



Herod Atticus Odeon, Athens, Greece



Arian rooftop movie theater, Glyfada, Greece.

Odeon

It is somewhat of a paradox, to be designing a movie theater in architecture school [when peak ticket sales was in 2002](#). However the enduring lure of designing a space for collective event based cinematic experience is hard to give up. So here we are. Let me indulge you with my own nostalgic experience. I grew up in Greece during the [Papadopoulos regime](#) in a small fishing town at the outskirts of Athens in a time before air-conditioning was readily available. My movie experience was watching [spaghetti westerns](#) on outdoor rooftop theaters like the Adrian which every so often was interrupted by the loud sound of planes landing at the Athens airport. Foreign movies in Greece at the time were not dubbed, but had subtitles. While I spoke Greek, I could not read it. I remember the audience laughing at jokes while I could not hear them through the bombastic sound of old jet engines.

It is hard not think of Greece, when designing a cinema. [“The word cinema derives from the Greek kinematographos = kinema and grapho. Kinema \(cinema\) means the movement and the verb grapho means to write, to record. Cinema records the movement, it is moving images. In English the whole Greek word has been kept.”](#) The first [outdoor cinema](#) was in Greece. In my studio we will be designing a movie theater for the [Ann Arbor Film Festival](#) called Odeon on a wedge site Ann Arbor’s [Kerrytown](#). [“Many movie theaters are called Odeon, the Greek word for a small-roofed theater, mainly suitable for singing and concerts.”](#)

To design the odeon we will be working with the following words and techniques: Captioning, [chiaroscuro](#), cropping, dubbing, framing, montage, [Muybridge](#), narrative, photogram, pixilation, projection, reality, storyboard, scenario, translation, transparency. We will draw inspiration from movies about movie theaters such as: [Cinema Paradiso](#), [Sing](#), [The Greatest Showman](#), [The Purple Rose of Cairo](#), [Who Framed Roger Rabbit](#). And confounded realities: [Blade Runner](#), [Blade Runner 2049](#), [Dr. Strangelove](#), [Mon Oncle](#), [Planet of the Apes](#), [Space Odyssey 2001](#), etc.