

CHARLES ROSE ARCHITECTS INC

PROJECT^{data}

AMPHITHEATER

Acton, Massachusetts USA

Commissioned by: Town of Acton

Scope: Public park including an amphitheater with a performance stage.

The parkland is reclaimed from an old quarry that supplied crushed stone to Boston's "Big Dig" project. The centerpiece is the gently sloping amphitheater, which can accommodate 2,500 in a sculpted green bowl. In our work, architecture and landscape are often intertwined; here, nature takes center stage: the performance shed, intended for concerts and summer stock theater, is see-through from all sides. It is designed for a supporting role: to keep the eye focused on the surrounding landscape. The scattering of columns suggest a natural forest. Elsewhere, the architecture has a rustic feel, an intentional contrast to the fine geometries of the architectural plan.

Materials: Pigmented concrete; steel; western red cedar; copper.

Completed: 1999

Cost: \$1,000,000

“Rather than idealizing architectural form, Rose privileges that landscape’s tendency to singular expression. Above the structures, the roof planes invariably hover, seeking not the level of the horizon but the exceptional forms of the landscape without as well as the flow of activities within. Moreover, his structures generally meet the ground in a subtle way, feathered into the landscape by walkways and terraces, rejecting the formal podium which so often defined the relationship between classical architecture—as well as classic modernism—and nature.”

Foreword by Terence Riley, formerly The Philip Johnson Chief Curator of Architecture and Design, Museum of Modern Art from the monograph, [Charles Rose, Architect](#), Princeton Architectural Press, 2006

Awards:

American Institute of Architects New England Award for Design Excellence

Boston Society of Architects Design Honor Award

Publications:

[Charles Rose, Architect](#), Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 2006.



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