

Fox Theater

2111 Woodward Avenue, Detroit

This 1928 theater is the zenith of a particularly American, particularly exuberant, building type, the movie palace. Patrons enter the flamboyant Fox, designed by theater architect C. Howard Crane, through a five-story lobby, ascend a grand staircase guarded by plaster lions and dragons, and enter a 5,042-seat auditorium where monkeys, peacocks, serpents, horses, and strange deities cavort among Moorish arches under a “tented” ceiling. The decor and the sounds produced by the “Mighty Wurlitzer” organ with its 2,700 pipes make the featured attraction — no matter what it is — take second billing.