EMERSON COLLEGE LOS ANGELES

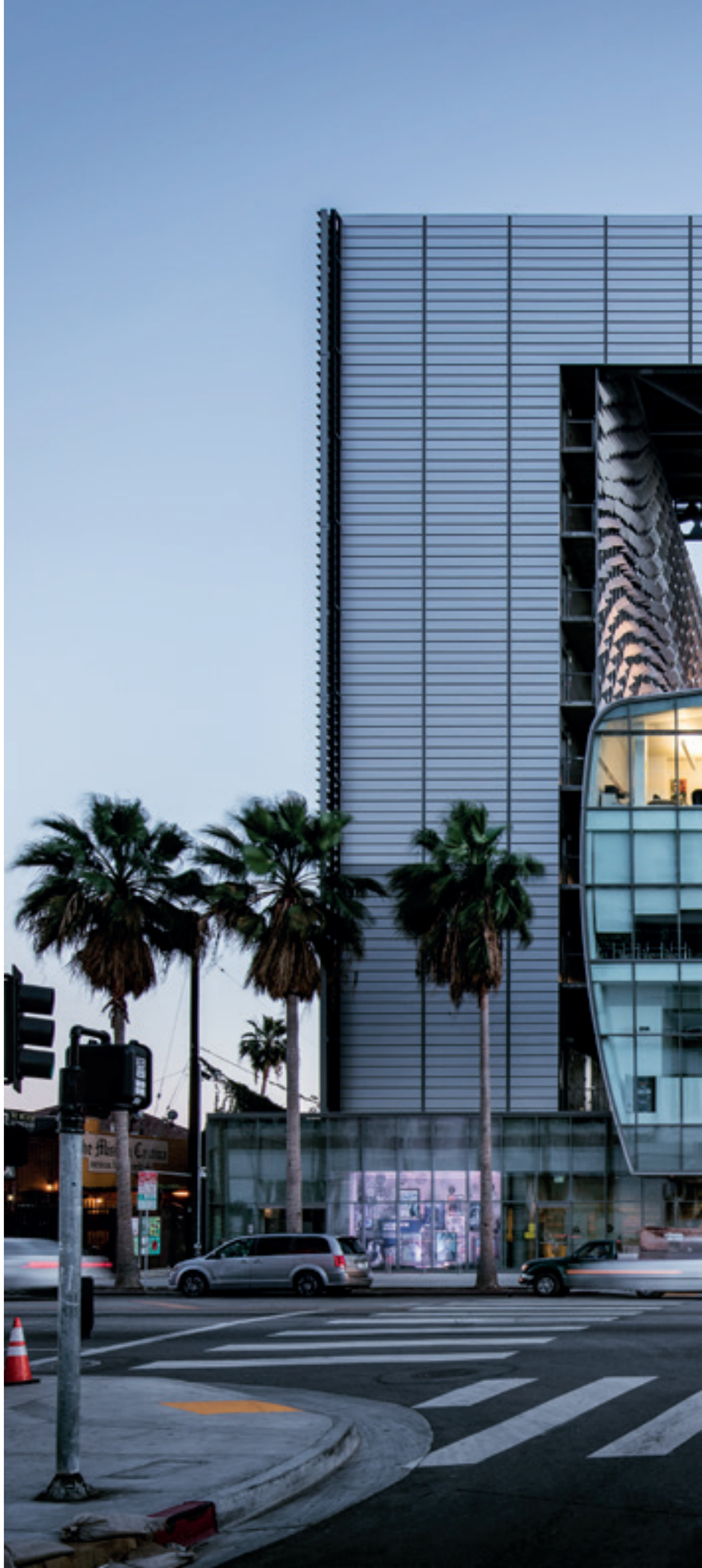
MORPHOSIS

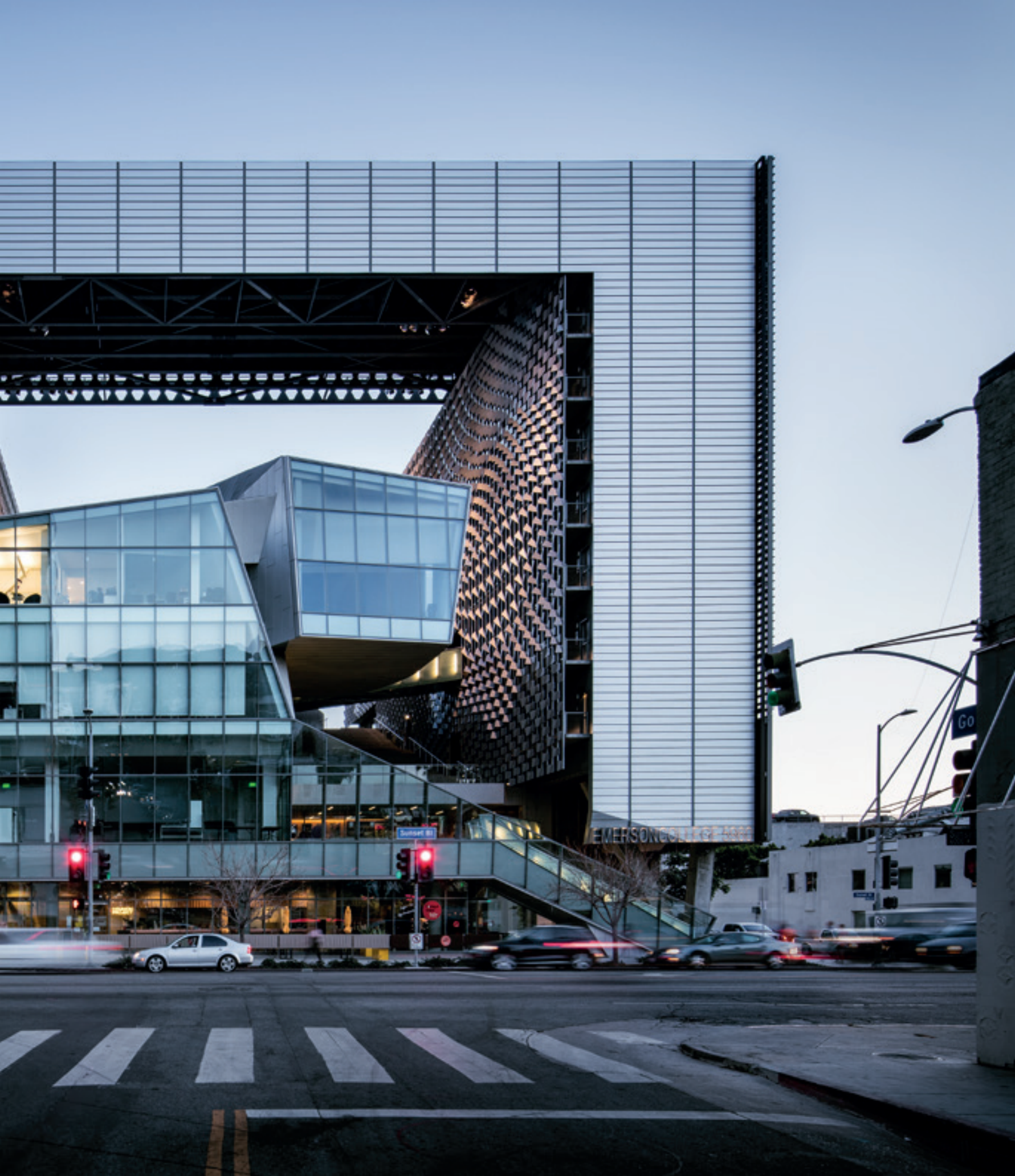
5960 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood
2014

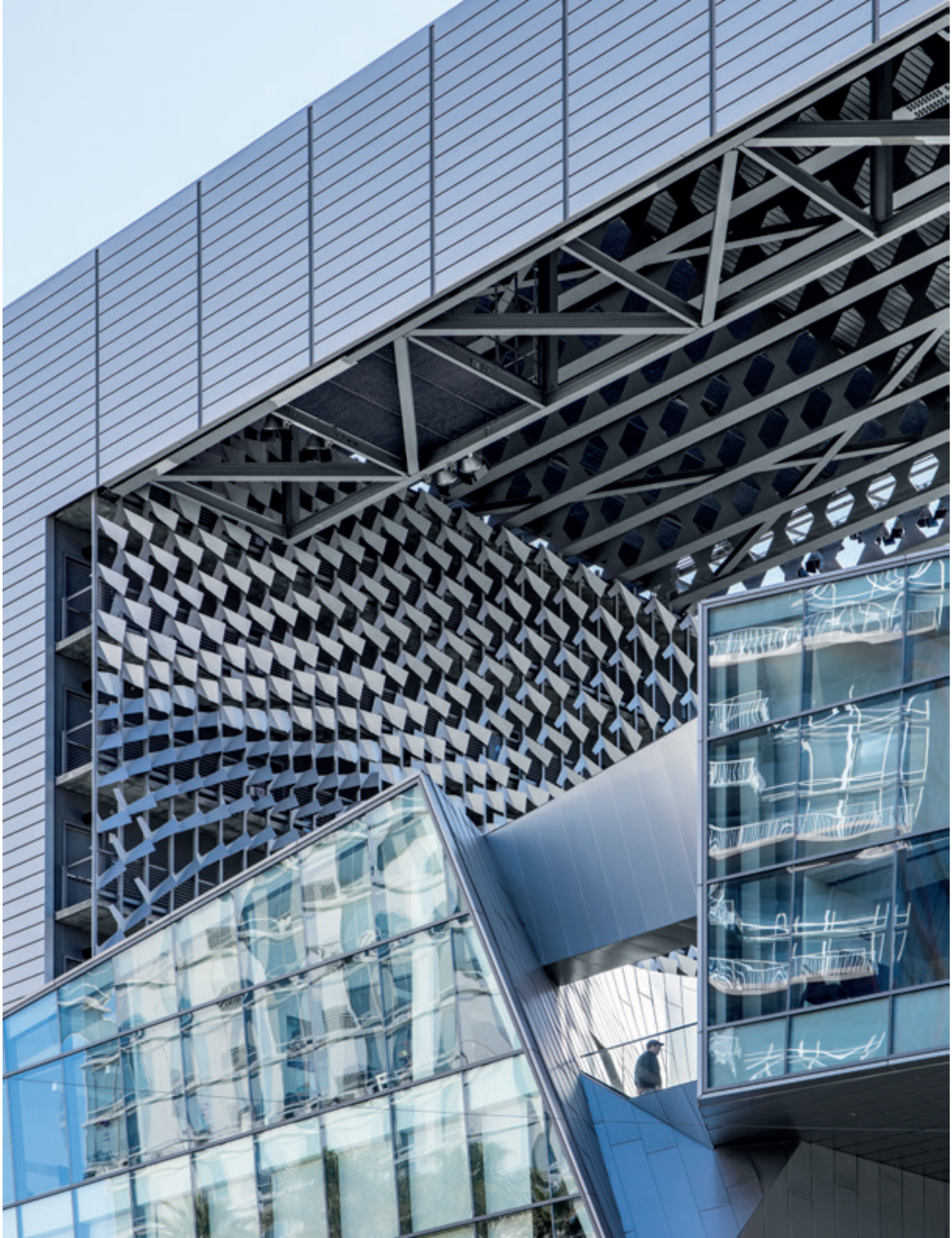
Emerson College opened this Morphosis-designed, glass-and-aluminum satellite campus in Hollywood in 2014. While Emerson has been Boston-based since the nineteenth century and has long focused on the performing arts, the Los Angeles campus aims to boost graduates' job prospects by allowing them to spend semesters in the company of the area's entertainment industry giants. The campus, which features a first-rate view of the Hollywood sign, firmly indicates Emerson's prominent role as an entertainment industry educator.

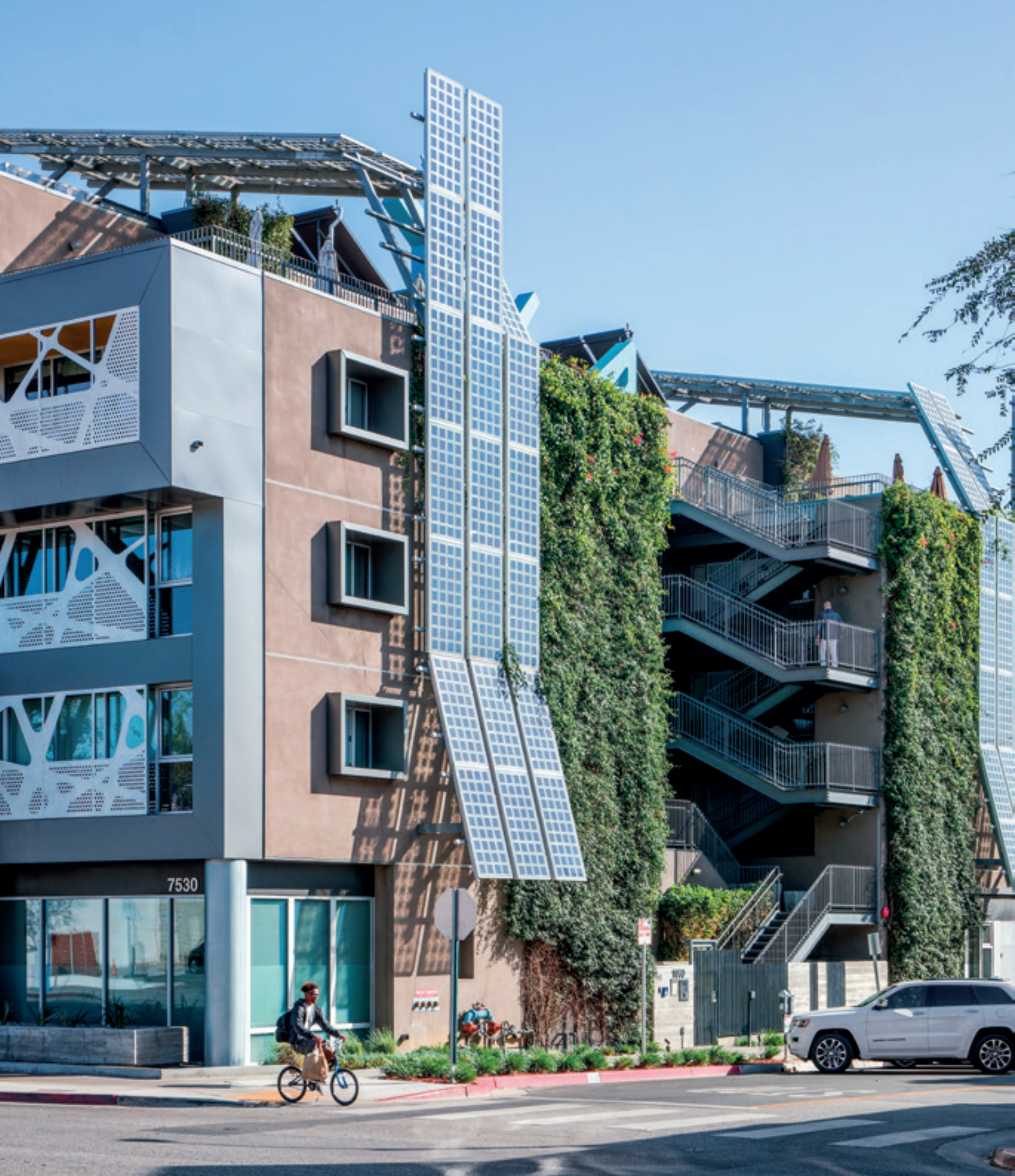
A sculptural, free-form base connects the two rectangular ten-story towers that make up this 107,400-square-foot building on Sunset Boulevard. An overhead bridge anchors two towers, which serve as student residences. The base features lecture halls, black box theaters, and other educational and performance spaces. In order to maximize the creative possibilities of the building, Morphosis's design includes rigging for film-quality lighting and sound through most of the interior and exterior spaces, so that students may spontaneously transform them into sets or a stage.

Thanks to Morphosis's smart balance of window shading for heat reduction and use of the abundant natural light, the Emerson campus is anticipated to receive a LEED Gold rating. In addition, solar panels cover the rooftop of the west tower, providing enough energy to heat the building's hot water.




EMERSON COLLEGE
Sunset Blvd




7530

TIGHE ARCHITECTURE

1338 North Sierra Bonita Avenue, West Hollywood
2010

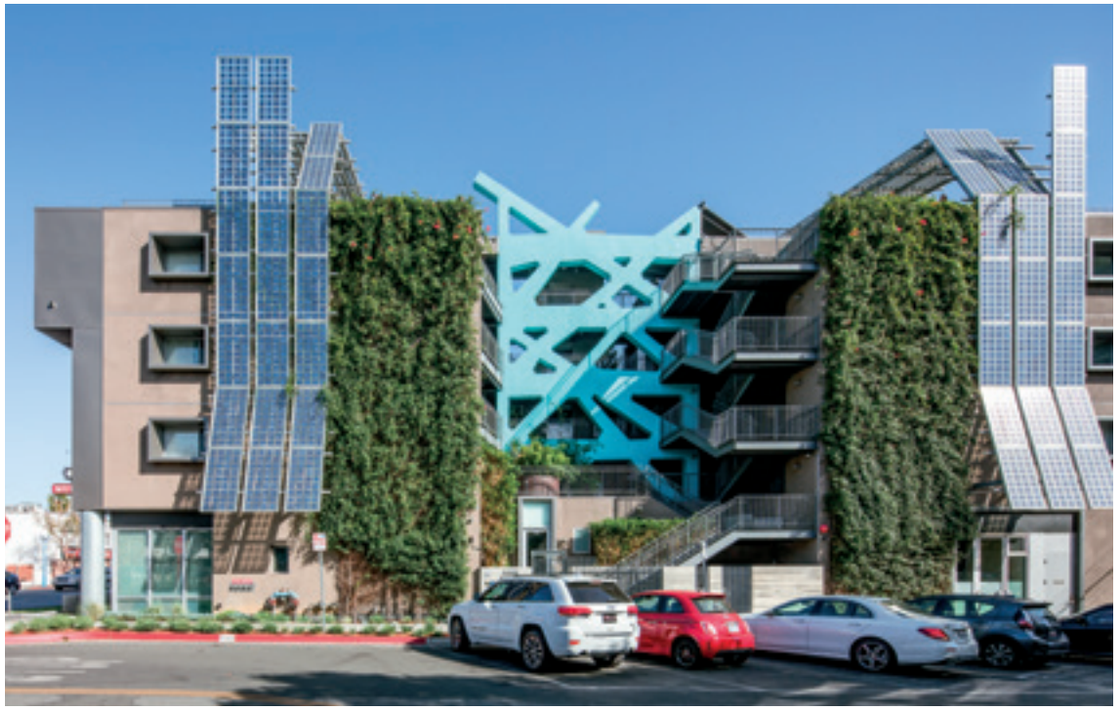
Affordable meets beautiful in this mixed-use building by Tighe Architecture. The West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (WHCHC), a nonprofit that secures and develops safe, comfortable, and affordable housing for low-income residents, commissioned the sixty-thousand-square-foot, five-story Sierra Bonita building, completed in 2010.

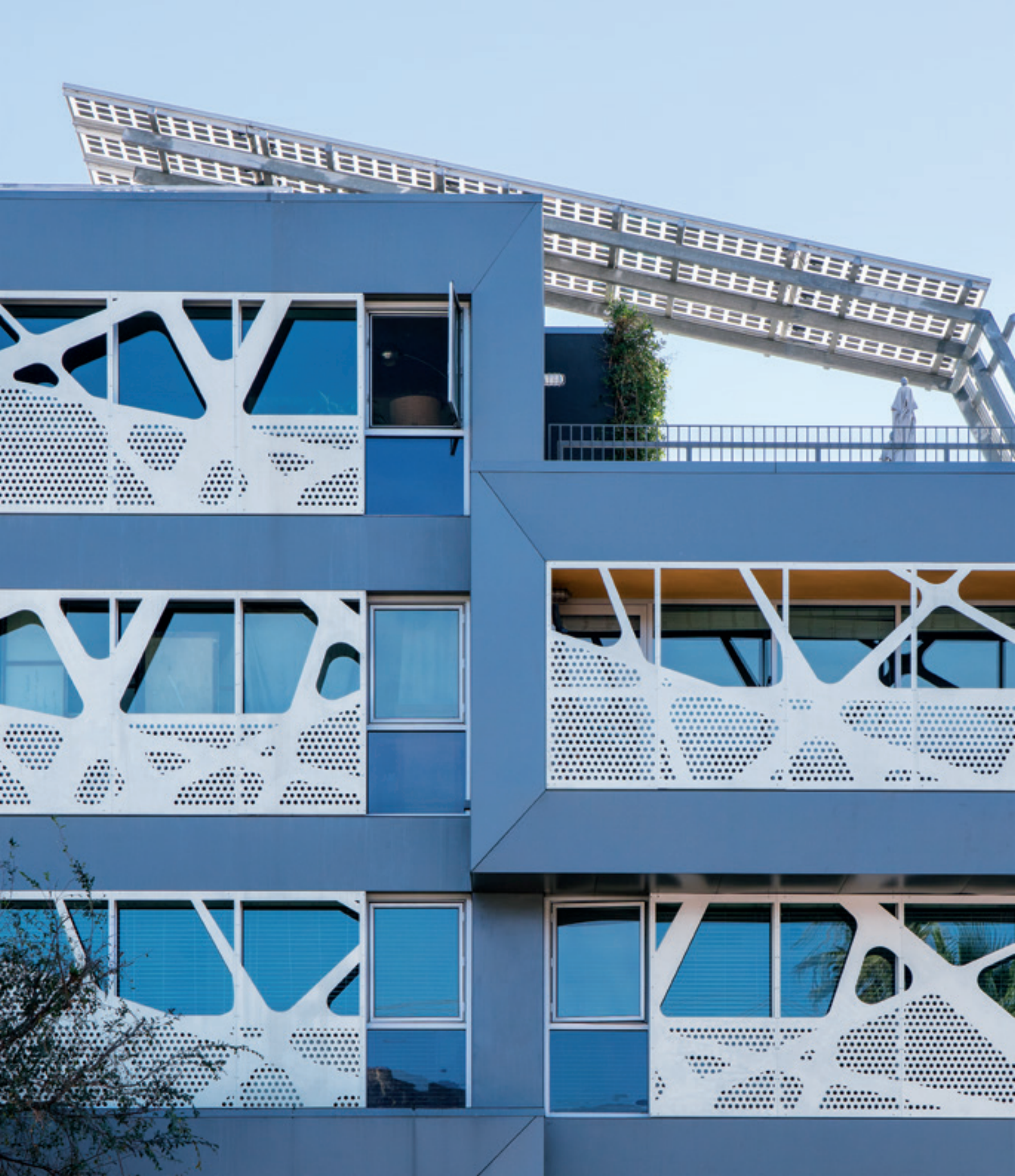
The building's forty-two one-bedroom apartments are reserved for low-income and special needs residents, while its ground-floor commercial space is occupied by WHCHC, which helps provide services for the building's residents.

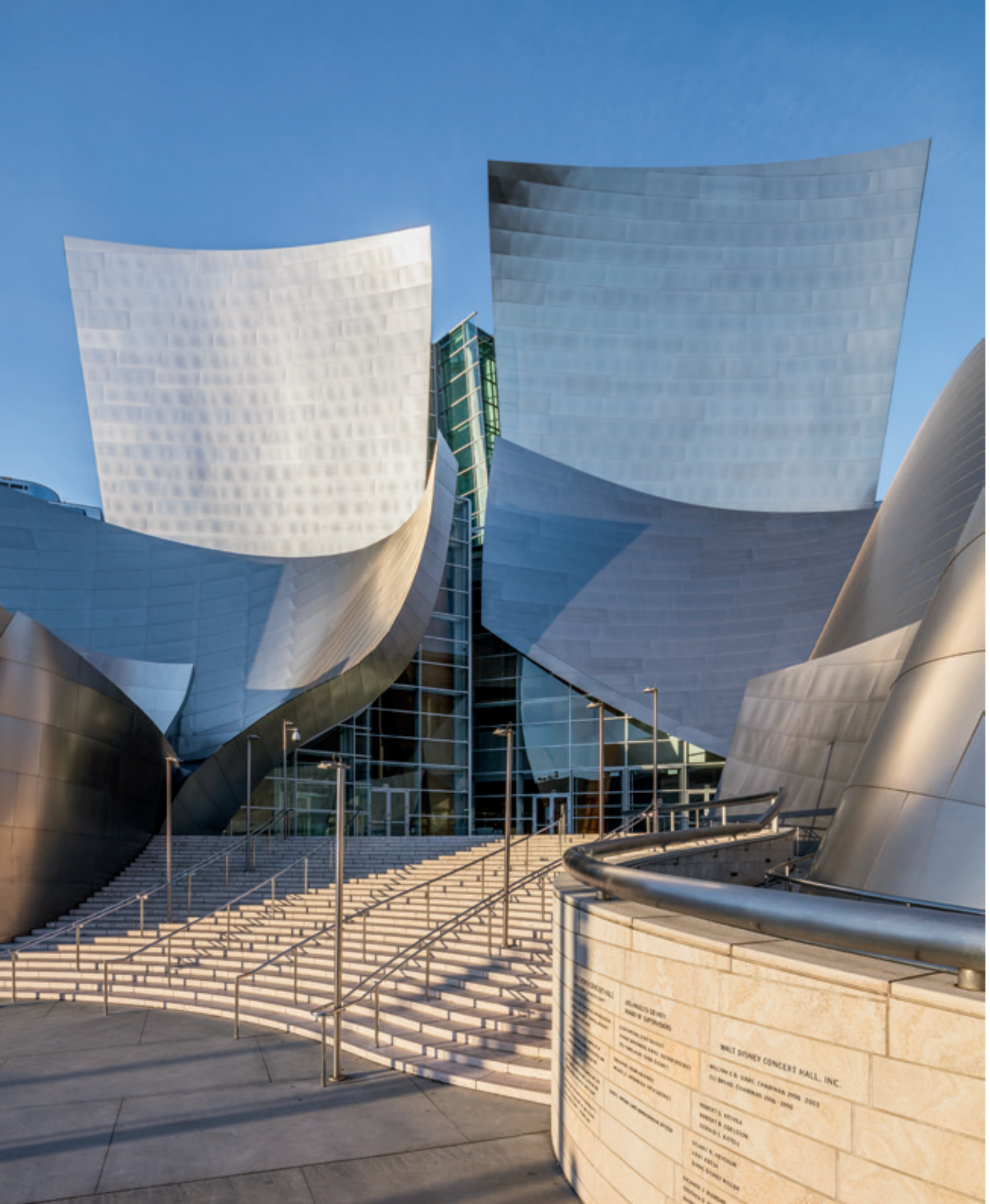
The building's design includes a drought-resistant bamboo forest courtyard and individual terraces for each of the apartments, providing the apartment-dwellers with easy access to relaxing, meditative outdoor spaces. Its striking, topographic facade, which faces Sierra Bonita Avenue, features large glass panels and rooms that appear to protrude or sink into the structure.

The building also serves as a pilot for West Hollywood's new Green Building Ordinance certification, a local alternative to LEED certification. Environmentally friendly features include photovoltaic panels on the building's two rooftop patios, a hot water system heated by solar power, and strategically located windows to maximize natural light.

SIERRA BONITA






WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL, INC.

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

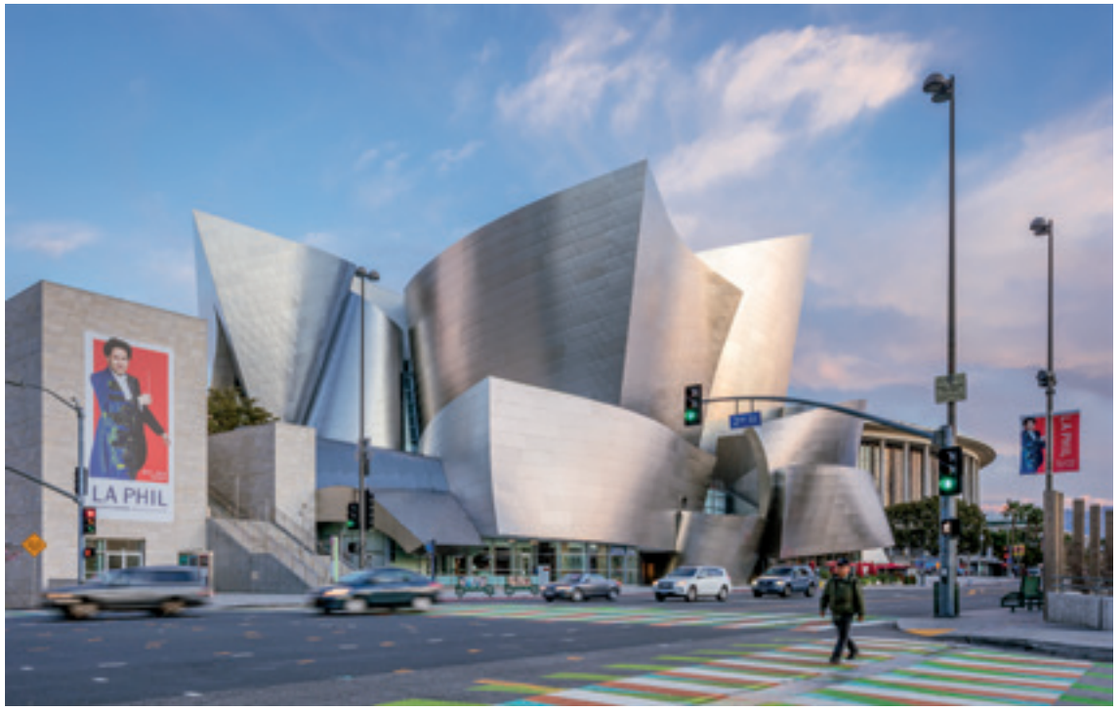
GEHRY PARTNERS

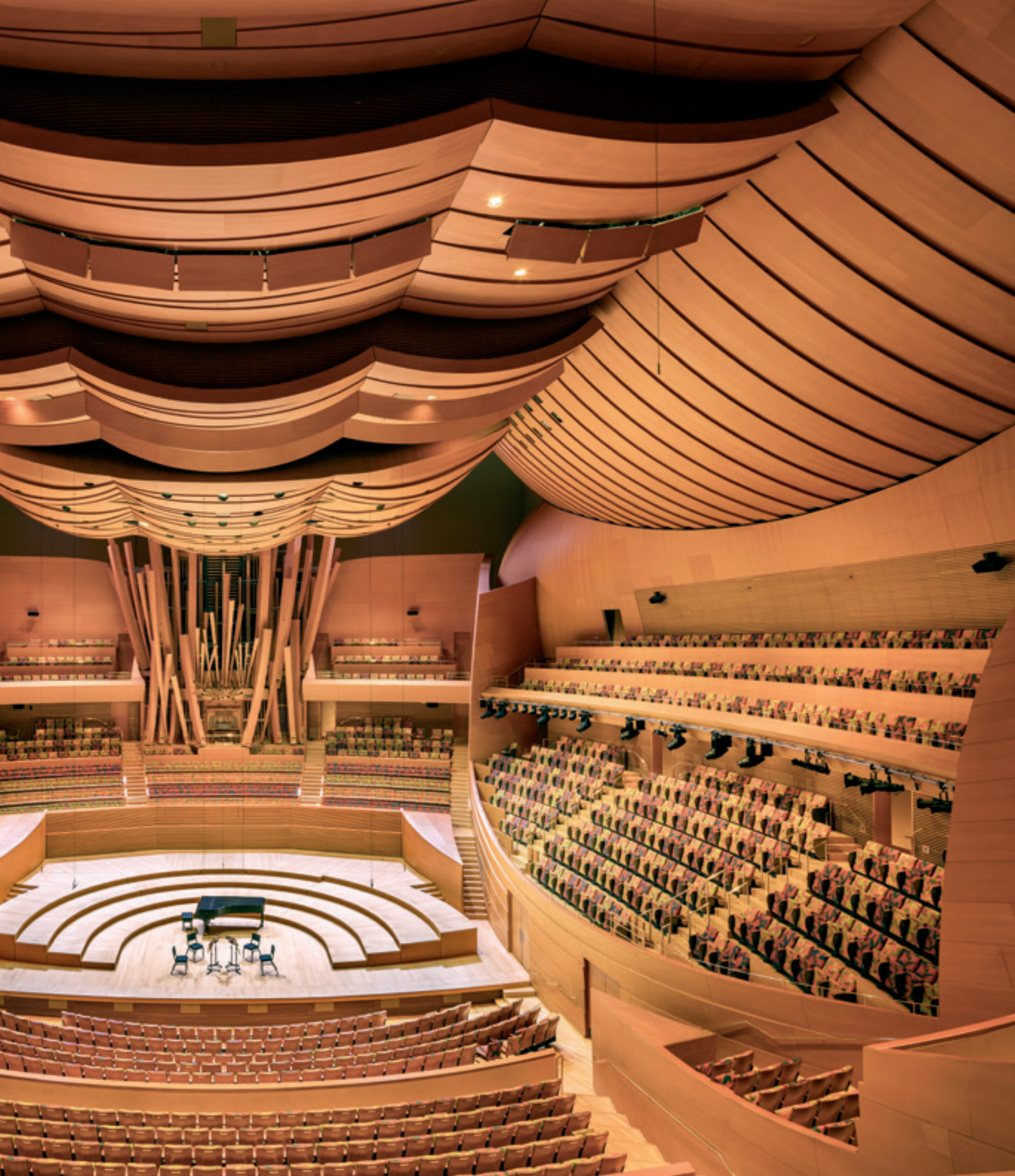
111 South Grand Avenue, Downtown Los Angeles
2003

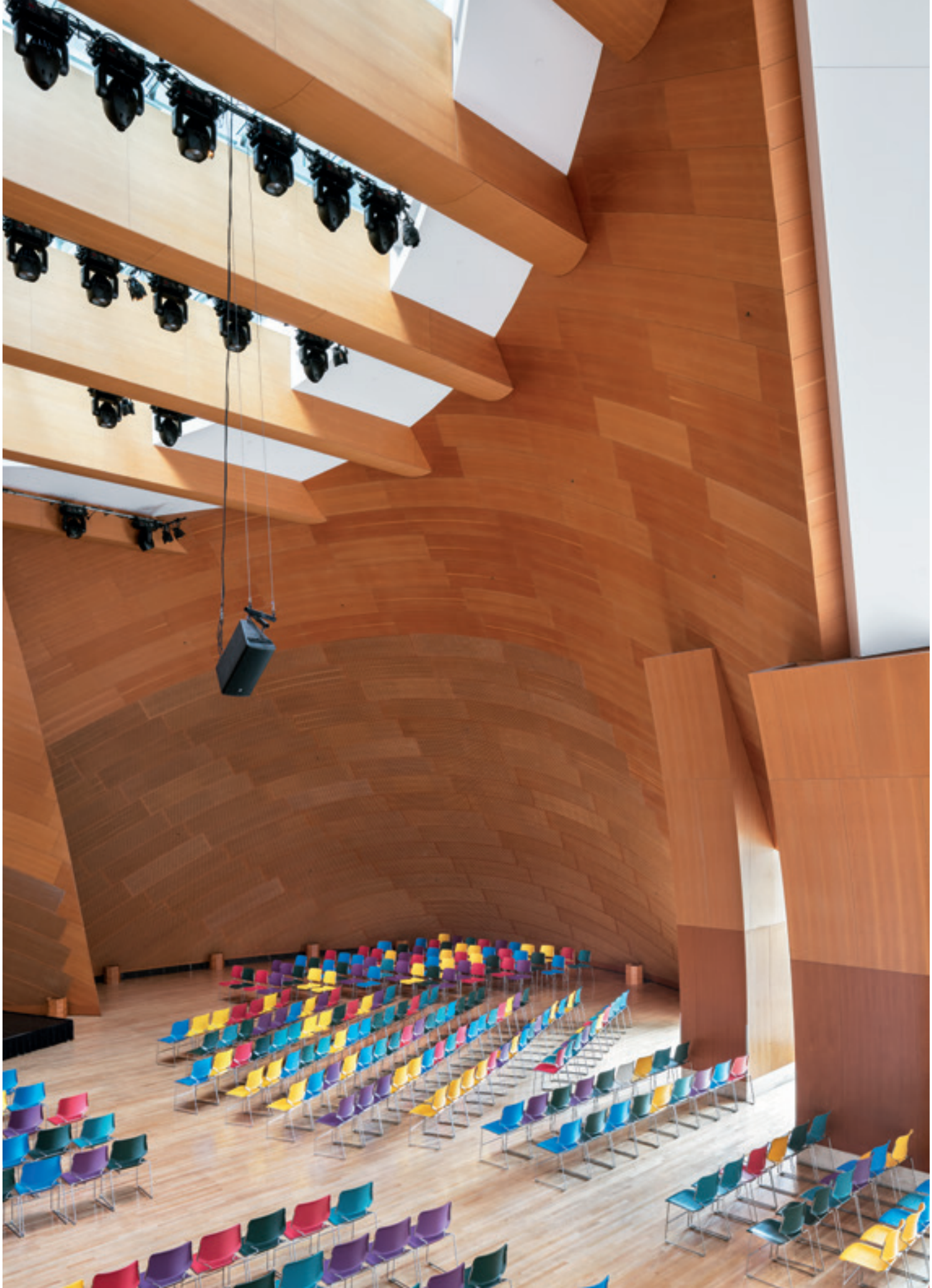
Perhaps the most famous contemporary building in Los Angeles, Gehry Partners' shimmering concert hall, completed in 2003, functions as the focal point of the city's artistic downtown. Plans for the home base of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, or LA Phil, began in 1987, when Lillian Disney donated $50 million to build a public music venue in honor of her late husband.

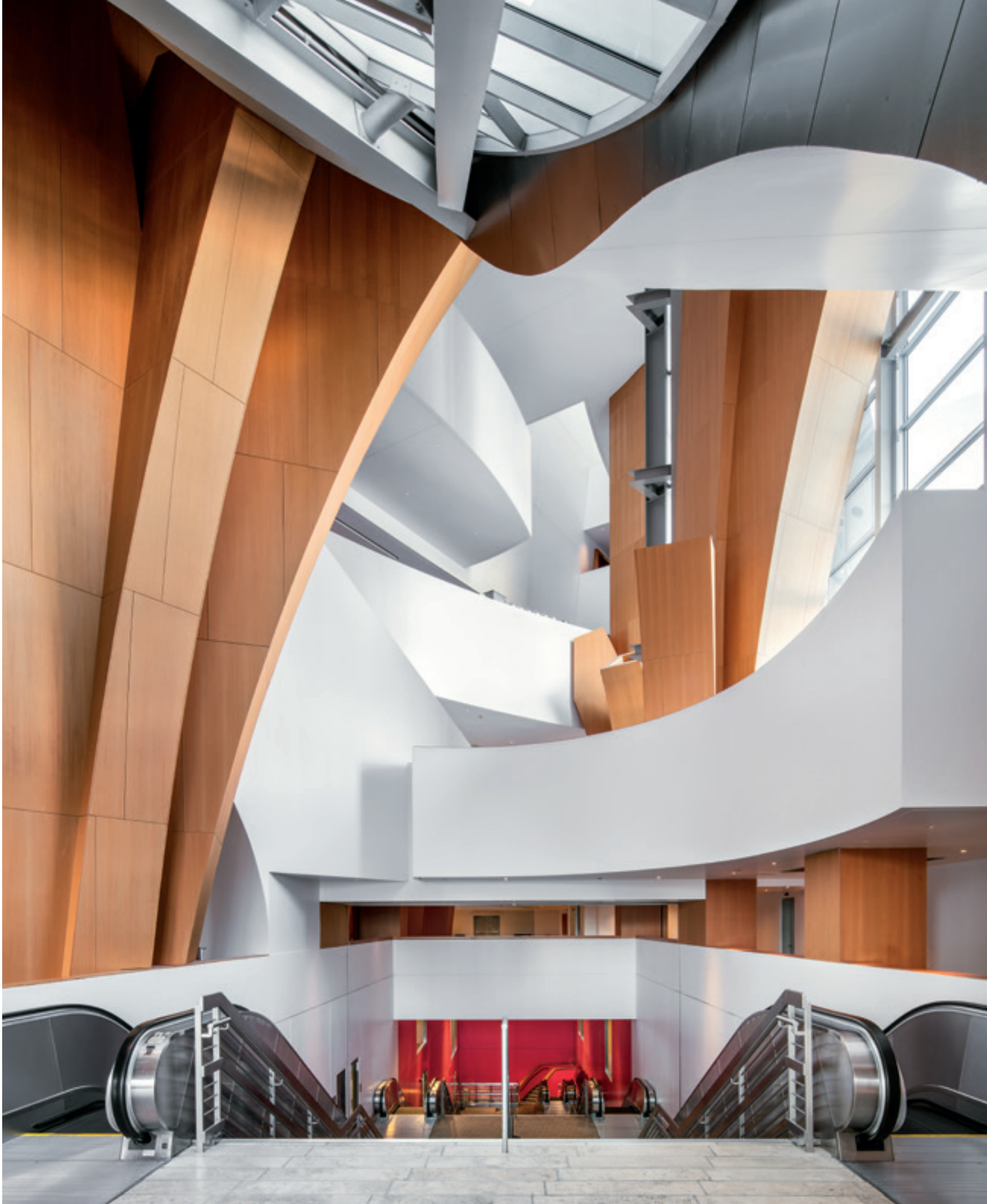
Frank Gehry's firm utilized the same computer software used to design French fighter jets to transform his organic drawings into building plans, creating an exterior that visually echoes Gehry's iconic 1997 Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. The stainless steel exterior reflects light, creating an otherworldly effect under the Los Angeles sun: sweeping panels of metal surround the building, imitating the hull of a ship, while the entrance gives the appearance of two large sails. The concert hall's undulating exterior contrasts with the clean, modernist designs of neighboring Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, part of the Los Angeles Music Center.

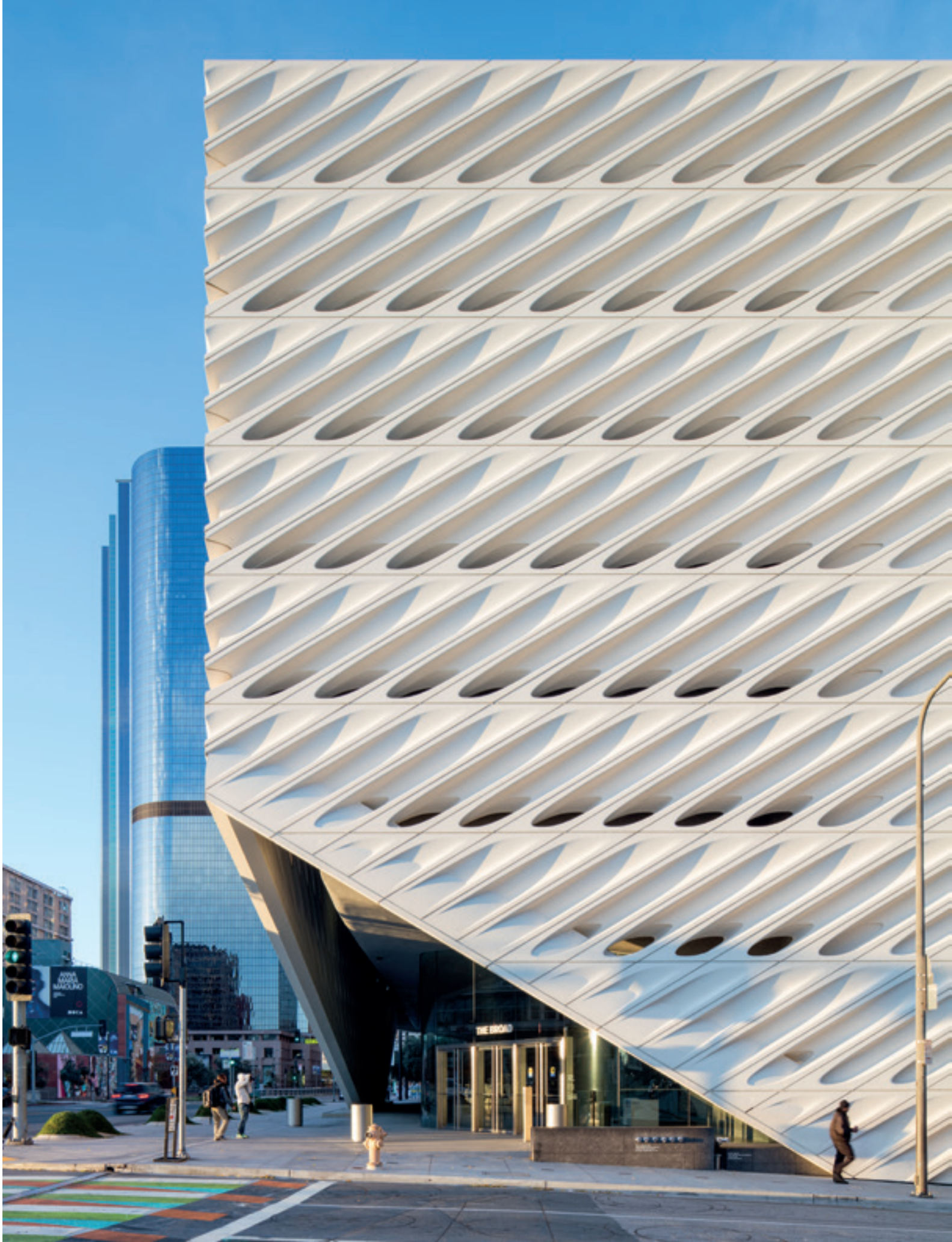
Walt Disney Concert Hall's auditorium seats more than two thousand and features skylights to maximize light and acoustics curvature. Driven by the commitment to make classical music accessible to the public, the concert hall features neither the suites nor the private boxes typical of other concert spaces. Meanwhile, the building's exteriors, which include elevated gardens, are open to the public.










THE BROAD

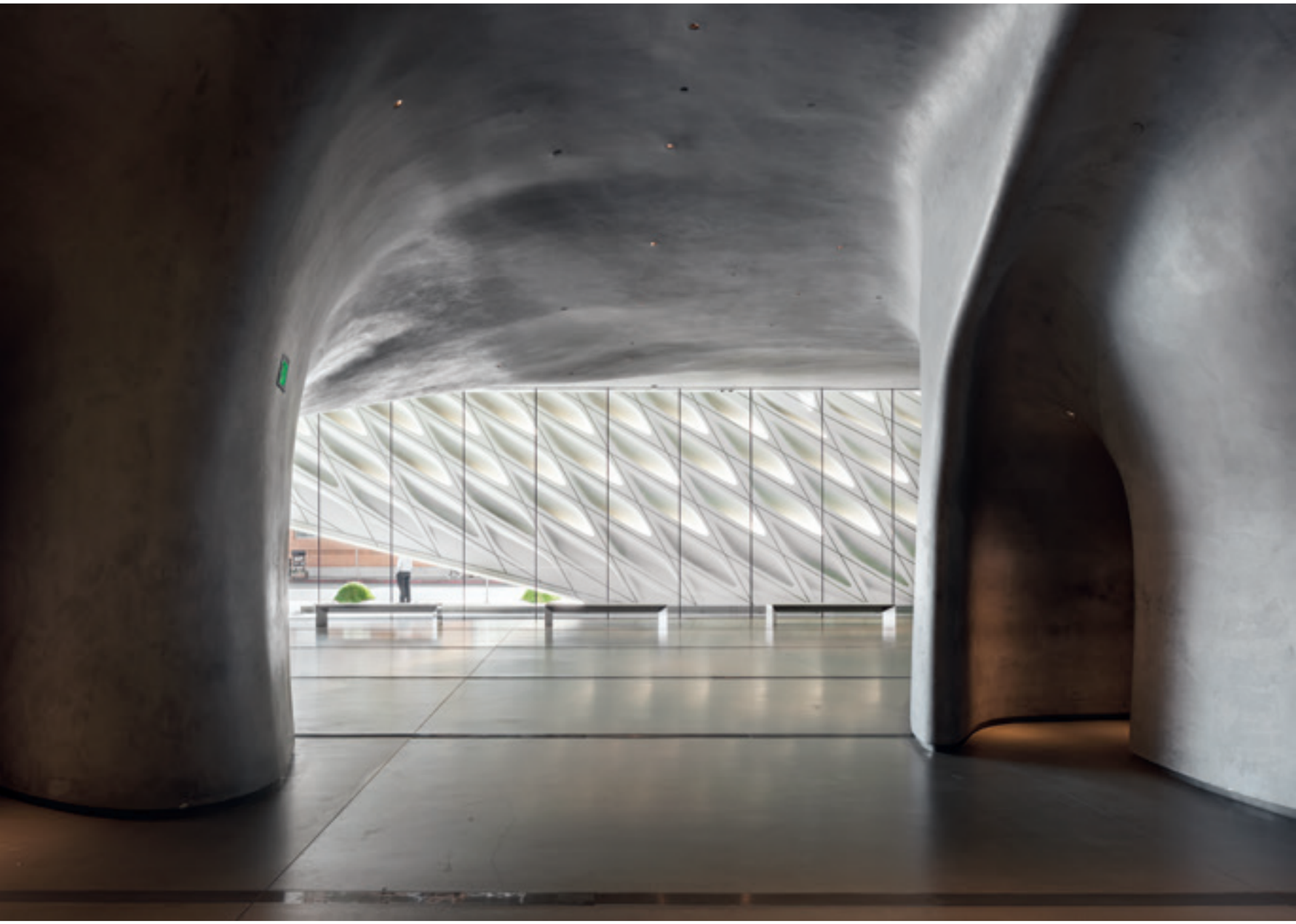
DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO with GENSLER

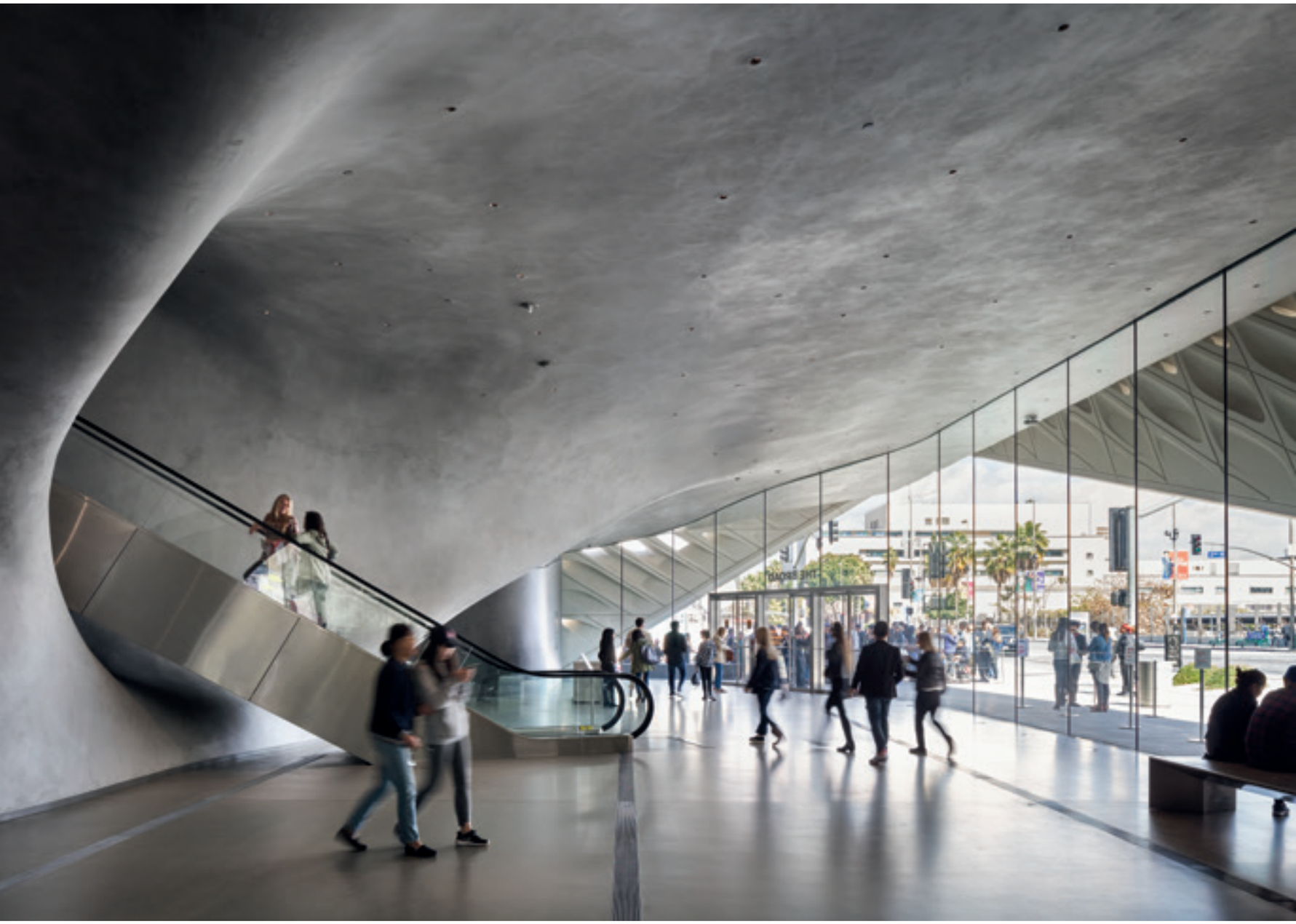
221 South Grand Avenue, Downtown Los Angeles
2015

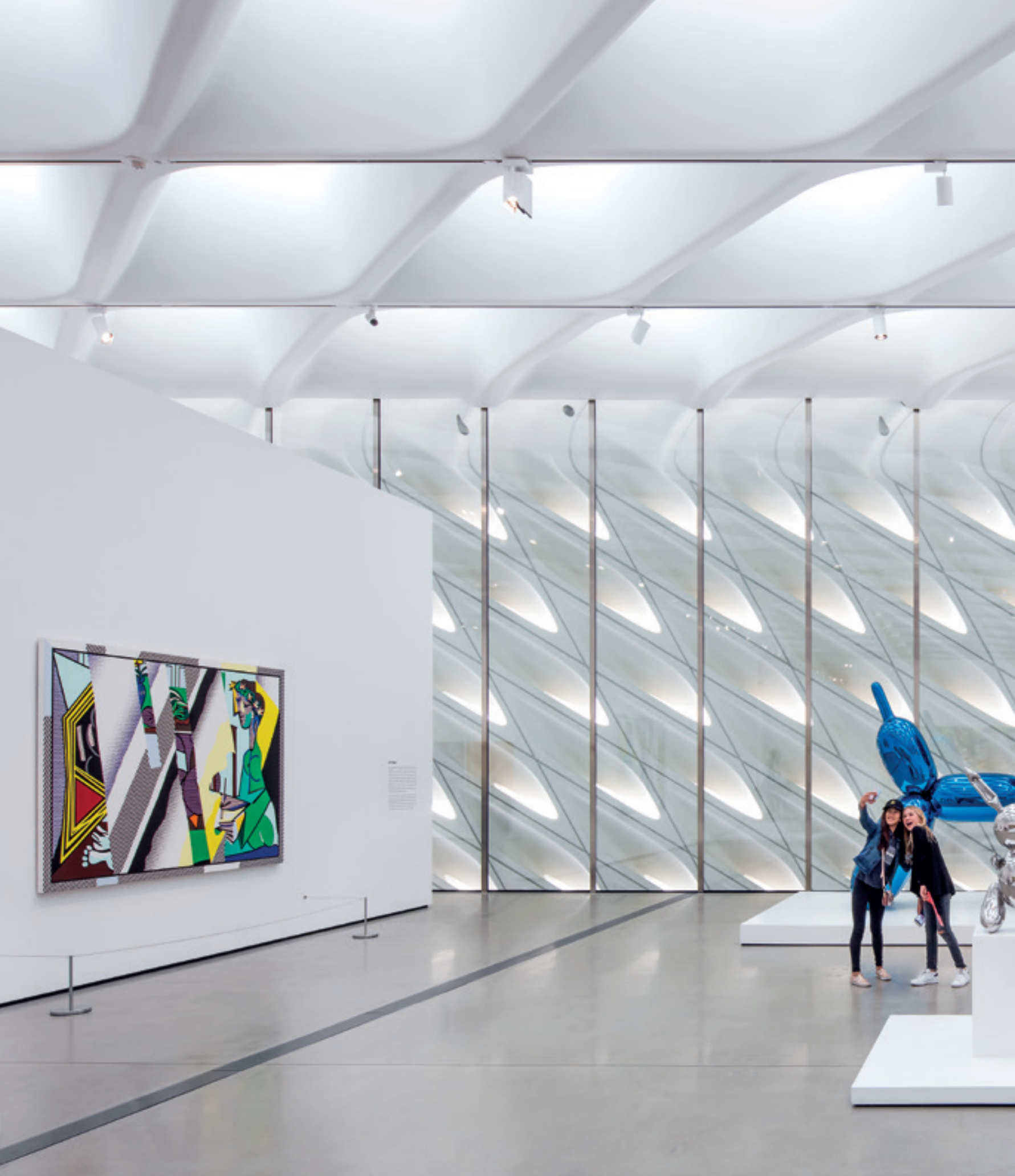
The Broad is a relatively recent addition to Los Angeles's booming contemporary arts scene. Located next to Frank Gehry's iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall in Downtown Los Angeles, the museum opened its doors in September 2015 and in its first two years welcomed more than two million visitors. Designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with Gensler for the philanthropists and art collectors Eli and Edythe Broad, the building features a striking exterior known as the "veil," while the collection storage is the "vault."

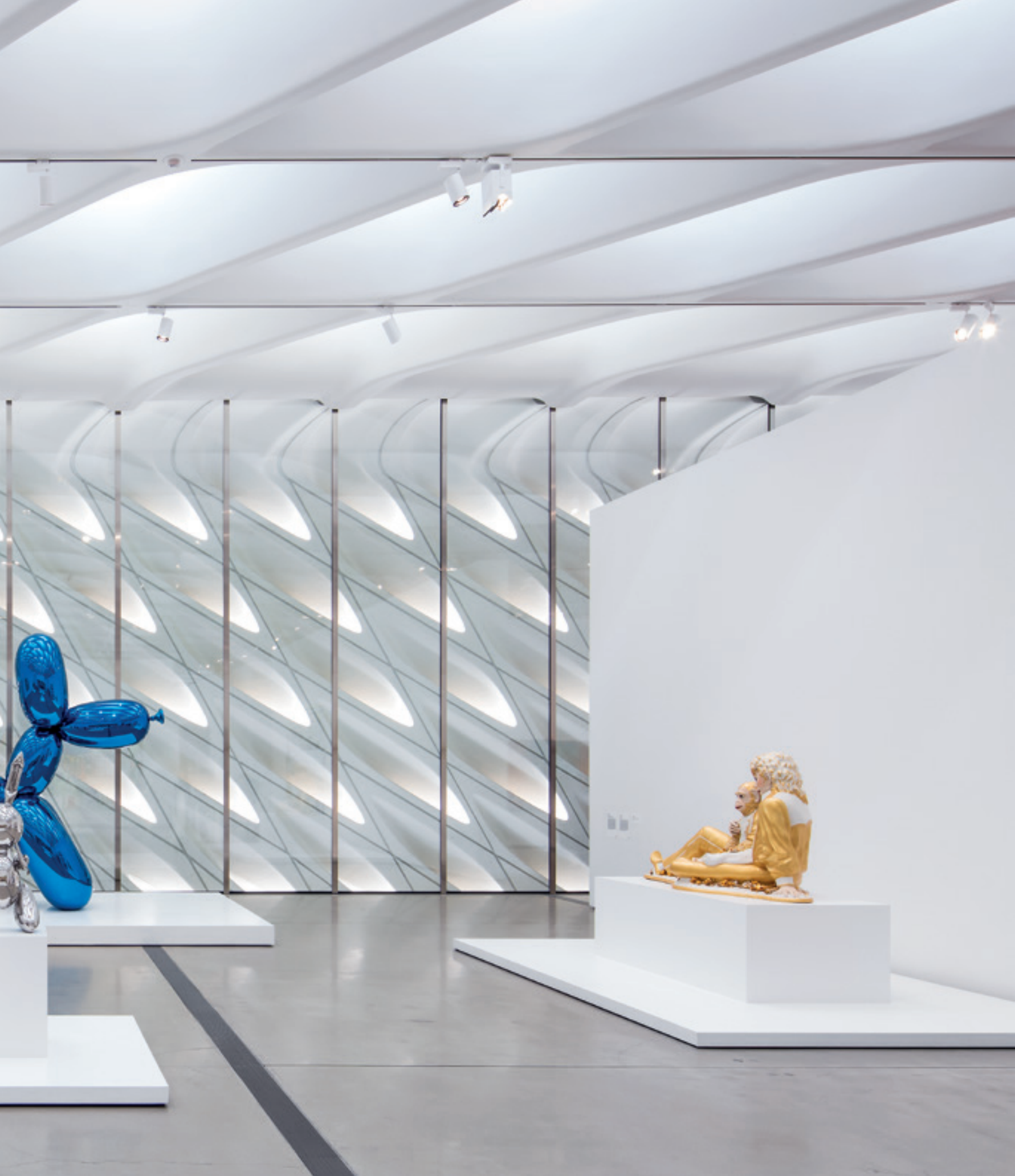
The veil forms the latticelike exoskeleton of the building and allows natural light to enter the museum's two floors of gallery space. It lifts at the corners, allowing visitors to enter on the ground level. Upon entering the almost cavernous space, visitors are greeted by the underside of the floating vault. To access the galleries, the public is ushered up escalators tunneling through the center of the vault.

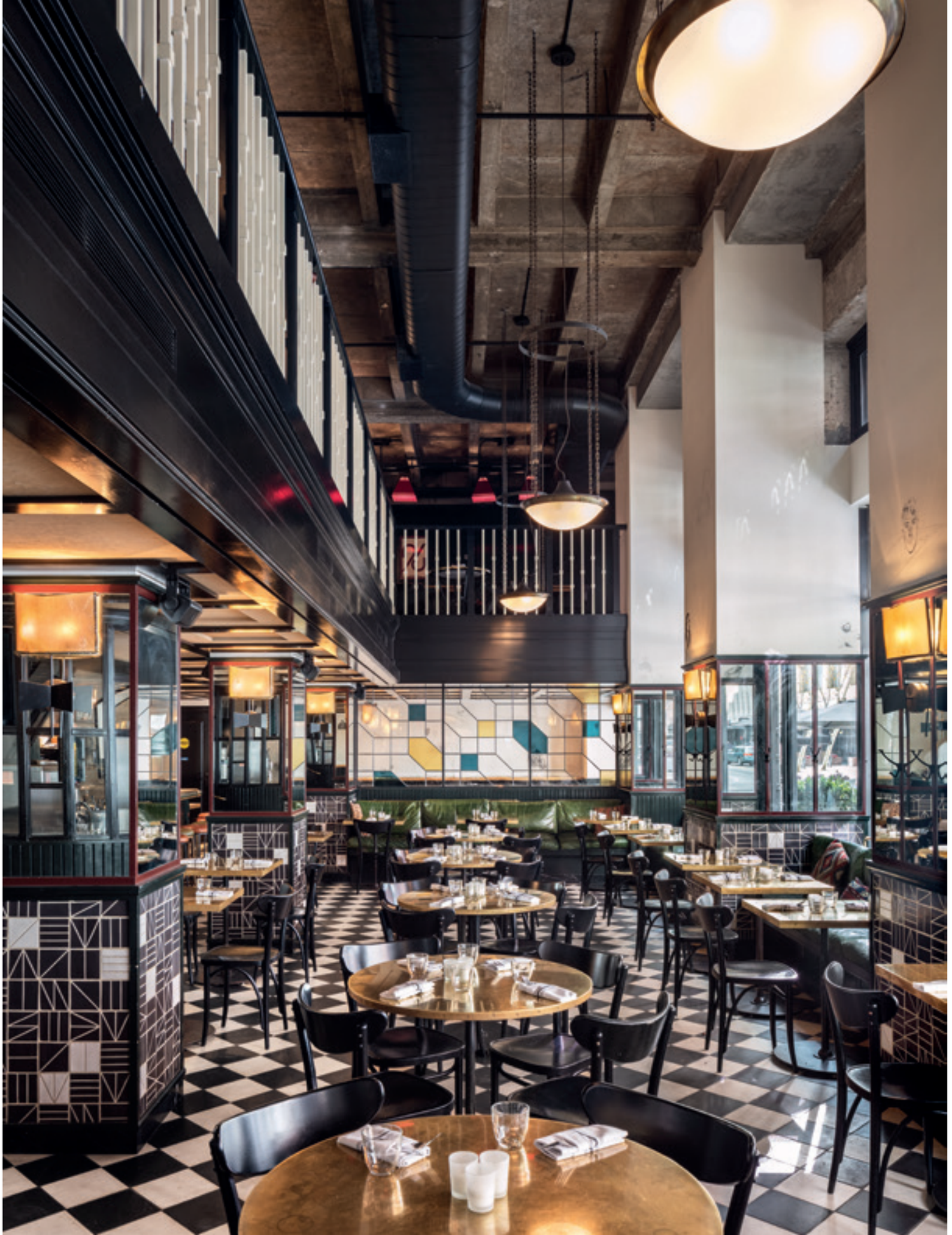
With 120,000 square feet of space, the museum is home to more than two thousand works from both the Broad Art Foundation and the Broads' personal collection. Easily accessible by public transit and with ample bike parking locations and electric car charging stations, the Broad achieved LEED Gold certification in 2016.

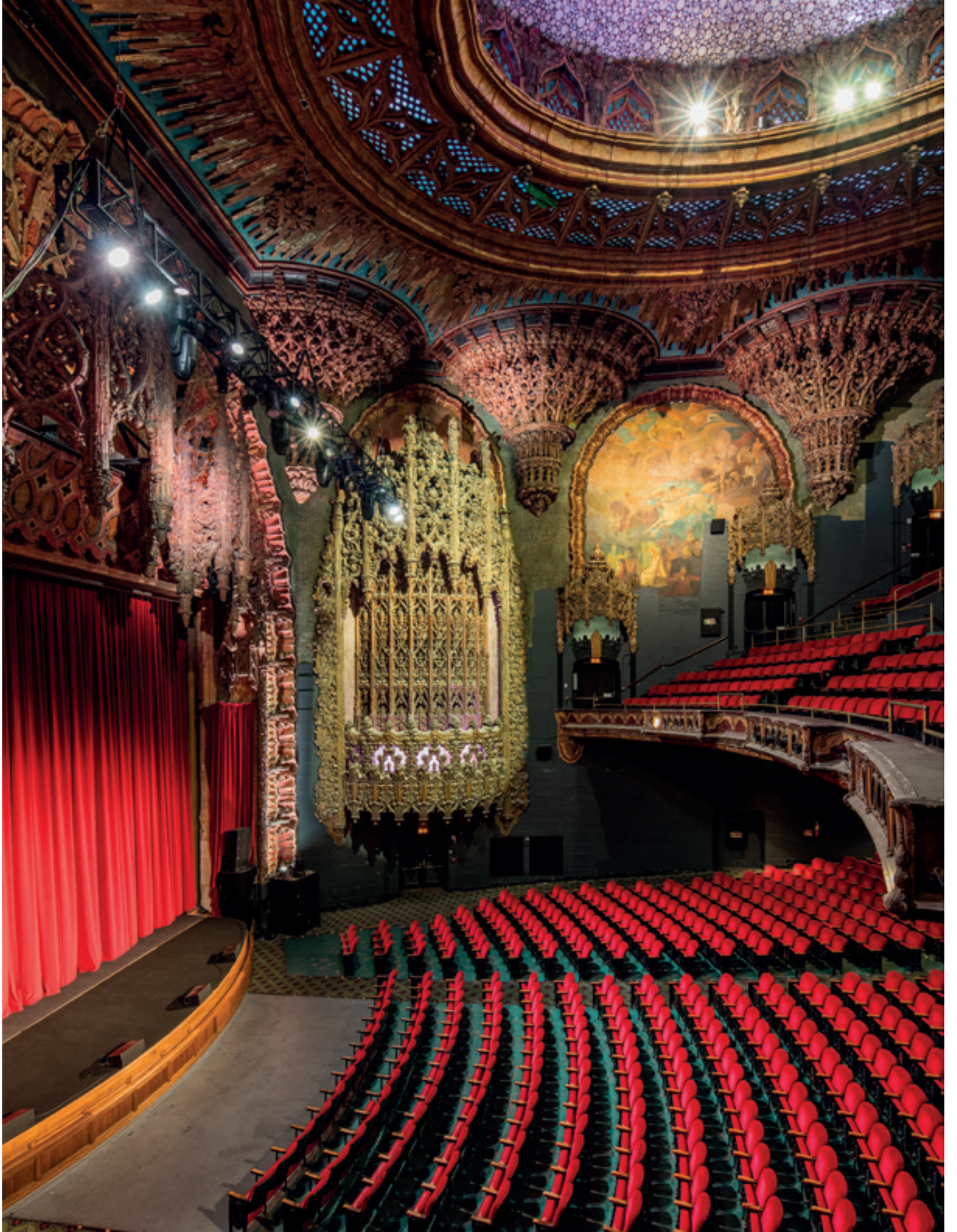


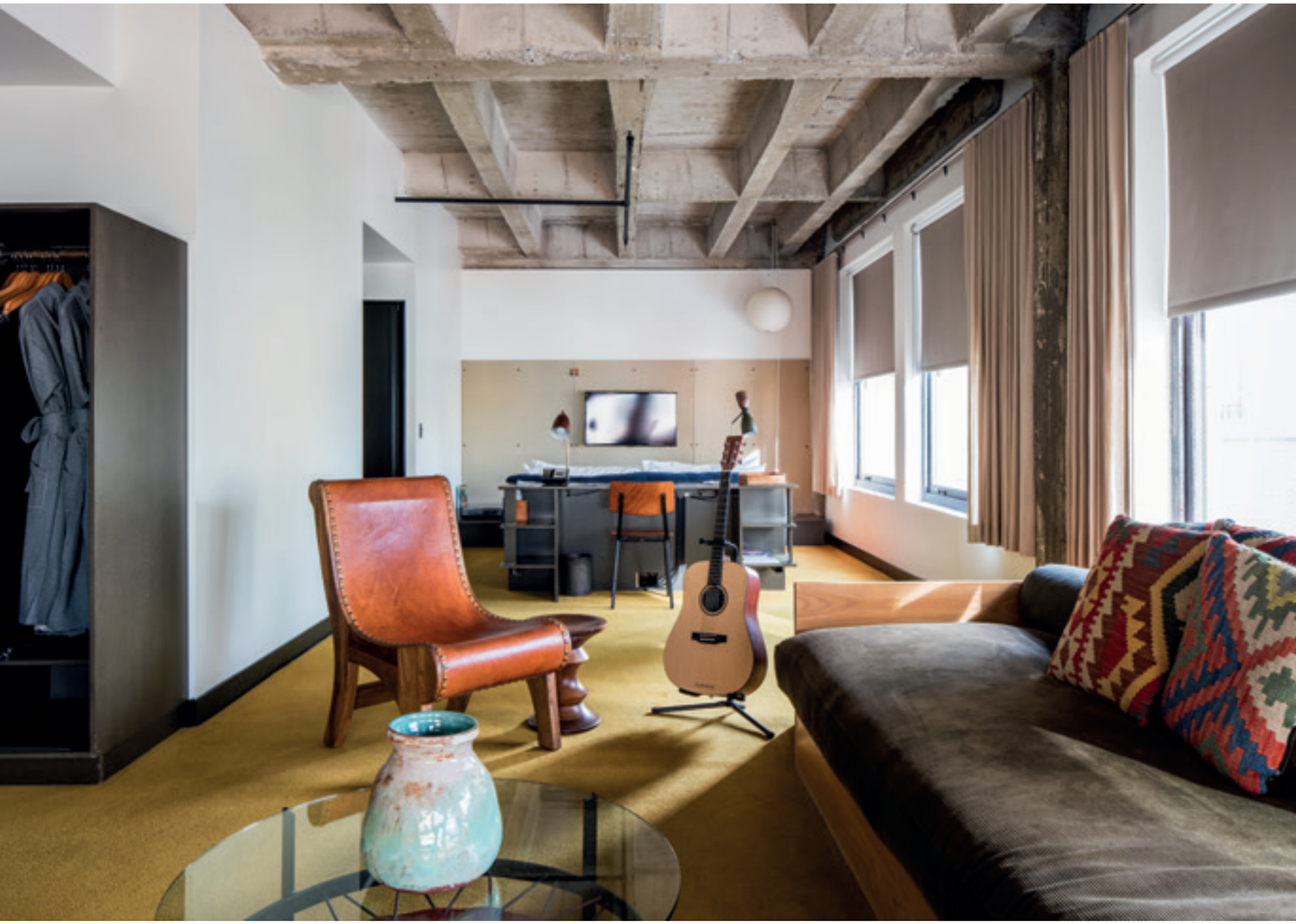


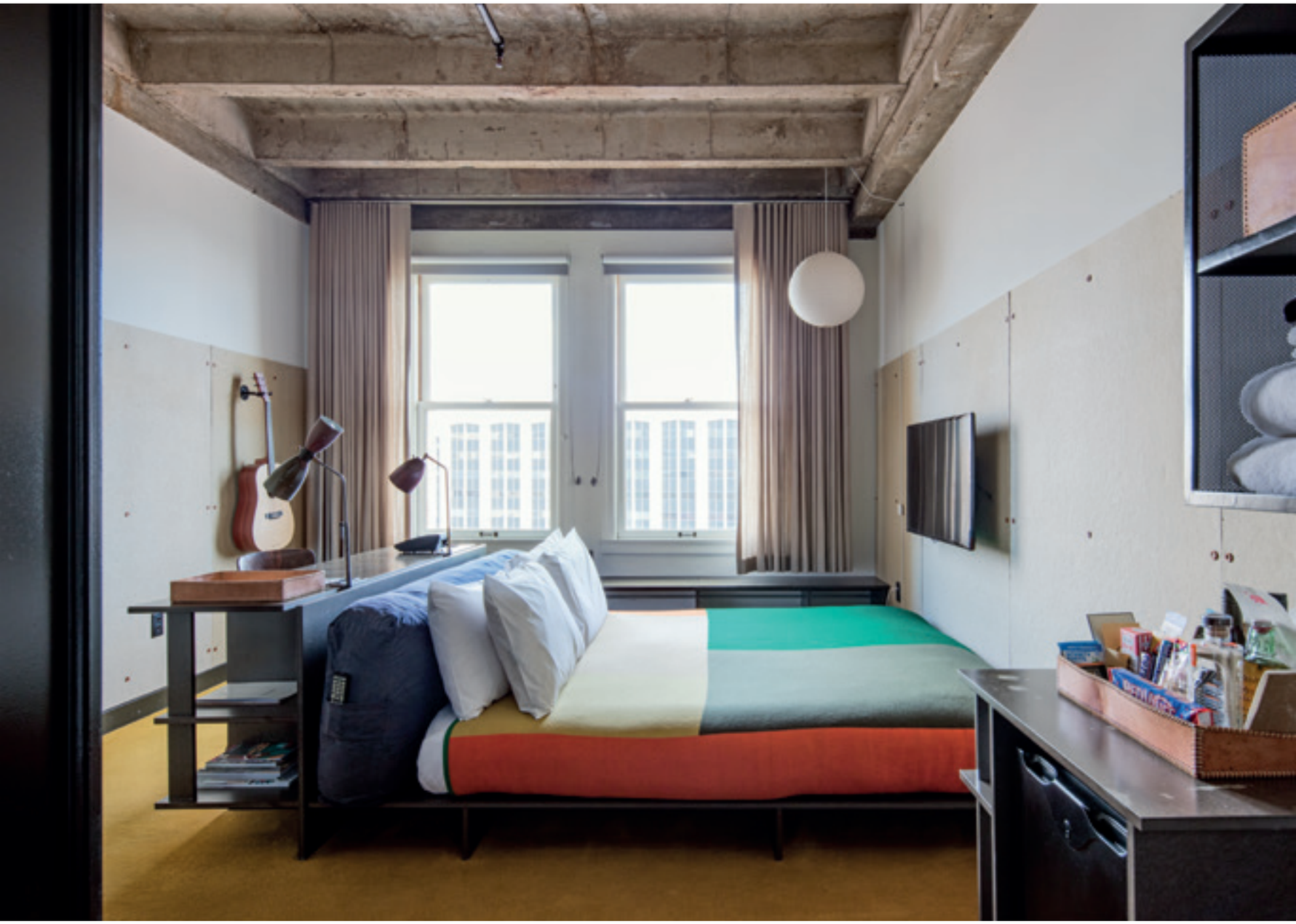


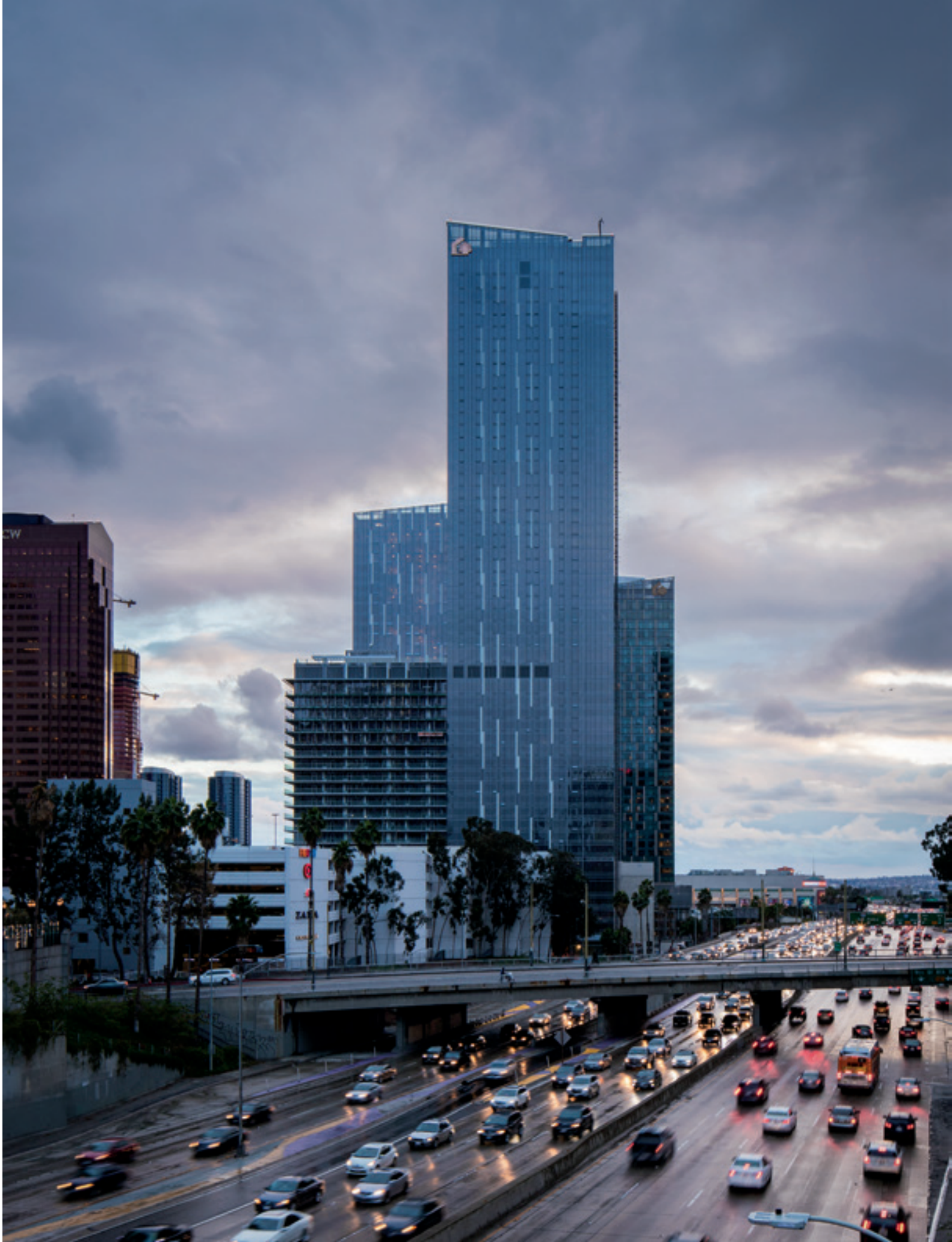












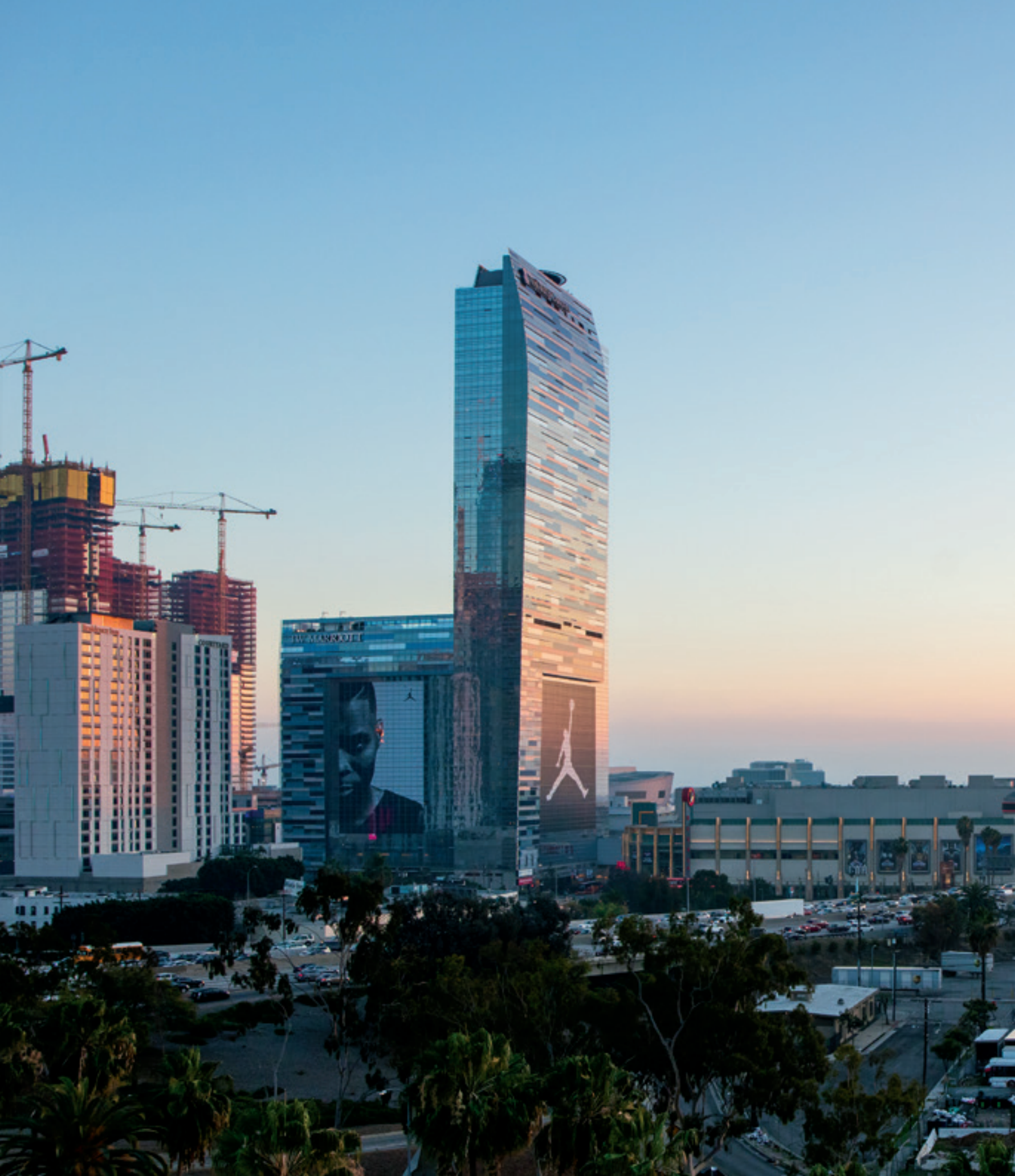
GENSLER

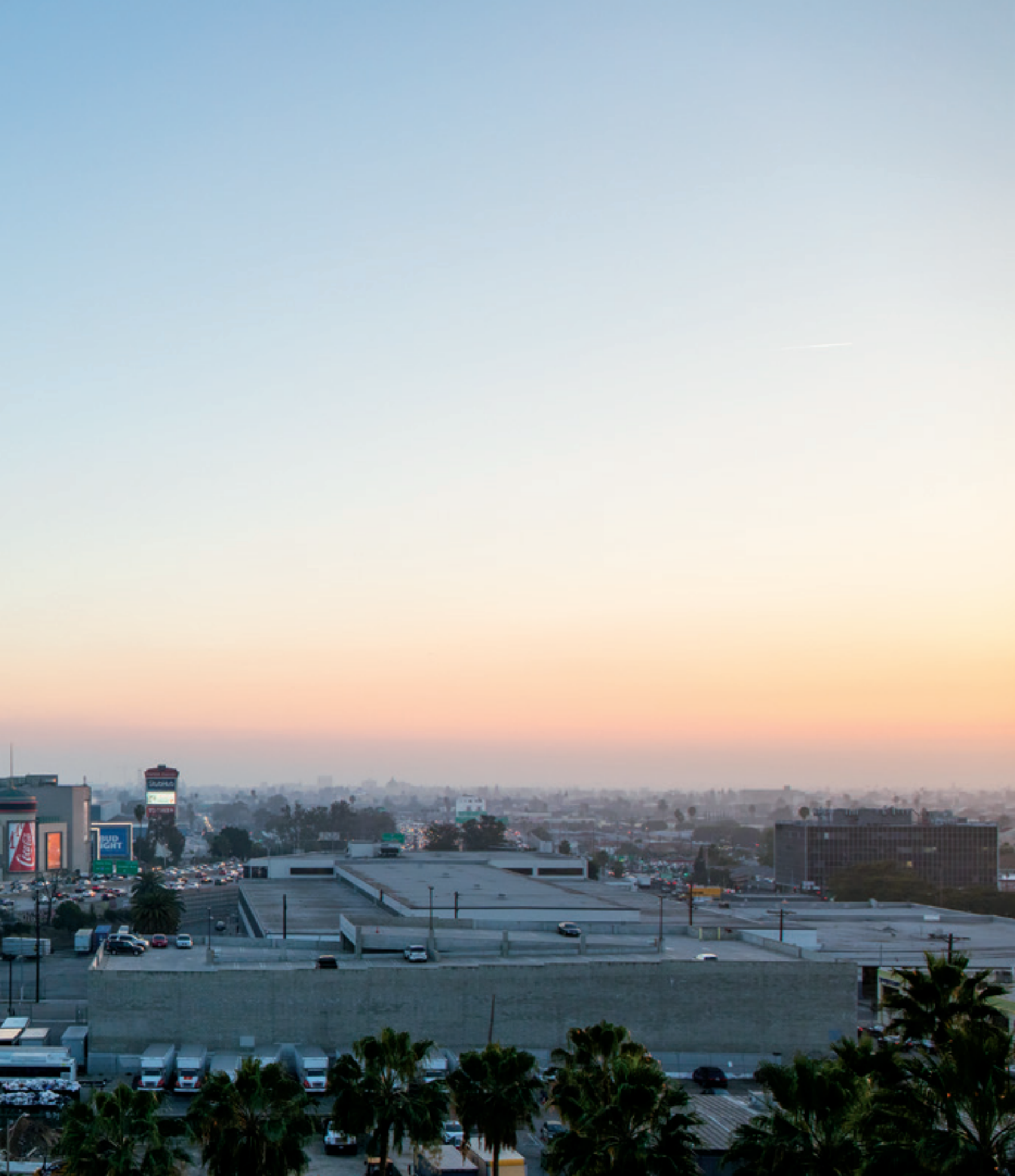
889 Francisco Street, Downtown Los Angeles
2019

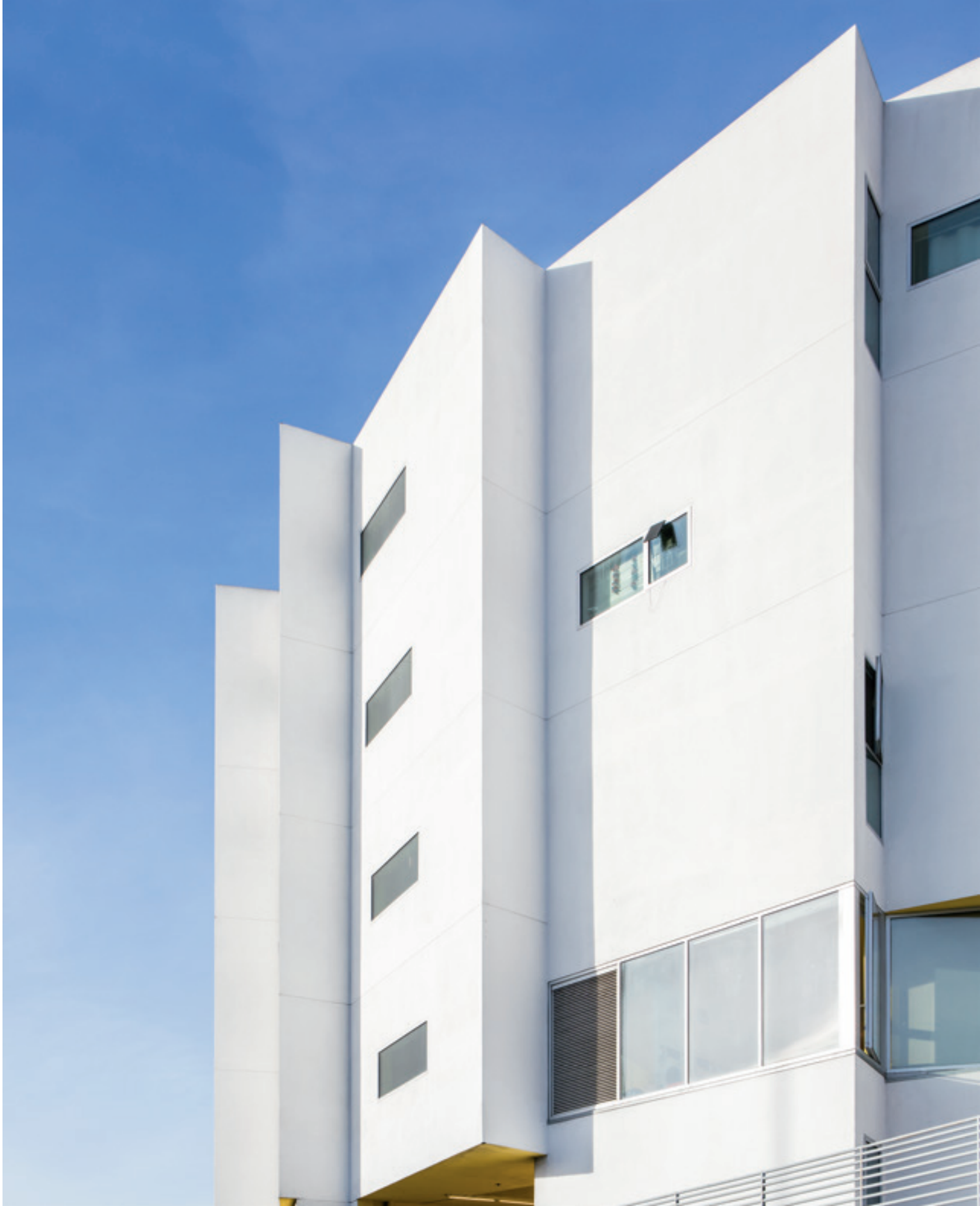
Metropolis, a massive four-building megaproject in Downtown Los Angeles, is quickly revolutionizing the city's skyline. While various plans to develop the project's six-acre lot on Francisco Street have been brewing since the 1980s, construction for Metropolis only began in 2014. Developed by the Shanghai-based real estate company Greenland USA, the 3.5 million-square-foot project was designed by Gensler.

The project includes a luxury retail pavilion that will be open to the public, three residential towers, and the eighteen-story Hotel Indigo, a boutique hotel with 350 rooms. The first residential tower, with thirty-eight floors, boasts 306 apartments ranging from studios and one-bedroom apartments to two-story penthouses. Tower II is substantially larger, with 514 one- and two-bedroom units and a rooftop pool. The largest tower, Tower III, will be fifty-six stories with 736 condos when it is completed in 2019. Other amenities in the residential towers include floor-to-ceiling windows with panoramic views, dog parks, fitness centers, a meditation garden, and a yoga studio.

METROPOLIS







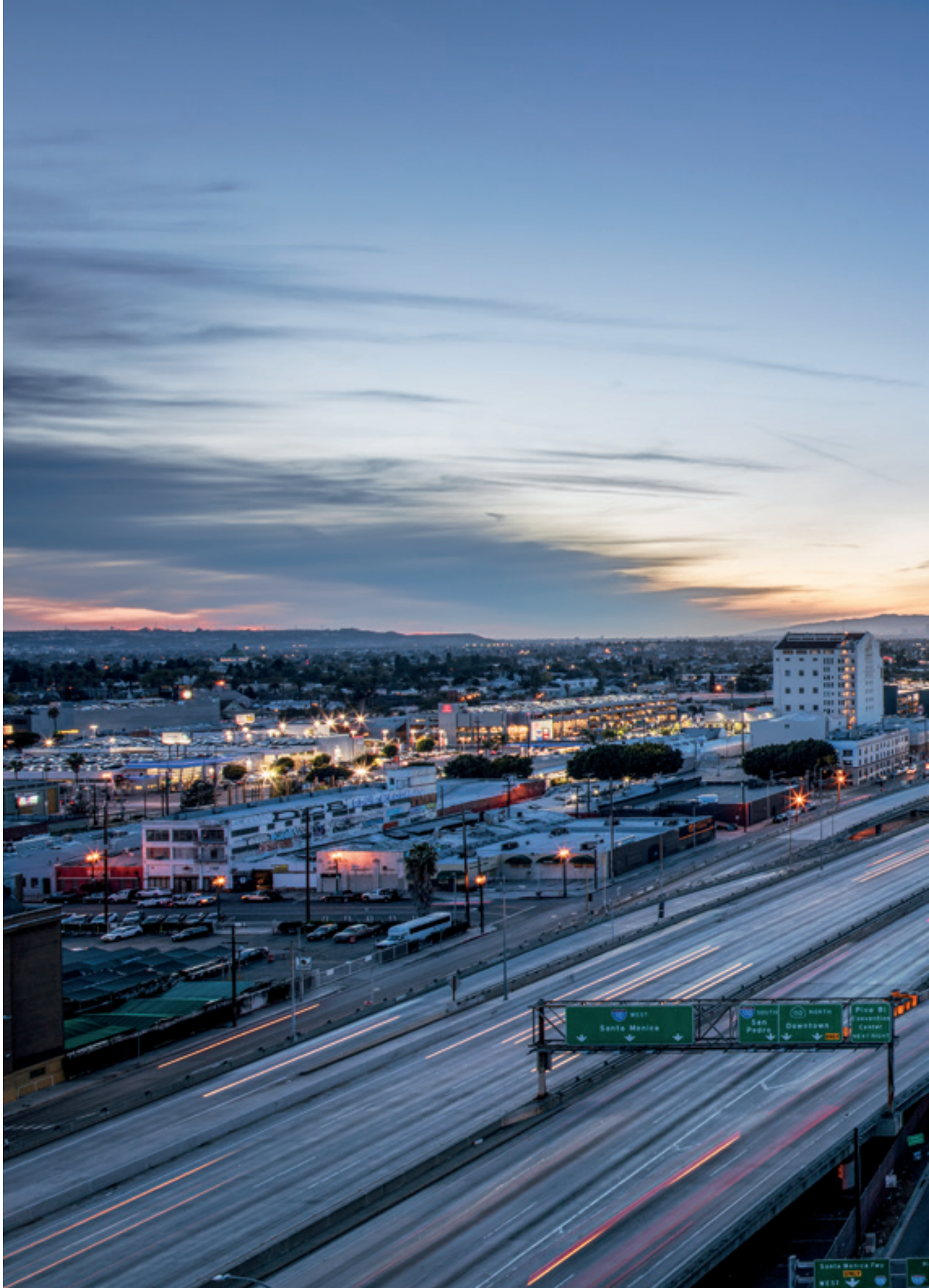
MICHAEL MALTZAN ARCHITECTURE

1624 South Hope Street, Downtown Los Angeles
2009

NEW CARVER APARTMENTS

With its distinct spiraling, circular shape and location adjacent to the highway, New Carver Apartments is highly recognizable for frequent I-90 drivers. Michael Maltzan Architecture designed this 2009 apartment building for Skid Row Housing Trust, an organization that provides permanent residences and support to Los Angeles's large homeless population. The ninety-seven units of New Carver Apartments, located a mile from Skid Row, serve as permanent housing for previously homeless elderly people and people with disabilities.

In planning the building, Maltzan privileged design features that ensure residents of New Carver Apartments have access to care and services as well as ample space for community-building and social engagement. As a result, the apartments' base houses medical and social service facilities, while an outdoor courtyard constitutes the center of the ring-shaped building, allowing for outdoor gatherings and ample natural light. The rounded walls of New Carver Apartments, meanwhile, are designed to reduce noise pollution from the busy highway, ensuring that residents have a quiet, tranquil home.


WEST
Santa Monica
SOUTH
San Pedro
NORTH
Downtown
Pico Bl
Convention
Center
WEST RIGHT
Santa Monica Fwy
WEST