

CHARLES ROSE ARCHITECTS INC

PROJECTdata

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

for the Performing and Visual Arts

Dallas, Texas USA

Invited Competition: National Endowment for the Arts

Scope: High School for the performing and visual arts.

Dallas had embarked on an ambitious plan to create a vibrant downtown arts district when the National Endowment for the Arts sponsored a competition to expand Booker T. Washington High School. Charles Rose Architects, one of four finalists, sought to infuse the newly expanded school with the energy and educational mission it shared with the museums, theaters, and other distinguished arts buildings nearby.

Competition rules stated that the school's existing brick building must be preserved. Our design did that and also responded to the site's gritty urban character: we pushed masses to the site's northern, eastern and southern perimeters and created blunt sculptural forms—muscular masses that stand up to the adjacent freeways, city streets and rubble lots. Most notably, our design creates a southwest-facing courtyard that opens to the Arts District and city skyline. As visitors enter the main entrance on the southwest corner, the shard-like forms of the roofscape emerge; some angle down into the courtyard. Our intention was to create an intriguing topographical element; the roofs contrast with the overall flatness of the area. These constructed planes are also visual references to the city's freeway overpasses and offer a series of vantage points from which to view the school and surrounding area. The roofs are designed to be planted with sod to reduce heat gain in hot months.

Interiors are designed to foster fortuitous encounters that could spark collaboration between artistic disciplines. Corridor space is minimized. Galleries are designed to function dually as pathways through the school; openness and interaction are supported by our design throughout the school.

Completed: 2001; unbuilt

“The original school building was built in 1922 and was the first African-American high school in Dallas. It was designated as an ‘arts magnet’ high school in 1976 and has subsequently received acclaim as a prototype for other magnet

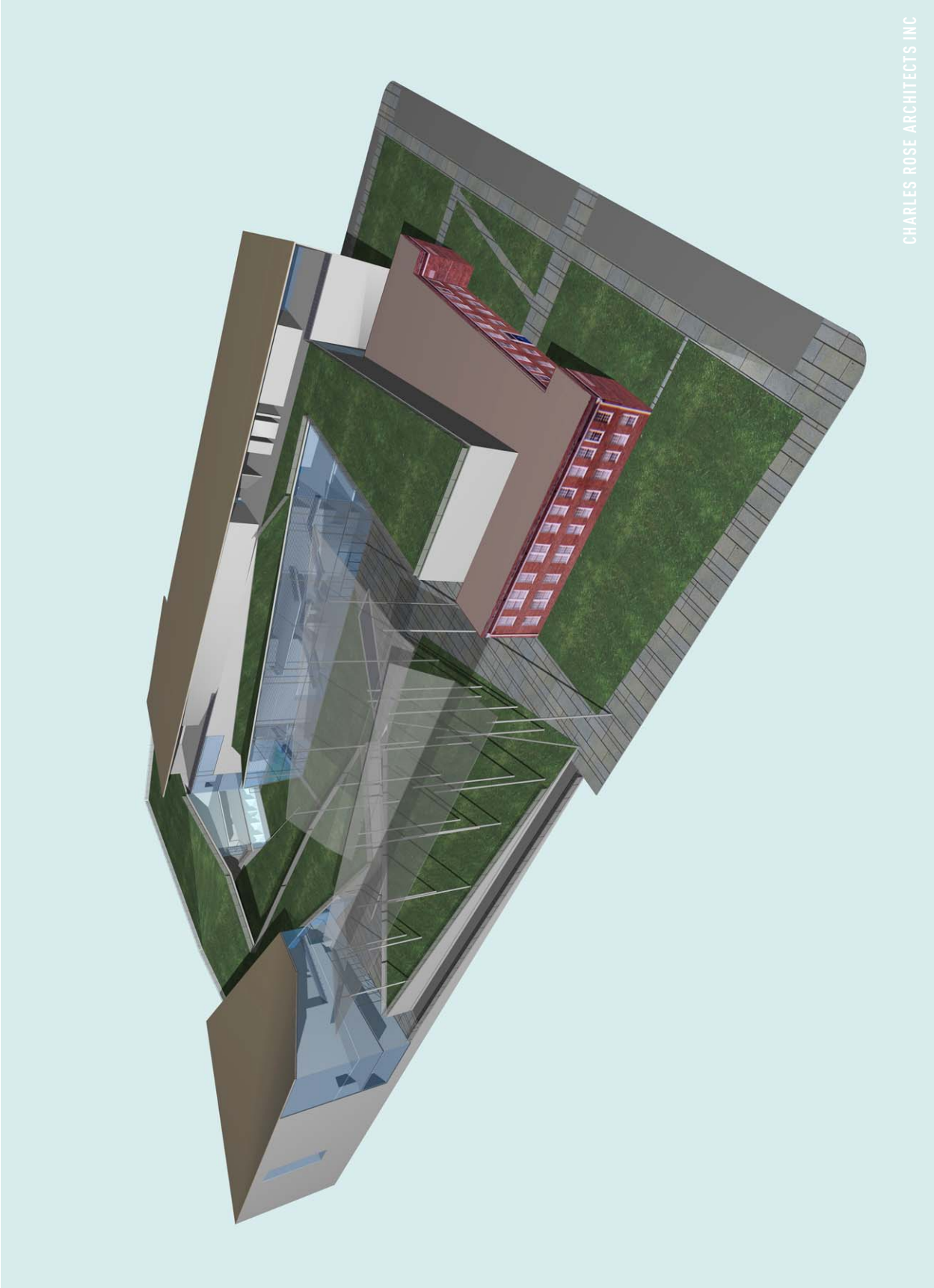
schools across the country....It is expected that this project will also serve as an example for numerous such schools in the United States....Charles Rose presented concepts which, in some aspects, had a much higher degree of resolution than the other competitors. The scheme included two levels of below grade parking which was not required by the program but which Rose had (correctly) determined to be a crucial component of any actual building on the site.”

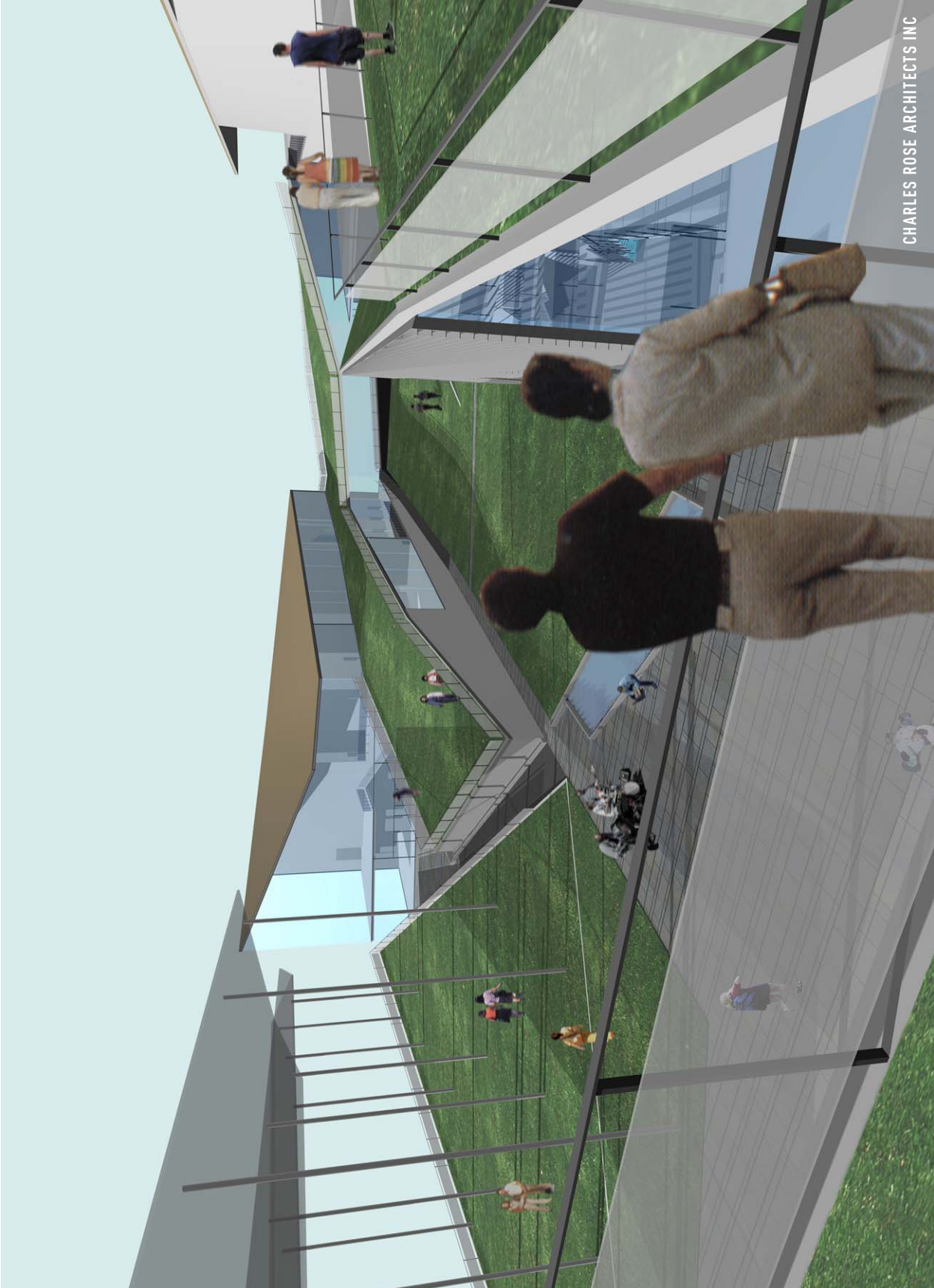
Mark Gunderson, “Raising the Bar in Dallas,” *Competitions*, Winter 2001/02

Publications:

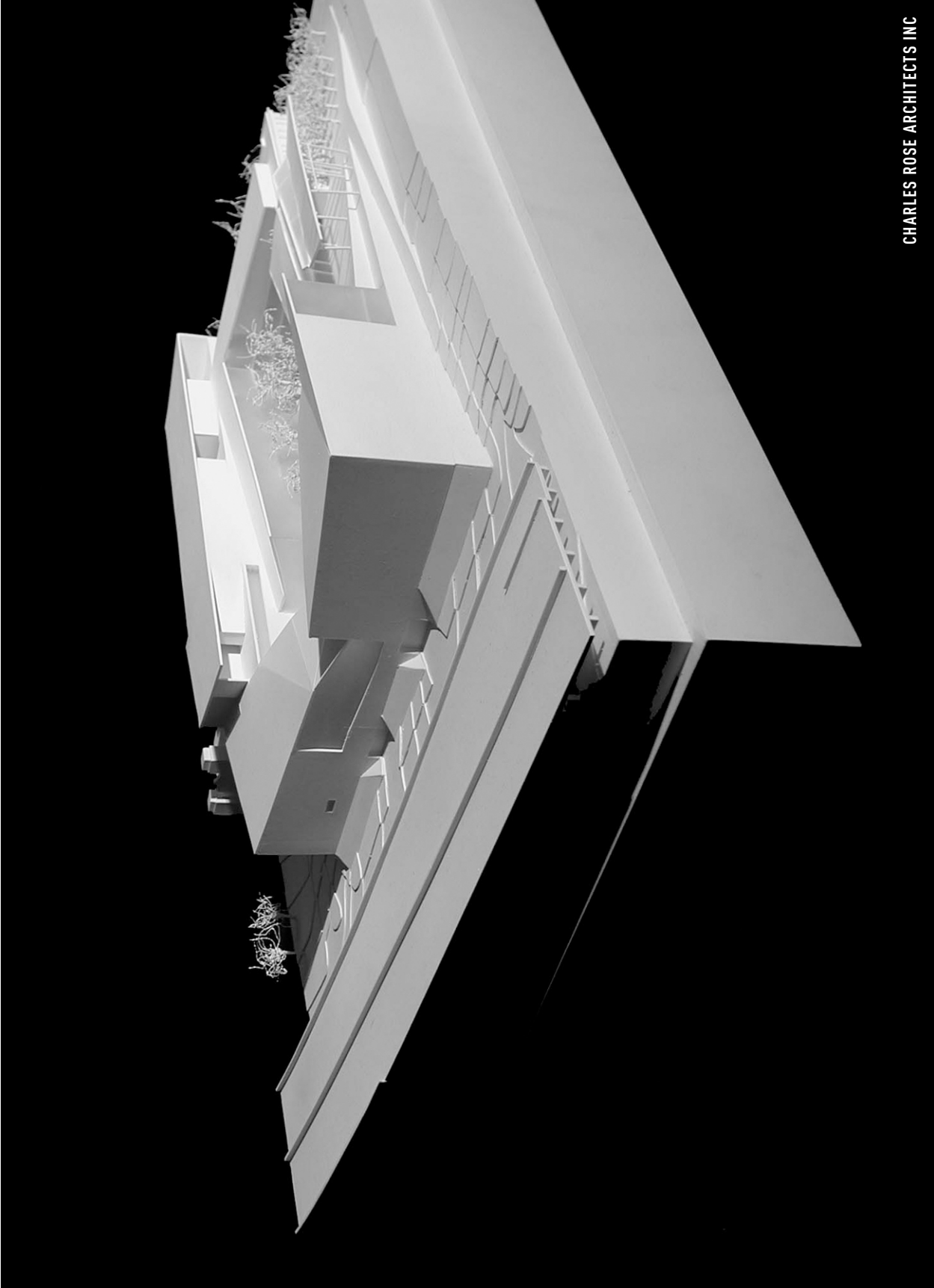
Charles Rose, Architect, Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 2006.

Gunderson, Mark. “Raising the Bar in Dallas,” *Competitions*, Winter 2001/02.

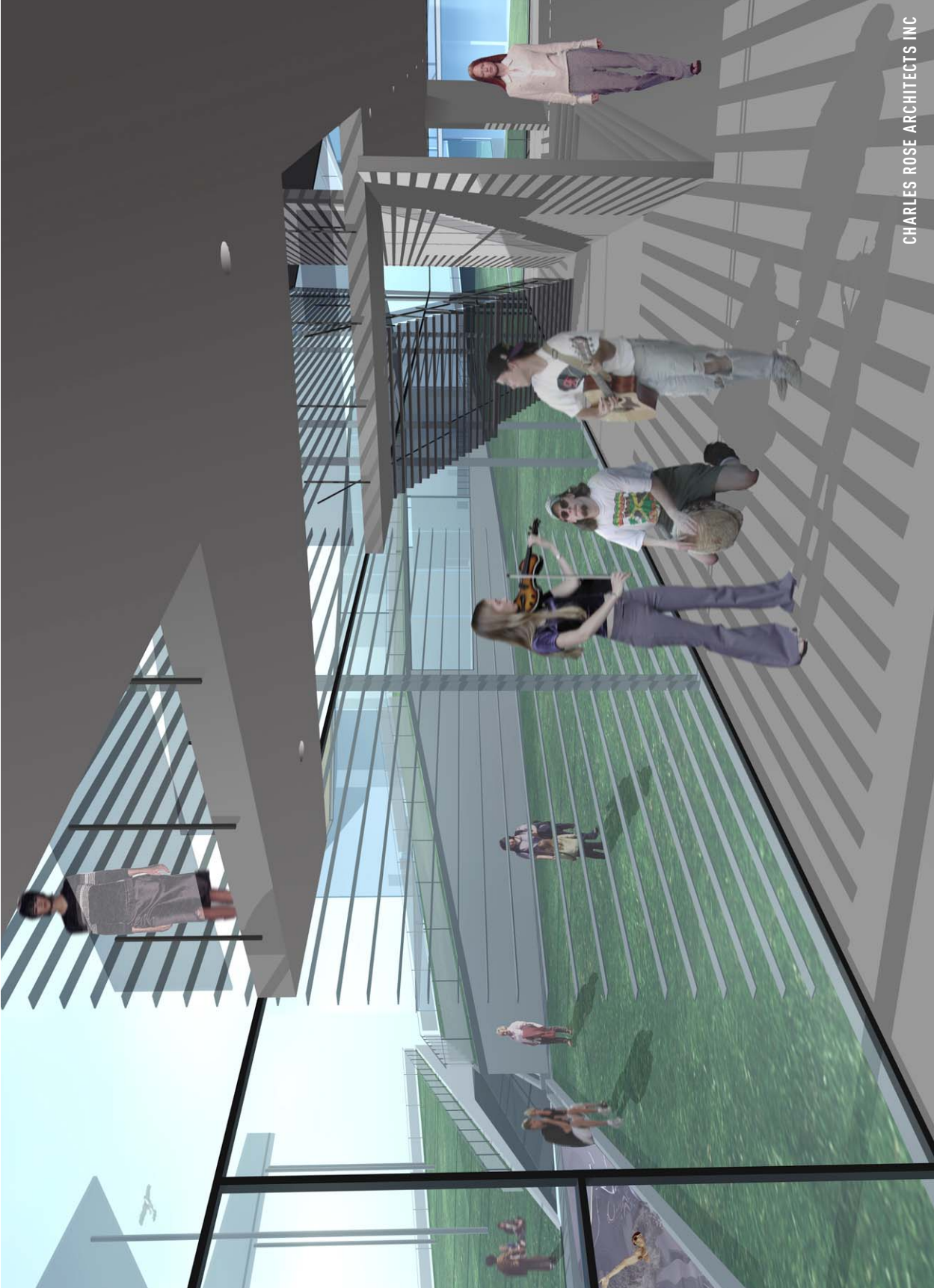




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