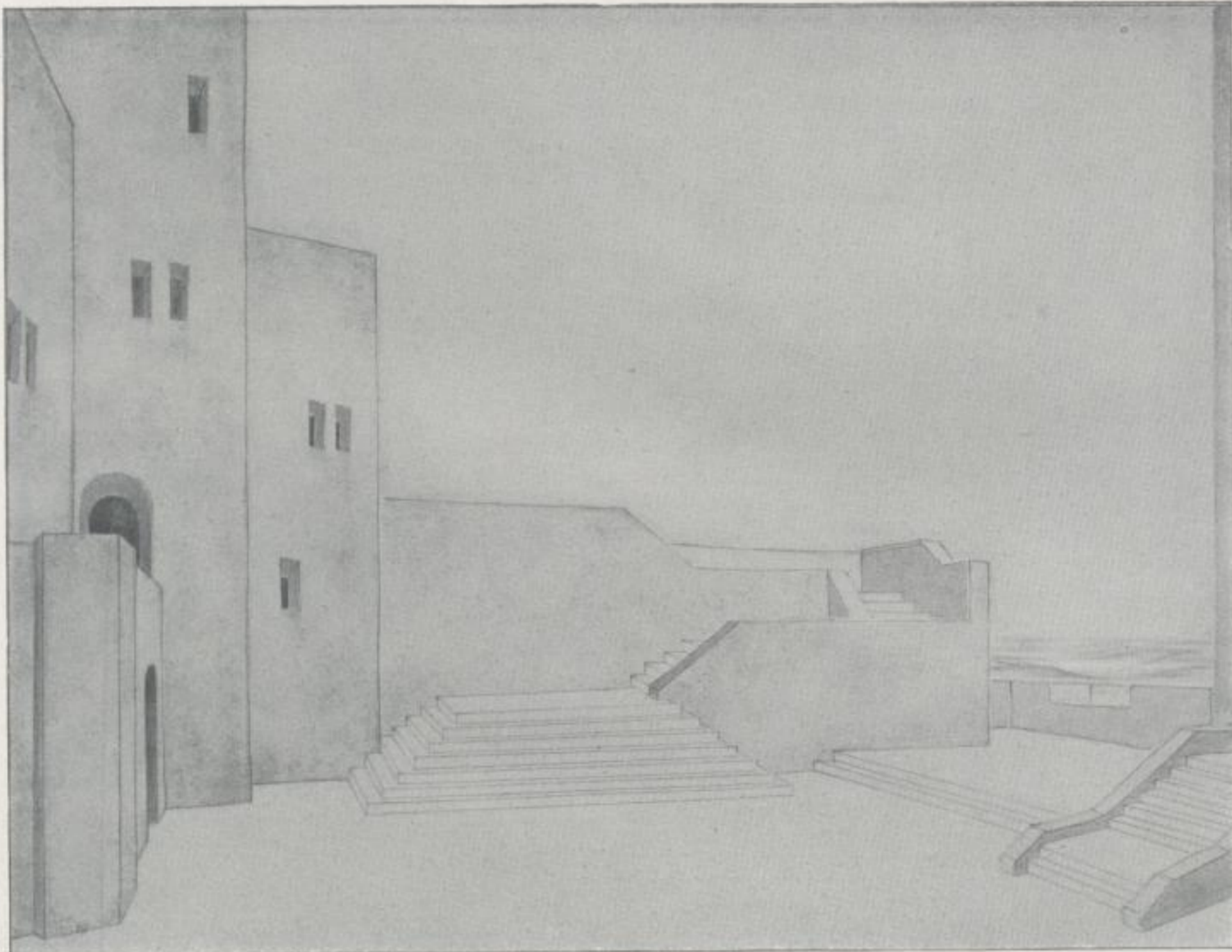


is necessary to fulfil two contrasting requirements, namely, to provide naturalistic and comprehensible details and genuine illusions, but at the same time to preserve impressive clearness, grandeur and simplicity, which have symbolic value and support the whole — a difficult course to steer between conflicting demands which it correctly adhered to, which makes exacting demands on the inventive genius and tact of the scenic artist.

It was not without reason that Wagner demanded a special building for the production of his works, for none of the existing stages could do justice to all that he necessarily required for the



Lohengrin

II. Akt Act II

Berlin 1934

complete realization of his far-reaching ideas and views. The Festival Theatre, which was finally erected in Bayreuth after so many efforts and struggles, is still acoustically an incomparable instrument for the expression of Wagner's musical intentions, and does equal justice to his scenic requirements. It is only there, in that plain building, now that the technical equipment of the stage and lighting arrangements have been brought absolutely up to date, that it is possible to some extent to realize the effects sketched in Wagner's frequently prophetic stage directions, namely, to conjure up those grandiose visions which make the mighty interplay of natural forces and human