A photograph of a modern building's lobby garden. Several birch trees with white bark and green leaves are the central focus. The building's glass and steel facade is visible in the background. The text 'NY TIMES LOBBY GARDEN' is overlaid in white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image. At the bottom, there are some green plants and grey cylindrical objects.

NY TIMES
LOBBY
GARDEN



THE NEW YORK TIMES BUILDING
LOBBY GARDEN
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

As part of Renzo Piano Building Workshop and FXFOWLE Architect's de-sign team, HMWhite and Cornelia Oberlander, led the courtyard design, now considered the heart and soul of The New York Times headquarters building. A counterpoint to its dense, bustling Times Square neighborhood, the open-courtyard reveals a serene, symbolic fragment of the Hudson River Valley woodland land-scape. To understand the proposed courtyard's environmental conditions, HMWhite engaged micro-climate specialists who pioneered a software program to measure micro-climatic conditions through 3-D modeling computer simulations. Seasonal solar radiation, wind and human comfort levels were mapped at strategic times of the year to reveal the environmental variations and extremes. These invaluable scientific findings provided data that informed the courtyard design. Growing conditions were revealed to determine species selection, arrangement and planting preparations to ensure long-term sustainability. The garden court evolved into a Birch grove clustered where the highest direct sunlight is captured. The multi-stemmed trees punctuate undulating mounds of sedges and ferns. The dark evergreen woodland carpet contrasts sharply with the lobby's wood floor, suffusing nature's subtle qualities into an urban office context. The "hillocks" provide sculptural relief and draw attention to the garden's solitary timber walk that bridges over its sensitive landscape. The minimalist design emphasizes bold simplicity to depict a strong natural statement that harmonizes with the building's design elements.

PROJECT FEATURES

- Central court 4,900 sf
- 360 degree visibility
- Biophilic design
- Undulating landforms
- 50' tall native birches
- Woodland sedge & fern garden floor
- Microclimate analysis
- Certified IPE Pedestrian Bridge/Walk

COMPLETION DATE

November 2007

COST

\$725 M; \$1.35 M Landscape

CLIENT

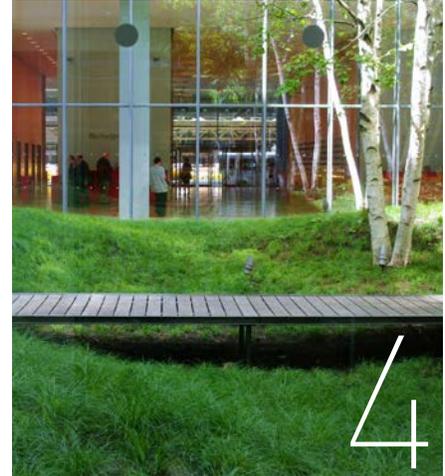
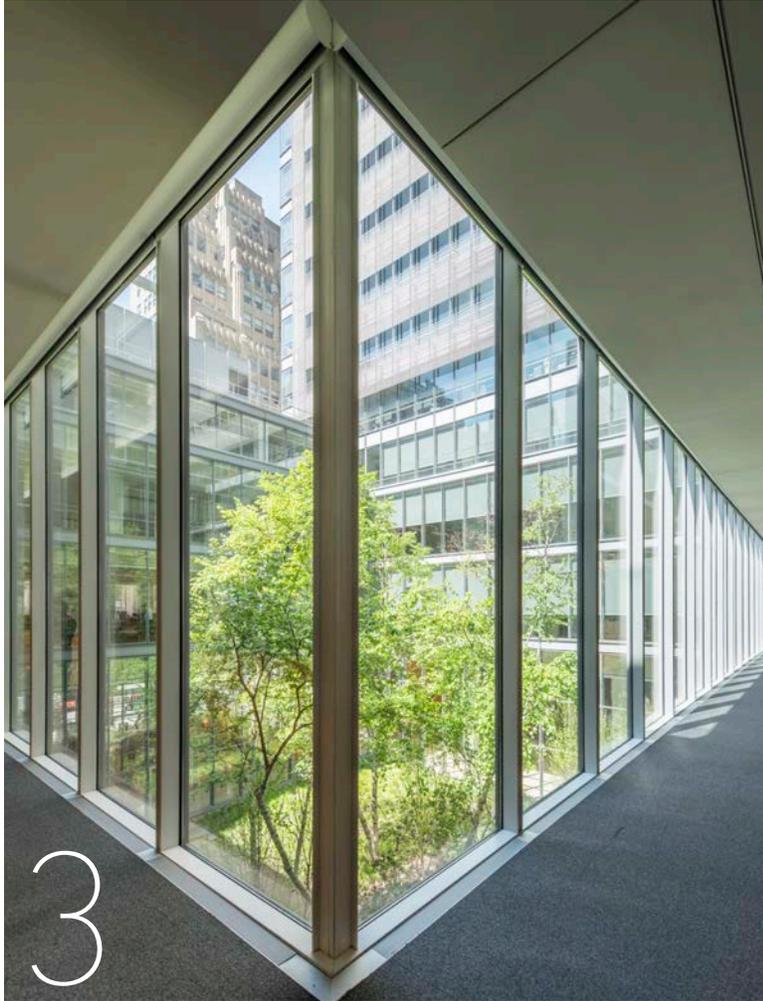
New York Times
Forest City Ratner

DESIGN TEAM

Landscape Architect: HMWhite
Co-Designer: Cornelia Hahn Oberlander
Architect: Renzo Piano Building Workshop
Architect of Record: FXFOWLE
Micro-climate Specialists: Ekistics
Irrigation Consultant: Storr Tractor Inc.
Arborist/Soil Specialists: Green Pastures Organics
Landscape Contractor: Kelco Landscape
Landscape Management: Chelsea Gardens

2010 ASLA New York Honor Award

2006 ASLA New York Merit Award for Research and Communication



3. Birch grove's canopy reach 4. Timber bridge 5. Garden's building centrality 6. Winter garden view



7



8

7 + 8 Woodland courtyard's enduring seasonal appeal