

CHARLES ROSE ARCHITECTS INC

PROJECT_{data}

ACA, LEEPER STUDIO COMPLEX

New Smyrna Beach, Florida USA

Commissioned by: Atlantic Center for the Arts

Scope: Studios for dance, drama, painting, sculpture, music, writing; a black-box theater; library and dining hall; spaces support a renowned artists-residency program in a dense ecological preserve.

Two chief impulses guided our early design work: to create a strong sense of immersion in nature and to create spaces that would foster conversations among artists from various disciplines. The jungle-like landscape was a natural collaborator in our design. To create the sense of immersion that we envisioned, we embedded the studios into the lush vegetation and then wove together the pavilions by constructing a boardwalk that sits just two and a half feet off the forest floor. The boardwalk opens into decks expands in areas and becomes a space for new connections and collaboration.

The studio buildings are highly attuned to the tropical environment and use several strategies to mediate the intense heat, sun and humidity. Expansive glass walls, for example, maximize northern light; wood louvers lessen the effects of direct sunlight.

Materials: Cedar siding; epoxy-coated steel curbs, light posts and trellises; mahogany windows; copper roofs; poured-in-place concrete; glass.

Completed: 1997

Cost: \$3,300,000

“In developing the program for the Atlantic Center for the Arts, we had many inspiring conversations with great artists who were members of the advisory board. The idea that dance occupies the space between earth and sky originated in a conversation with the choreographer Trisha Brown. She prompted us to find ways of giving a mythic quality to

that space. The design of the painting studio developed out of conversation with painters about light and space. We designed studio spaces which were visually, sculpturally, and tectonically linked to the concerns and aspirations of the artists.”

Charles Rose, “Conversations with Michigan,” The University of Michigan, College of Architecture + Urban Planning

Awards:

American Institute of Architects National Honor Award for Design Excellence

American Institute of Architects New England Award for Design Excellence

Boston Society of Architects Design Honor Award

American Wood Council National Honor Award

Progressive Architecture Award: Citation

Boston Society of Architects Unbuilt Architecture Award

I.D. Magazine Annual Design Review, Design Distinction Award

Select Publications:

Dixon, John Morris. “Treading Lightly on the Florida Earth,” *Architect*, March 2012.

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

Carter, Brian, editor. Site/Architecture: Charles Rose Architects Inc., University of Michigan Press, 1998.

Jodidio, Philip, editor. Contemporary American Architects: Volume IV, Taschen, 1998.

Stungo, Naomi. The New Wood Architecture, Callman & King Ltd., 1998.

“Design Distinction: Atlantic Center for the Arts, Leeper Studio Complex,” *I.D. Magazine Annual Design Review Edition*, July 1997.

Stein, Karen: “Project Diary: Leeper Studio Complex, Atlantic Center for the Arts,” *Architectural Record*, June 1997.

“42nd Annual P/A Awards: Citation: The Atlantic Center for the Arts,” *Progressive Architecture*, January 1995.

“Culture Comes to Smyrna Beach,” *Architectural Record*, November 1994.



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