

CHARLES ROSE ARCHITECTS INC

PROJECTdata

GULF COAST MUSEUM OF ART

Florida Botanical Garden

Largo, Florida USA

Commissioned by: Gulf Coast Museum of Art

Scope: Home for regional art collection and community arts-education program: auditorium, library, café, sculpture garden, museum store plus studio workshops, classrooms and offices. The museum's proponents saw Gulf Coast as an anchor in a cultural complex that included the Florida Botanical Garden, Pinellas Historical Museum and Heritage Village. In our design, the museum defines the boundary between the botanical gardens and Pinellas waterway, across which is Heritage Village and its open-air exhibits of "cracker" architecture. To move through the complex, visitors can follow a sinuous colonnade that runs parallel to the waterway; a footbridge across the wetlands connects the museum to Heritage Village. At the center of these two circulation paths is the heart of the complex, with galleries, sculpture garden, café, auditorium. Gallery spaces are flexible exhibition spaces and glow with natural light sourced from north-facing skylights, which give the building its distinctive roof line and diffuse the sun's rays.

Materials: Stucco; concrete block; integral color concrete; artisan plaster; galvanized steel; painted steel; sycamore.

Completed: 2001

Cost: \$7,500,000

"The local climate and quality of light as well as the local flora and fauna influenced the design.... Such is the work of [Charles Rose Architects Inc.], a firm that strives to successfully weave together architecture and the landscape....

In developing the design, [Charles Rose Architects Inc.] analyzed the specific site conditions - the movement of the sun, the topography, the geological conditions, the water and

wind movement, the flora and fauna species. The goal was to create an architecture that 'sees' its sites, an architecture that stands in relationship to its surroundings and heightens the experience and effect of the natural environment."

Excerpt from [Designing the New Museum](#) (Rockport Publishers)

Awards:

American Institute of Architects New England Award for Design Excellence

Boston Society of Architects Design Honor Award

Boston Society of Architects Unbuilt Architecture Award

Publications:

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

Crosbie, Michael J. [Designing the World's Best Museums and Art Galleries](#), The Images Publishing Group Pty Ltd., Australia, 2003.

Trulove, James. [Designing the New Museum](#), Rockport Publishers, Massachusetts, 2000.

Guiney, Anne. "A Clean, Well-Lighted Space: Charles Rose Bends Florida's Intense Sunlight to Will in the Galleries of a Tampa Art Center." *Architecture*, September 2000.

Carter, Brian. "Swamp Thing: Charles Rose Architects Inc. Takes Time to Understand a Site," feature on the Gulf Coast Museum of Art, *World Architecture* (London), June 2000.



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FLORIDA VISUAL ART FELLOWSHIP 1994-99
Organized by
Florida Art Museum Directors Association
Sponsor: First National Bank of Florida

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