

# CHARLES ROSE ARCHITECTS INC

PROJECT data

## ORLEANS HOUSE

Cape Cod, Massachusetts USA

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**Commissioned by:** Couple with three grown children and extensive art collection

**Scope:** Stand-alone office tower; guest house with painting studio; bunk room set off from main house; wine cellar; open floor plan with large walls to display art.

Orleans House occupies one of the easternmost points in the U.S., a place exposed to salt water, light, sky, marsh, bay, barrier beach, and open ocean. Tides, wind, and waves are forever remaking the landscape; here is a world in motion. We let these elements guide us as we began designing.

Built on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic, Orleans House is a set of active forms that express free movement. The house follows a ridgeline, which begins at the bunkhouse and steps up toward the water and formal entryway. There, it reaches a commanding point on the bluff, turns a corner and opens dramatically to the water. On one side is the master bedroom; on the other is a sequence of public spaces—living, dining, and kitchen—that are book-ended by an office tower. A terrace and spa separate it from the main house.

Structurally, the house is a hybrid, with load-bearing walls and clerestory windows landside, and stainless-steel columns opposite, which allow the use of expansive glass windows seaside. The public spaces capture light, sky and water views, but sunlight is modulated by clerestory windows and fixed louvers. The effect in daytime is one of highly ambient light. A notable feature is the sculptural main stair that starts as glass (bringing light to the lower level), becomes fold-ed wood and ends as open wood risers. While an anomaly among the weather-beaten shingled Cape houses, Orleans House is so tightly integrated with the landscape that it's tough to spot from Pleasant Bay.

**Materials:** Board-formed concrete; granite; copper; mahogany windows; cedar; fir; acoustical plaster; jatoba; pre-cast concrete; glass planks; patinated stainless steel.

**Completed:** 2004

**Cost:** \$3,000,000

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“...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. While his architecture most certainly has urban implications, Rose’s work to date is most convincing in its ability to make an Arcadian vision legible.”

*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

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**Awards:**

Boston Society of Architects Design Honor Award

Residential Architect Design Award

Cape Cod Magazine Architectural Design Award

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**Select Publications:**

Cleary, Mark, editor. [200 Houses](#), The Images Publishing Group Pty Ltd., Australia, 2011.

Geiger, Liesl. [Essence of Home: Timeless Elements of Design](#), The Monacelli Press, Inc., New York, 2007.

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

Beaver, Robyn, editor. [A Pocketful of Houses](#), The Images Publishing Group Pty Ltd., Australia, 2006.

Beaver, Robyn, editor. [100 More of the World’s Best Houses](#), The Images Publishing Group Pty Ltd., Australia, 2005.

McManus, Emily. “Cape Mod,” *Boston Magazine: Home & Garden*, Fall 2005.

“Architectural Design Contest 2005,” *Cape Cod Magazine*, April 2005.

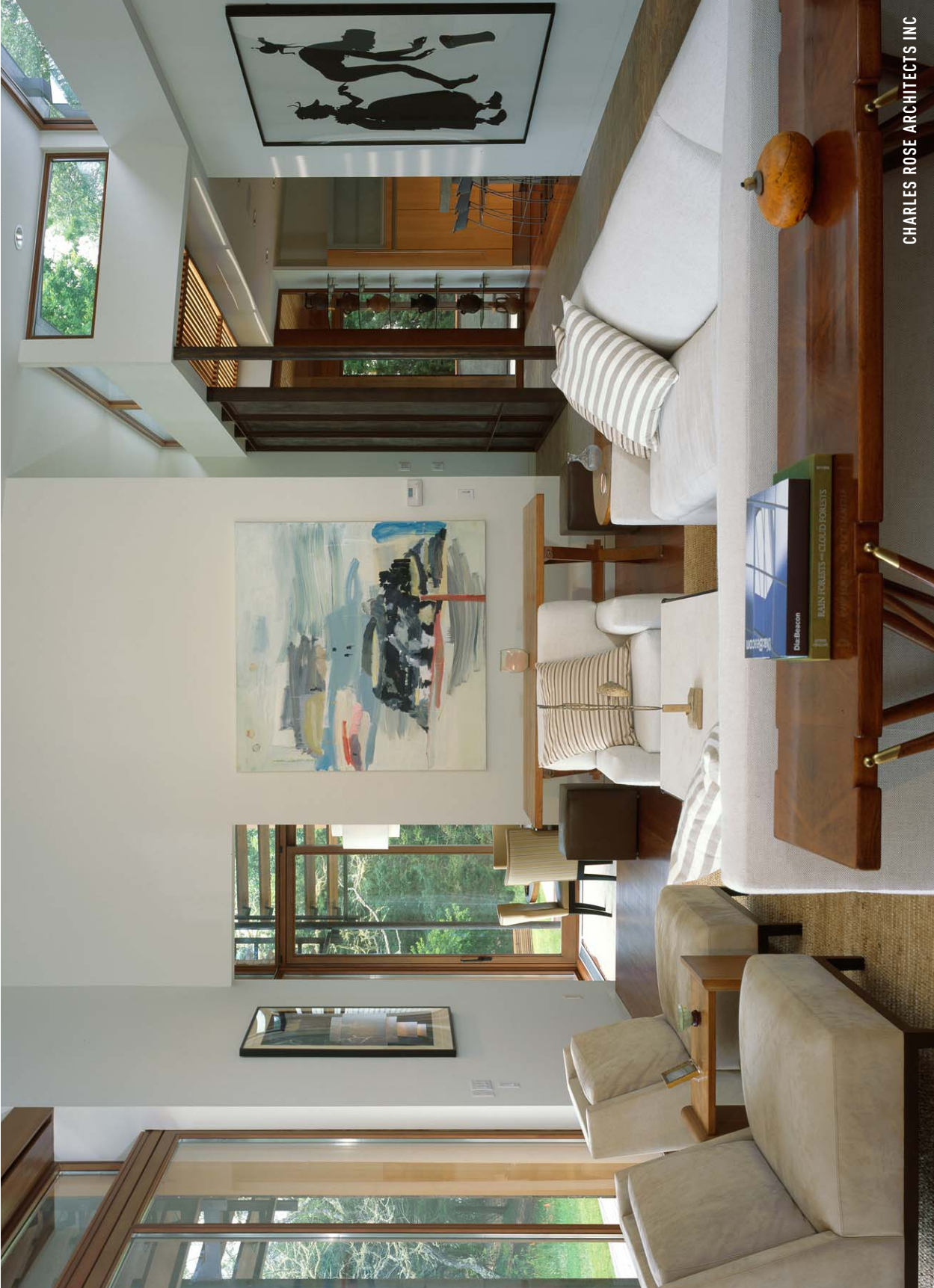
Carter, Brian; Lecuyer, Annette. [All American: Innovation in American Architecture](#), Thames & Hudson, New York, 2002.







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