An abstract architectural drawing featuring a network of thin blue lines on a light background. The lines intersect to form various geometric shapes, including rectangles, squares, and a central circle. A diagonal line with two small circles at its end extends from the center towards the top right. Several L-shaped corner brackets are scattered around the drawing, suggesting a technical or drafting context.

DESIGNING THE NEW MUSEUM

BUILDING A DESTINATION

JAMES GRAYSON TRULOVE

rockport



Gulf Coast Museum of Art

PROJECT

1 Florida Gulf Coast Arts Center | PINELLAS COUNTY BOTANICAL GARDENS  
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

ARCHITECT

2 Thompson and Rose | CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

The local climate and quality of light as well as the local flora and fauna influenced the design of the Florida Gulf Coast Arts Center—its simple volumes, light-weight structures, and the admittance of an abundance of natural light. Such is the work of Thompson and Rose, a firm that strives to successfully weave together architecture and the landscape.

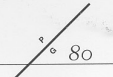
The new 50,000-square-foot meter arts center spreads out on land between the 60-acre botanical gardens and the Pinellas waterway. There, galleries house the center's permanent modern art collection. Studios hold classes for instruction in painting, photography, metalsmithing, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, fiber arts, woodworking, and glass blowing.

In developing the design, Thompson and Rose analyzed the specific site conditions—the movement of the sun, the topography, the geological conditions, the water and wind movement, the flora and fauna and species. The goal was to create an architecture that “sees” its site, an architecture that stands in relationship to its surroundings and heightens the experience and effect of the natural environment.

For the arts center, the structures are simple volumes of concrete block with light-weight steel joists supporting membrane roofs. Metal clad light monitors punctuate the simple volumes and provide ambient north light to the studios and galleries. Overhanging awnings provide shade to the south, west, and east. These components—sculpted roof lights and projecting sunshades—reveal the unique influence of the Florida sun to determine a building's shape.

A curved colonnade runs along the studio and shop buildings and becomes an outdoor classroom. A path for pedestrians, the colonnade is defined by a lightweight steel structure.

DESIGNING THE NEW MUSEUM



GENERAL INTEREST



DESCRIPTION

CAPTION

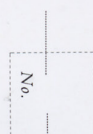
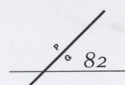
PHOTO

No. 1 THE MUSEUM ACTS AS A BACKDROP TO THE SCULPTURE GARDEN.



No. 1





GENERAL INTEREST



DESCRIPTION

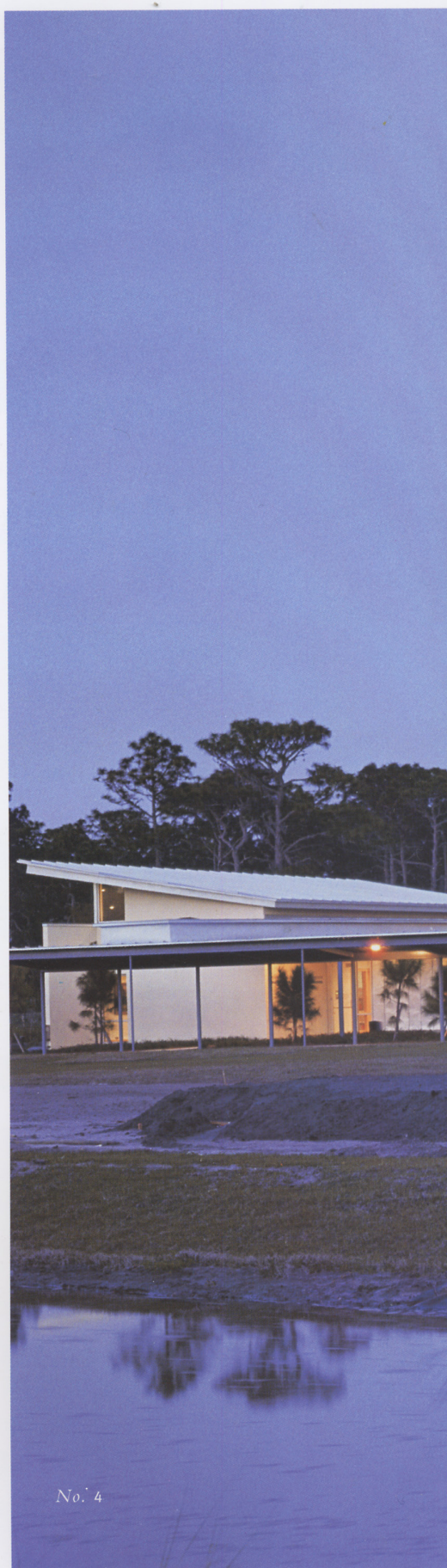
CAPTION

PHOTO

No. 2 At dusk, interior lights glow through the sun awnings.

No. 3 A covered walkway leads to the nearby botanical gardens.

No. 4 The lightweight steel structure responds to the Florida climate.







CAPTION

PHOTO

No. 5, 6 & 7 GALLERY SPACES ARE FLEXIBLE AND ARE BOTH NATURALLY AND ARTIFICIALLY LIT.

