



ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

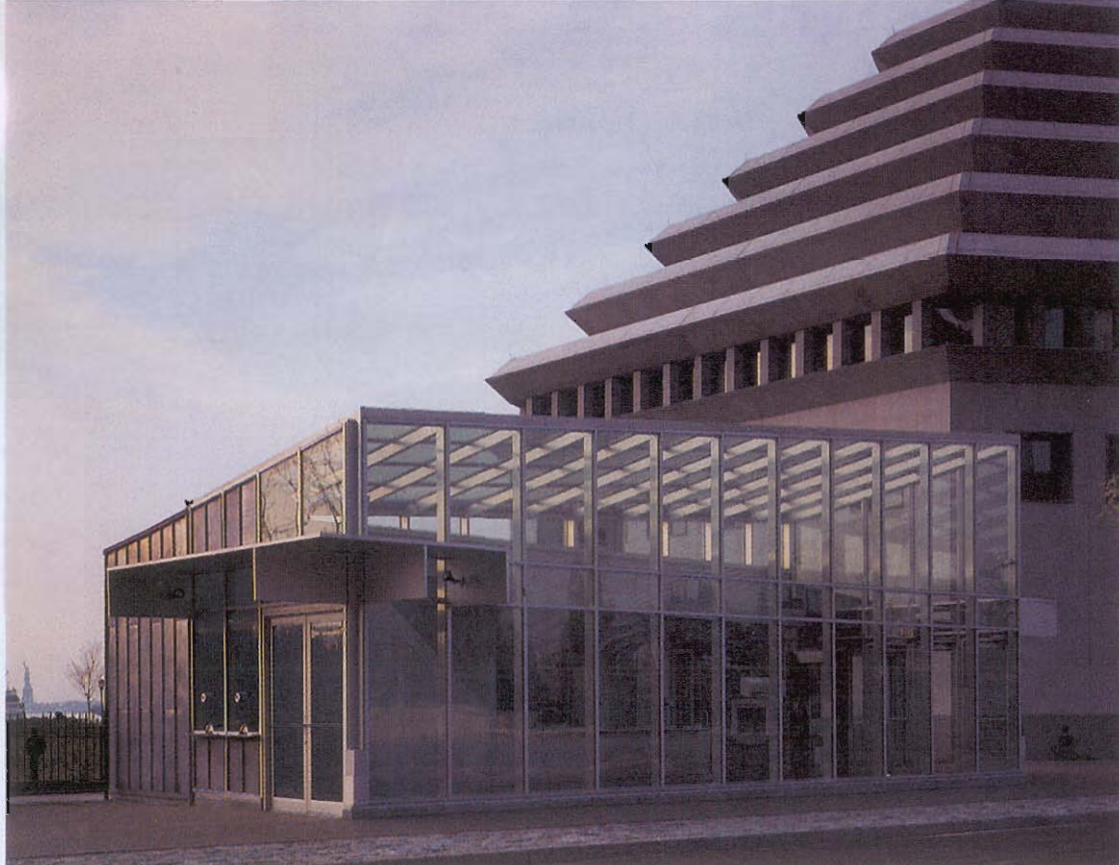
Provocative Encounter

Libeskind's Jewish Museum

THE WORLDS TALLEST: Petronas Towers

What Do Architectural Critics Think?

Building Types Study: Merchant-Built Housing



The jewel-like security pavilion captures as much attention as its massive neighbor, Kevin Roche's Museum of Jewish Heritage.

1. Public passage
2. Parcel storage
3. Ticketing
4. Information

A MUSEUM'S SECURITY CENTER IS REALIZED IN NO TIME AND IN NO SPACE

As the date neared for the opening of New York City's Museum of Jewish Heritage, acts of global terrorism convinced museum officials that security and ticketing should be kept outside the main building. Claire Weisz Architect + Mark Yoes, who had designed a tiny security booth nearby, were given six weeks to design and oversee construction of a small pavilion that would house these functions.

Stringent programmatic demands in a limited space made creating a satisfying design as daunting a prospect as beating the clock. The completed pavilion squeezes ticketing, metal detectors, a baggage check, offices, a staff lounge, and a restroom into 1,300 square feet. Two trapezoidal boxes pivot from the pavilion's east side. The northern box, aluminum-framed and triple-glazed with low-e glass, is a public atrium, where visitors enter and pass through the metal detectors. The southern box is steel-studded and sheathed in lead-

coated copper, hiding security-oriented spaces.

The architects wanted the small structure to be a memorable sight in Battery Park City, though the competition is stiff—the World Trade and World Financial Centers crowd the north, Lady Liberty controls the southern view, and Kevin Roche's compact yet massive museum stands a few yards away. Unlike its neighbors, the pavilion doesn't project a single image to impress the viewer. With so many faces, it is like a jewel imperfectly cut, its form changing as one circles around it. The absence of horizontal roof lines—every exterior face is a trapezoid—confuses perspective. Among buildings with more simple geometries, the pavilion emerges as a delightful visual puzzle. *D.S.M.*

Project: Visitors Center, Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York City
Owner: Museum of Jewish Heritage
Architect: Claire Weisz Architect + Mark Yoes

