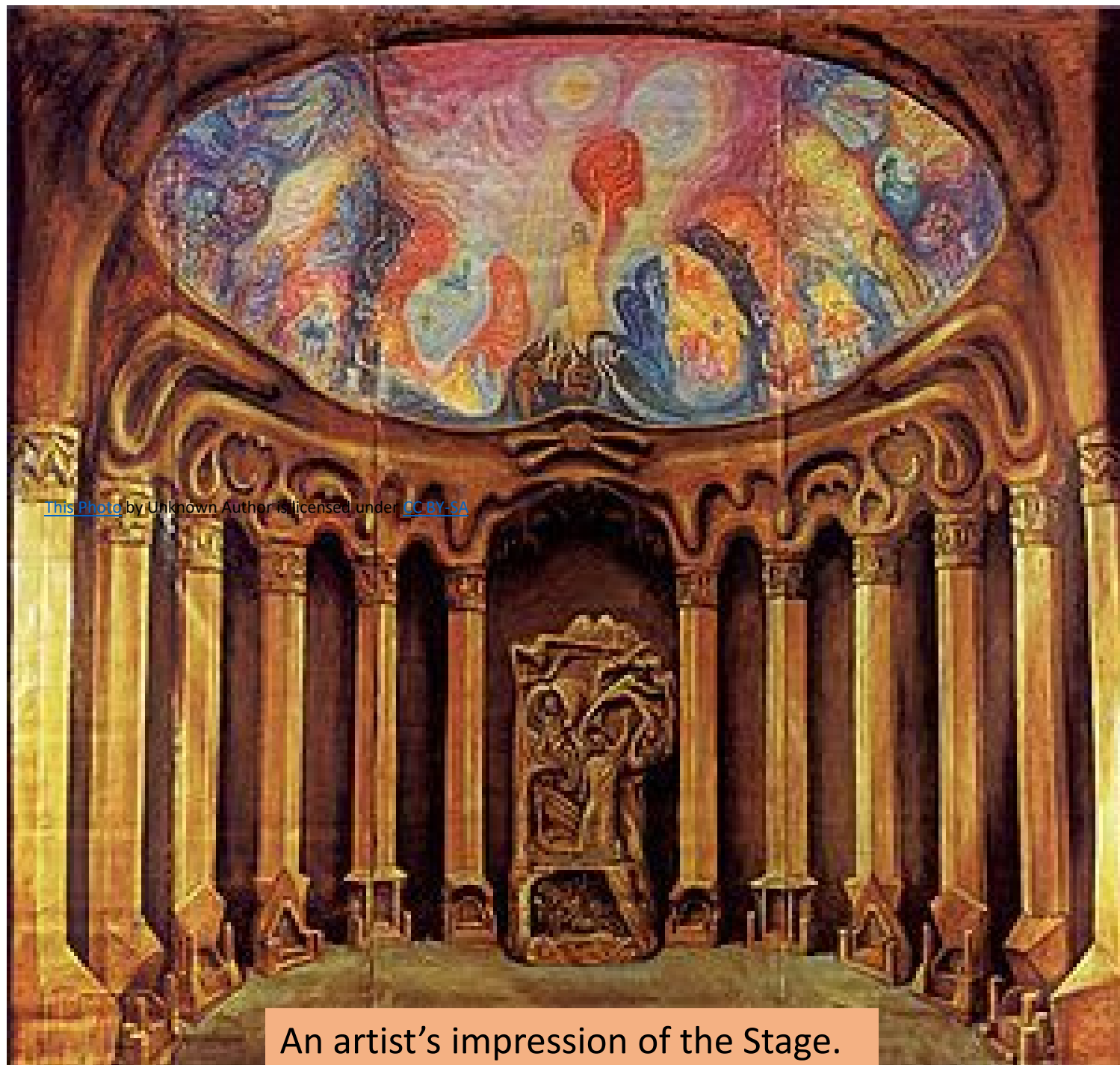
A wrap-around elevation of the auditorium columns and the associated carving.



Entrance  
West

Coloured etched windows

Stage East



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

An artist's impression of the Stage.



## The Stage

<<<< A sketch by Friedrich Bergmann of the design of the stage proscenium columns and sculpture at the rear of the stage.

The 6m high wooden sculpture intended for the niche at the back of the stage, fortunately not in place when the Goetheanum was burnt down. >>>>



1



## STAGES OF CREATIVITY

This sequence gives an insight into the artistic process in the design of the sculpture for the back of the stage.

Rudolf Steiner and Edith Maryon (an English sculptress who helped Rudolf Steiner) made seven models in clay or plasticine [clay with oil rather than water and thus slower drying]

Initially called "Gruppenmodell" or Group Model

The Representative of Humanity, carrying the Christ forces within himself creates a balance between Lucifer (upper right) and Ahriman (in the cave lower left)

2

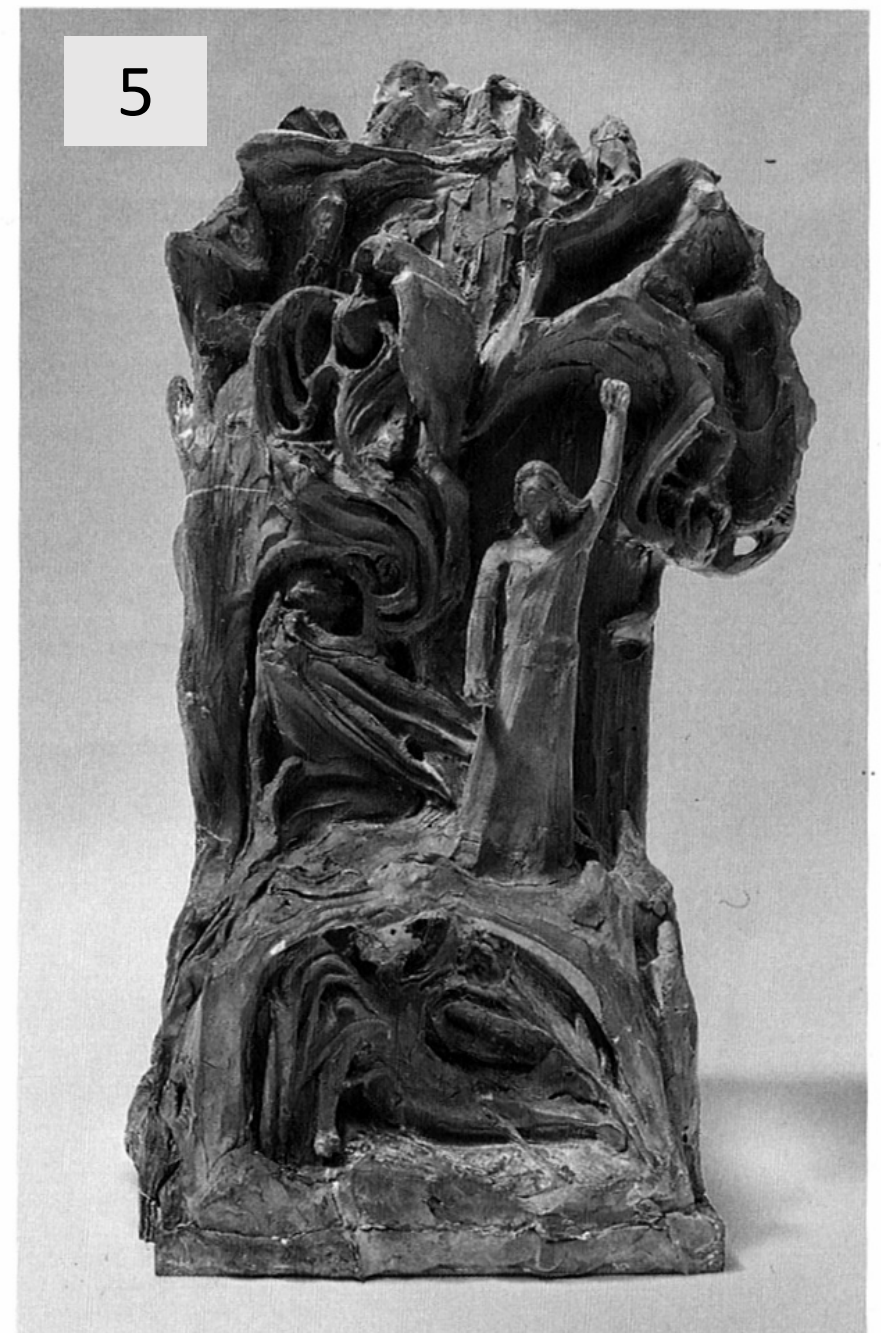




**Abb. G17** Drittes Gruppenmodell



**Abb. G18** Viertes Gruppenmodell



**Abb. G19** Fünftes Gruppenmodell

6



The 6<sup>th</sup> model was 2m high.

The 7<sup>th</sup> model was full size,  
about 6m high.

All this before any carving of  
wood began.



Head of Christ, Study to the Representative of Humanity  
by Rudolf Steiner

7



Note the prominent forehead where the “third eye” is located.





Note how the jaw of the chimpanzee descends from the more human-like form of the young to dominate the skull of the adult.

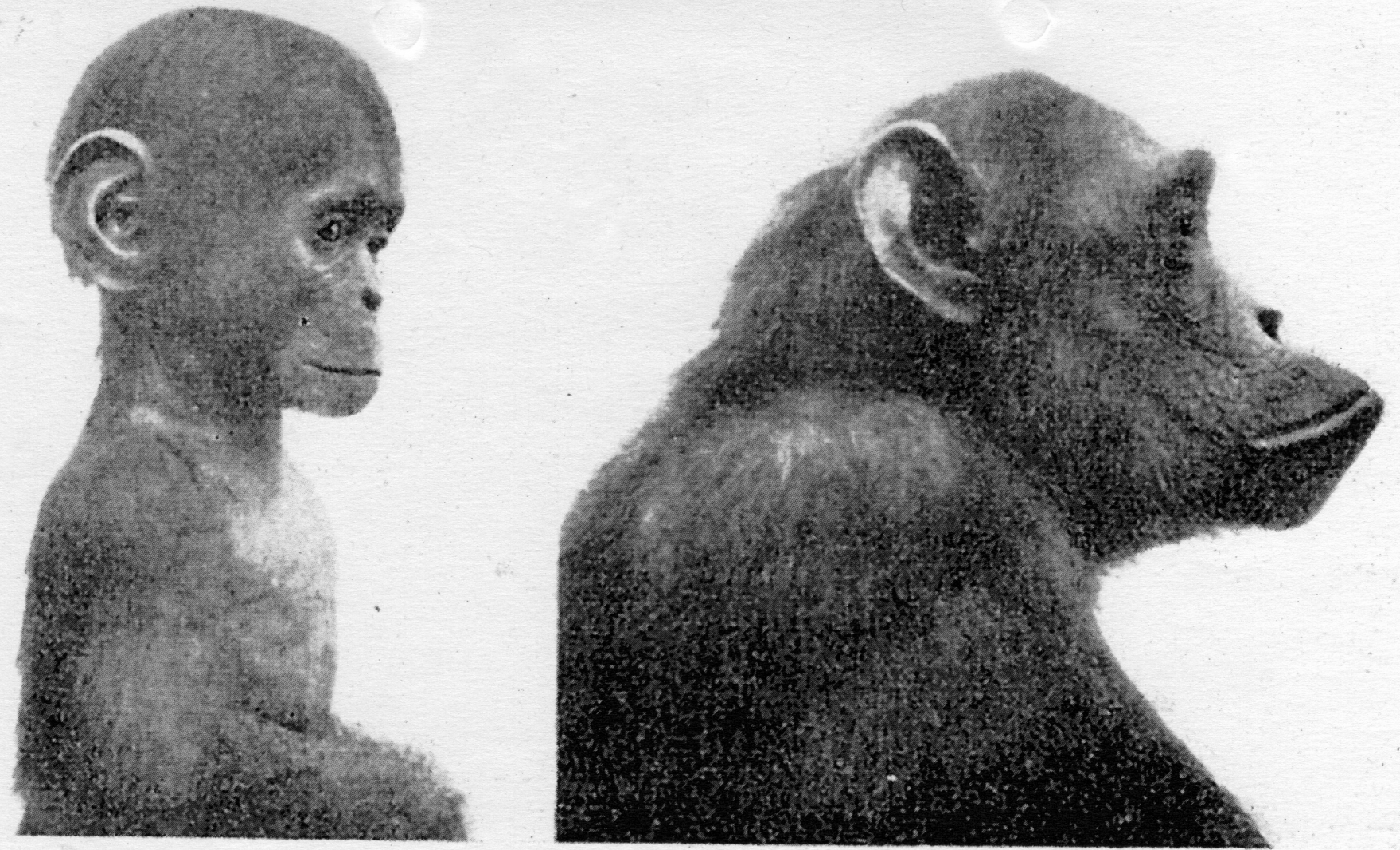


Figure 1.

Young Chimpanzee.

Adult Chimpanzee.

(Reproduced here with the kind permission of the publisher: Julius Springer, Berlin. Taken from J. Naef's work in the 20-21st number, fourteenth year of the magazine *Die Naturwissenschaften*.)

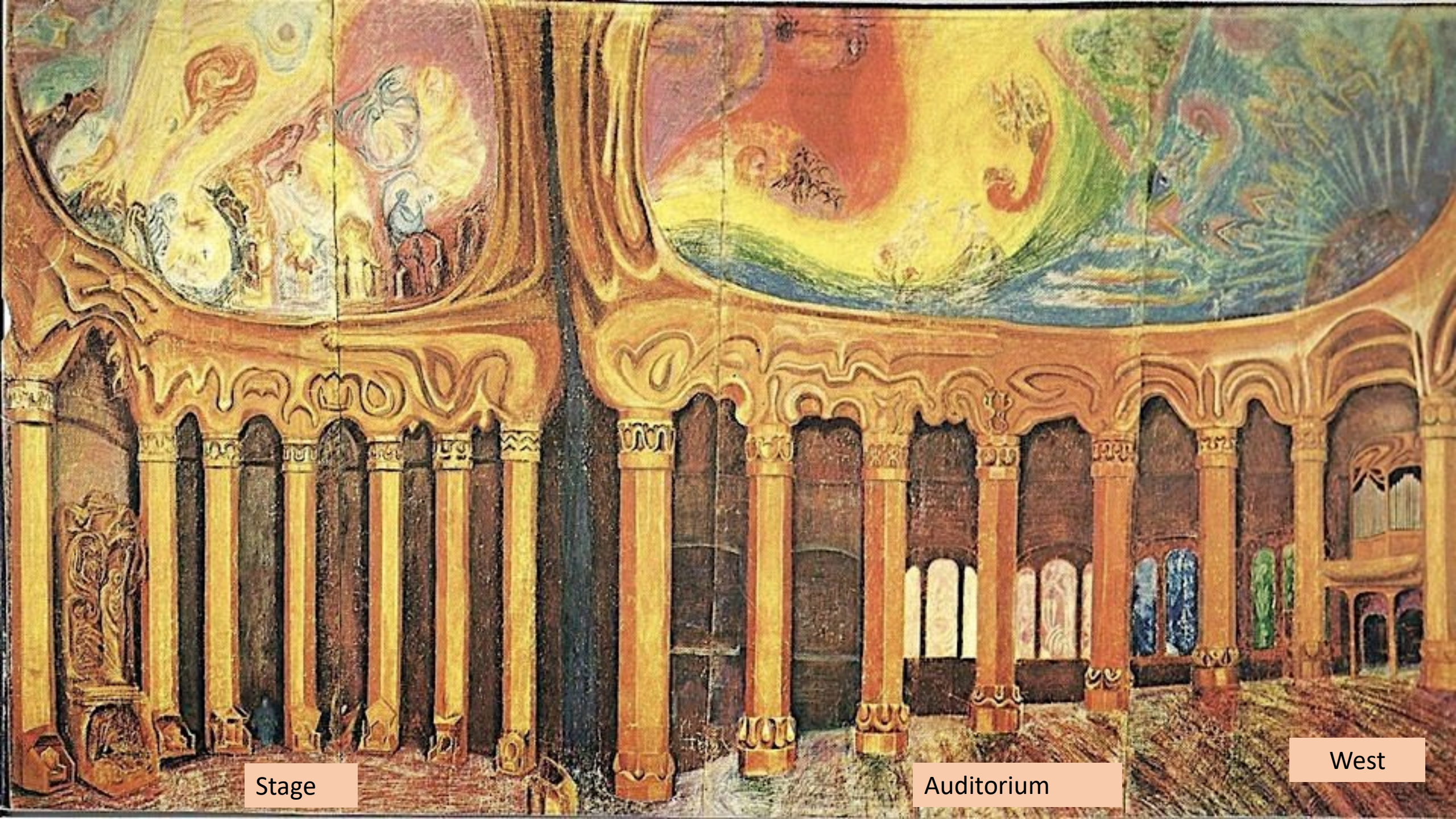
Not many straight  
lines evident  
here. Those that  
can be seen are  
vertical.



Carving  
everywhere!







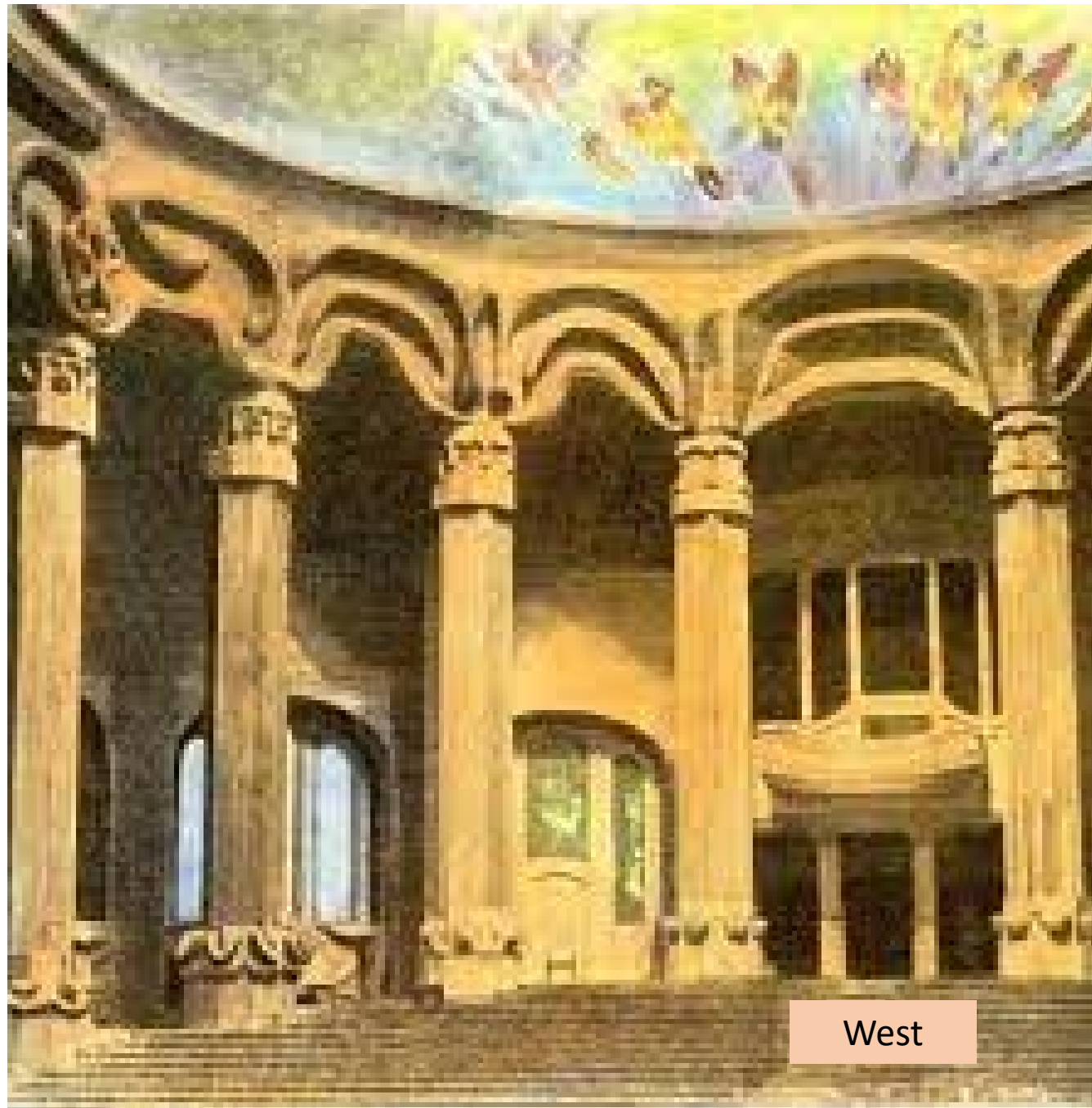
Stage

Auditorium

West

# Columns and timber

Planetary Stage	Ether/Element	Day of Week	Timber of column
1. Saturn (by entrance)	Warmth Fire	Saturday	Beech
2. Sun	Light Air	Sunday	Ash
3. Moon	Chemistry Water	Monday	Cherry
4a. Mars war, conflict	Life Earth	Tuesday Mardi	Oak
4b. Mercury healing	(post-Golgotha)	Wednesday Mercredi	Elm
5. Jupiter		Thursday Juedi	Maple
6. Venus (by stage)		Friday Vendredi	Birch



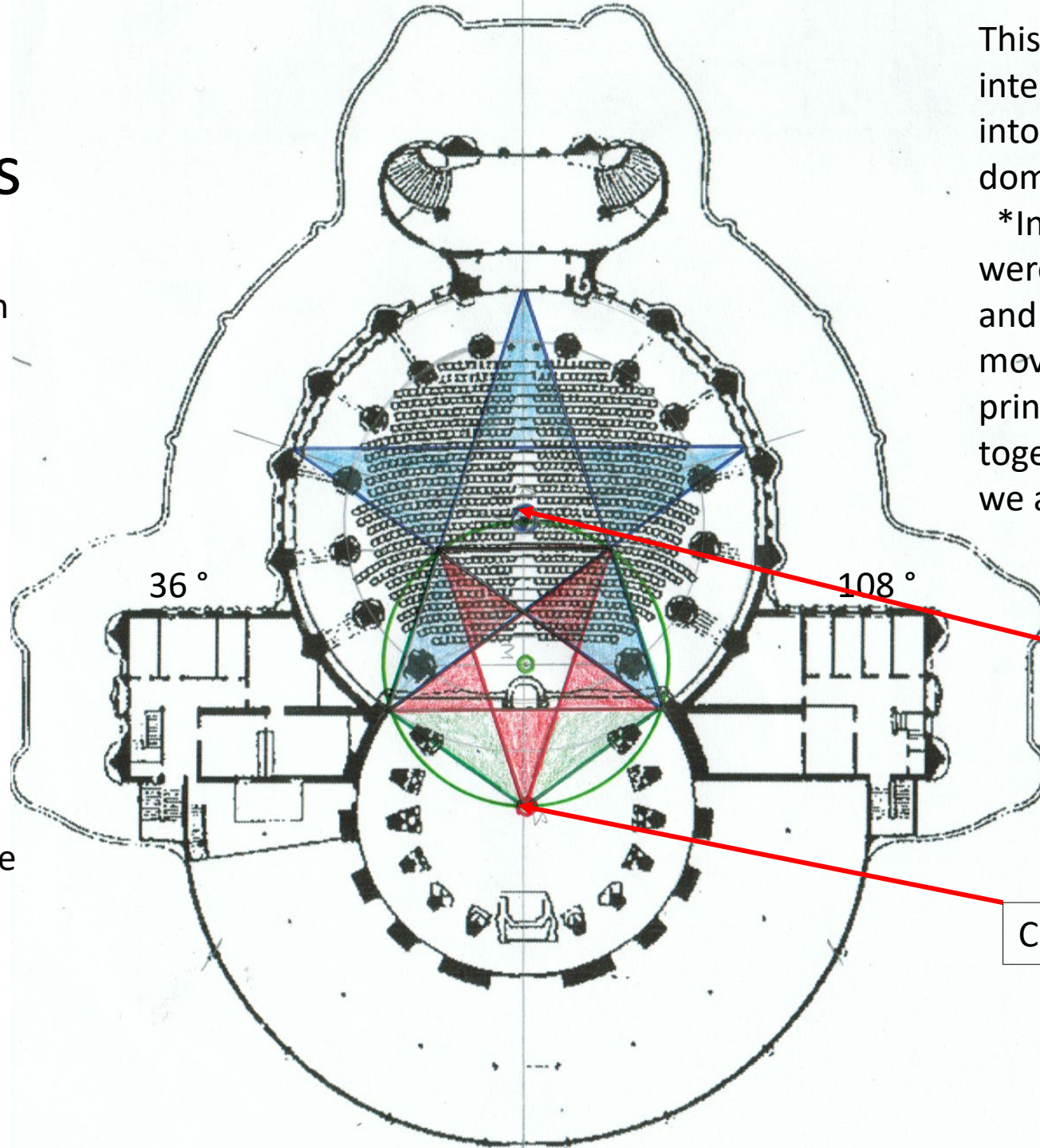
West

# Inscribed Pentagrams

The dividing line between the larger Auditorium (earthly) dome and the smaller Stage (cosmic) dome is the base of a pentagram (blue) fitting in the circle of the Auditorium.

The smaller pentagram (red) fits inside a circle that includes the centre of the Auditorium and the centre of the Stage.

The size of the two pentagrams are in the Golden Ratio.



This establishes an artistic balance of interpenetration of the two domes into each other. The surfaces of the domes are mutually perpendicular.

\*In CW275 Rudolf Steiner says: "If we were to cancel the interpenetration and separate the dome motifs, we move towards the **Ahrimanic** principle. If we bring them closer together, or overlap them completely, we approach the **Luciferic** principle."

4-1-1915

Centre of Auditorium

Centre of Stage

# Illustrated Themes

On the domed ceiling over the Auditorium coloured murals depicted 12 scenes from the **evolution of Humanity on Earth**. Pictures on the domed ceiling over the Stage and the columns of the auditorium depicted the **evolution of the Solar System**. For someone sitting in the Auditorium the space was lit by 4 pairs of coloured windows on either side (left/North and right/South) ranging from green nearest to the Western entrance, through blue, violet to rose/magenta nearest the stage. The themes related to the **life evolution of individual human beings**. Behind the seated person, over the Western entrance was a Red window depicting the theme of Initiation. The other themes were:

Colour	Right/South	Left/North
Green	Lucifer	Ahriman
Blue	Will	Thinking
Violet	Birth	Death
Rose	Sleeping	Waking

## First Goetheanum Auditorium Coloured Windows Themes and Colours

