Set Design

Making the World

An Intro:

Set Design is about seeing to two very important aspects:

- Making sure the set practically meets the needs of the show as far as movement, size, etc
- To artistically serve and better convey the meaning and message of the work

Practicality:

A set needs to be functional. A designer always has to consider how the actors will work with the set. Is it safe? Does the show need a staircase? A window? What does the script need? What does the director want?

Artistically:

When you look at the set, do you get an idea of what the show will be? Where and when it will be? Does the set reflect the mood of the play? What ways can the set better reflect what's happening on stage?

How do you do that?

#1 answer: See as many shows as you can. Look at sets. What do you like about, them? What doesn't work? How do they make you feel? Did the set serve the play well?
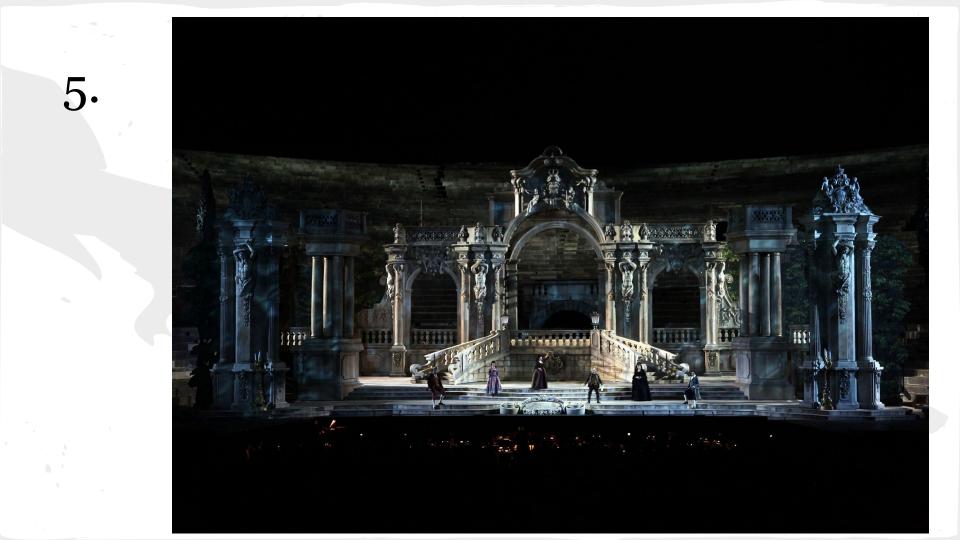
Set Design Exercise:

We'll be looking at a number of sets. I want you to write down your impressions of it. How does the set make you feel? What kind of play would be on this set? What do you like or dislike about it? Where and when does this set take place?

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2.

3.

4.

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