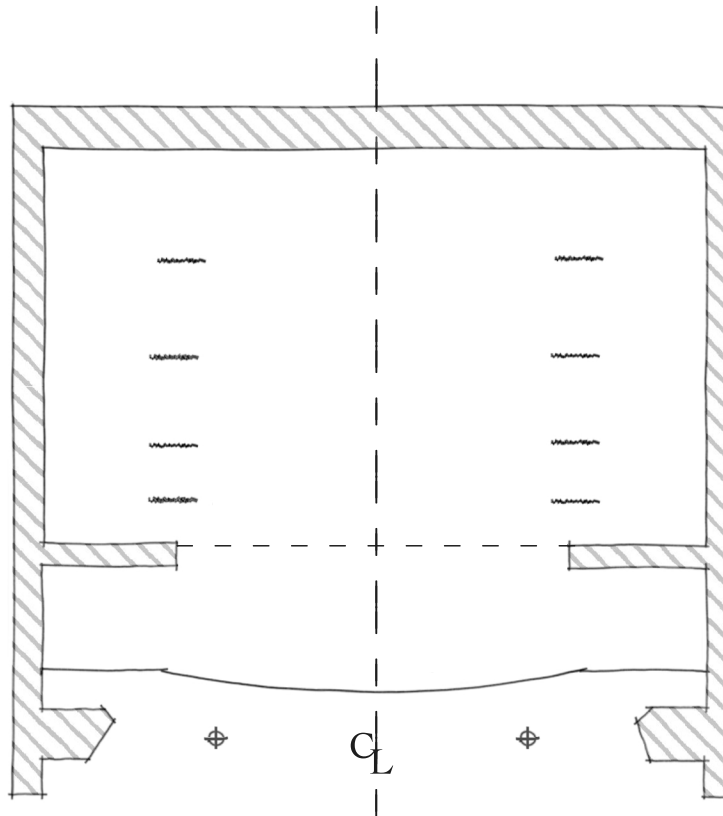


For those looking at a ground plan for the first time, the various symbols and notation can be a bit intimidating. Once you understand the basic rules, though, interpreting a ground plan is simple.

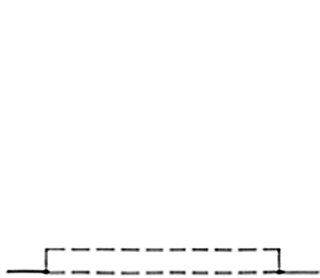
A ground plan portrays a theatre from above, looking down onto the space. All objects above the **cutting plane** (the imaginary line 3' above the stage floor) are drafted as dotted lines. Those things that touch the stage floor are drafted as solid lines.



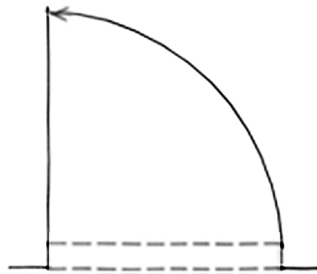
In addition, there are lines included as reference points for measuring stage placement. The **center line** is an imaginary line that bisects the theatre at the center, separating stage right and stage left. It is represented as a dashed line (long-short-long-short) with a CL written over it towards the bottom. The **proscenium line** is another imaginary line that travels from one leg of the proscenium to the other, separating the upstage from downstage. It is represented as a consistent dashed line.

Finally, the **extreme sightlines** are drafted onto the ground plan to indicate the location of the seats in the auditorium closest to the stage, yet the farthest from the centerline. This symbol is a circle with crosshairs ⊕

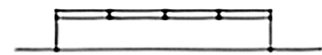
When creating a ground plan, there are certain symbols used to indicate particular types of scenic elements. These symbols are standards used by all designers for ease in interpreting the ground plan. Some of the most common symbols are included below.



ARCHWAY



DOOR



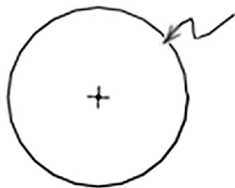
WINDOW



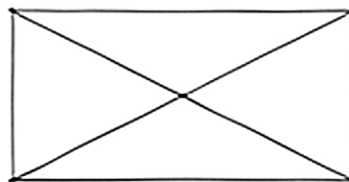
FLAT



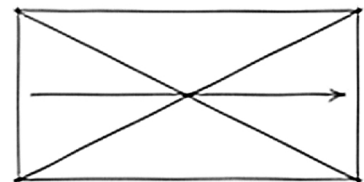
STAIRCASE



REVOLVE (TURNTABLE)



PLATFORM



RAKED PLATFORM



DRAPERY WITH FULLNESS
(TOUCHING THE GROUND)



DRAPERY WITH FULLNESS
(ABOVE THE GROUND)