



The Scenographic Imagination

Darwin Reid Payne

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This is a revised, expanded version of Payne's *Design for the Stage: First Steps*, the book *Choice* characterized as "An excellent text," "a refreshingly innovative approach to theatrical design with an artistic, theatrical, and historical focus rather than the technical craft orientation found in most textbooks."

Payne seeks to instill in beginning scenographers a basic core of knowledge: theater history and the development of drama; art history and an understanding of periods and styles of architecture, painting, sculpture, furnishing, and costume; and the principles, techniques, and materials in pictorial and three-dimensional design. He has incorporated into his text many suggestions for outside readings, quoting passages and even entire chapters from important works. He stresses research, arguing that the scenographer cannot grow without knowledge of the literature of his own and related arts.

John Kavelin, in *Theatre Crafts*, recommended *Design for the Stage* to any student, teacher, or practitioner of design, calling it a "literate, well-organized book." *The Scenographic Imagination* is a bigger, deeper book.

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