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Location, pricing and duration of the exhibition

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Designer details and information

Link to Designer's website

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UBC Museum of Anthropology

Robson Square Complex

Footer

Site wide

Museum

Hours

Contact

Style Guide

Font Variations

H1 HEADING **Monsterrat Bold** **36 px**

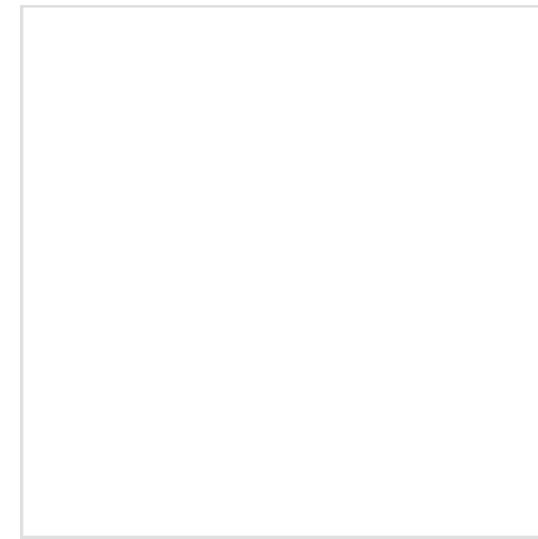
H2 HEADING Monsterrat Medium 24 px

H3 HEADING Monsterrat Medium 24 px

Body text Monsterrat Light 16 px

Caption *Monsterrat Light Italic* 16 px

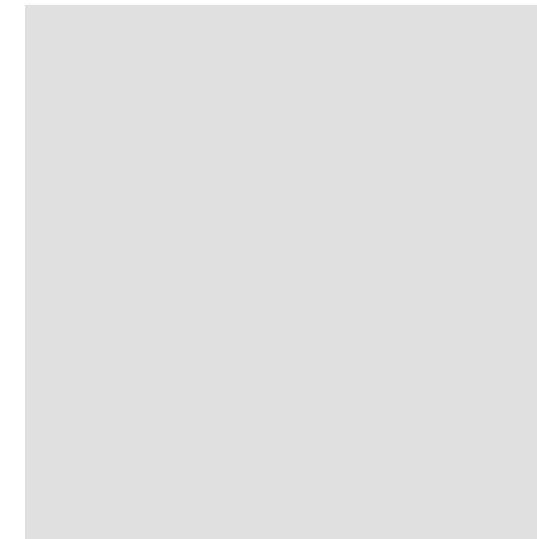
Color



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RGB(224,224,224)
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Button Styles



Hover



Hover



THE ARCHITECTURE OF ARTHUR ERICKSON

UNTIL
1.12.2022

DATE AND LOCATION

until
JANUARY 31st 2023

at
123 Street st.
Vancouver, BC 321 ABC

OPEN HOURS

Weekdays
10 AM - 5 PM

Weekends
9 AM - 8 PM

PRICING

Adult (19 and over)
\$12

Under 19
FREE

ABOUT THE DESIGNER

ARTHUR ERICKSON 1924 - 2009

Arthur Charles Erickson is known as Canada's most influential architect, being the only Canadian to win the 1986 American Institute of Architects Gold Medal. When designing, Arthur Erickson aims to integrate a style of modernist architecture that responds and complements the natural conditions of their locations. Through designing with environment in mind, Erickson is able to spaces that provide positive experiences, breaking the barrier between connecting with the interior and exterior of buildings.

[WEBSITE](#)

1950

Graduating from the McGill University School of Architecture in 1950, Erickson was granted a travel scholarship and traveled the Mediterranean and studied climate in relation to architecture. Thus, his early modernist concrete or wooden buildings were designed in response to their climate and location.

1954 - 1963

Working with friend and fellow Canadian architect Geoffrey Massey, the duo continued to design iconic buildings based in Vancouver, BC. After achieving the winning design for Simon Fraser University's Burnaby campus, Erickson became one of Canada's recognized and respected architects.

EXAMPLE PROJECTS

THE UBC MUSEUM OF
ANTHROPOLOGY
+
ROBSON SQUARE LAW
COURTS COMPLEX

[LEARN MORE](#)

MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE + ENGINEERING

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THE MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

DESIGNED 1971

Housing artifacts of the Pacific Northwest cultures and First nations of British Columbia, the Museum of Anthropology was designed around the site's context. Erickson reflects the structure of the traditional architecture of the first nations through the use of towering concrete piers and beams in the facade of the building.

The museum is designed such that a visitor's procession reflects a journey starting from the forest, then entering a clearing which reveals the prospect of land and water. This form of biomimicry creates influences the buildings aesthetics and circulation of museum visitors.

CURATING A JOURNEY

The beginning of the journey mimics forest cover, with large concrete beams with spaces for skylight in addition to a downwards slope that matches the site the museum is built above. The rhythmically spaced sections of the hallways walls that gradually increase the horizontal space of the area, the downward slope and periodically lowering of the roof collaborate to attract the visitor towards the main hall. With the narrower circulation, dimmer lighting, and lower ceiling, the main hall's grand scale is emphasized. It is only through this limitation of visual senses and range of view, that the visitors' sense of tension leads to a powerful sense of freedom and awe in the main hall.

Leaving the dense forest, the path opens into the main hall which represents a clearing due to the scale of the height, width, and lighting relative to the hallway before. The wide window walls emphasize the size and structure of both the rhythmically spaced concrete piers and totems as the sunlight fully covers them, casting large shadows onto visitors which solidifies the sense of height. With the non-ornamentation, smooth texture, and basic shaping style of the surroundings, the viewer's eyes are guided to the intricate details of artifacts throughout the museum. With the large glass panels, the barrier between viewers and the natural environment is broken, and the beauty of nature is incorporated into the building and flow of visitors. With large glass panels, the beauty of the surrounding nature is connected with the artifacts inside the building, creating an unique and engaging experience for museum visitors.

ROBSON SQUARE LAW COURTS COMPLEX

DESIGNED 1973

This 3-block development involved the Vancouver provincial law courts, Robson Square, and the Vancouver Art Gallery. The three-block development is connected by a three-dimensional urban park which incorporates a block-long rooftop reflecting pool, three waterfalls, a foot bridge, and a planted mountain like landscape.

Landscape and Circulation

With the large, angled glass ceiling that maximizes viewing angles for the tiered court rooms, Erickson aims to alleviate tension or stress that court attendees may experience by allowing the visitors to view and feel connected with the surrounding cityscape and sky. With the lack of supporting walls and supports placed on the tiered concrete piers and beams, an open plan is created. In contrast to traditional court buildings that feel cramped and restrict the circulation of people, the Vancouver courthouse the large glass roof and open plan to create a more positive and free experience, alleviating the barrier between interior and exterior environment.

When designing the Three Block Complex and Robson Square, Arthur Erickson envisioned for the project to incorporate a low-profile structure and open in space for the many buildings that surround the complex. In contrast, a block-long rooftop and a mountain-like structure leads to the provincial court, creating a unique urban landscape. With the lacking of ornamentation in the concrete structures, the elements of water, and fauna act as ornamentation and appear more vibrant and lively. Erickson creates a park-like, relaxing atmosphere relative to the surround sidewalks and main roads that restrict the flow of people.

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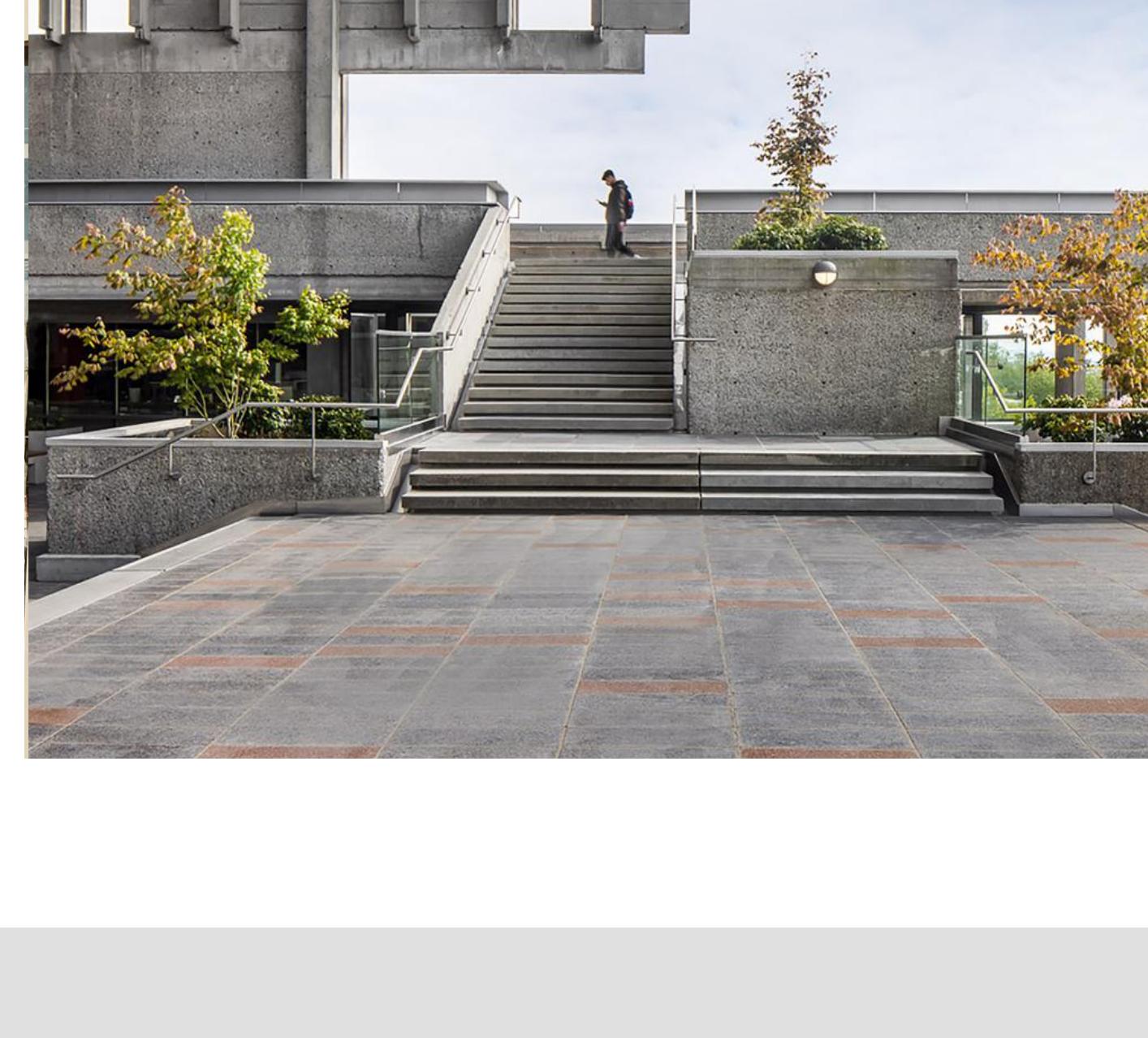


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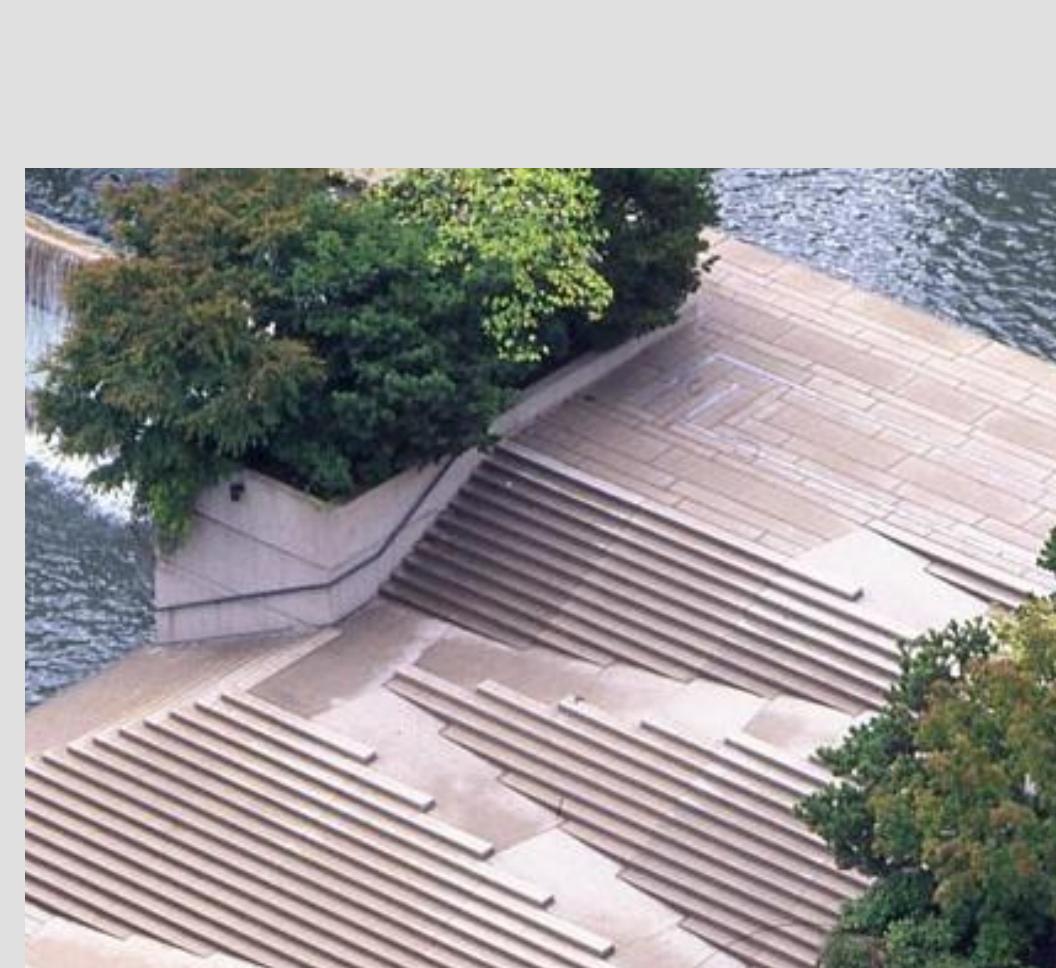
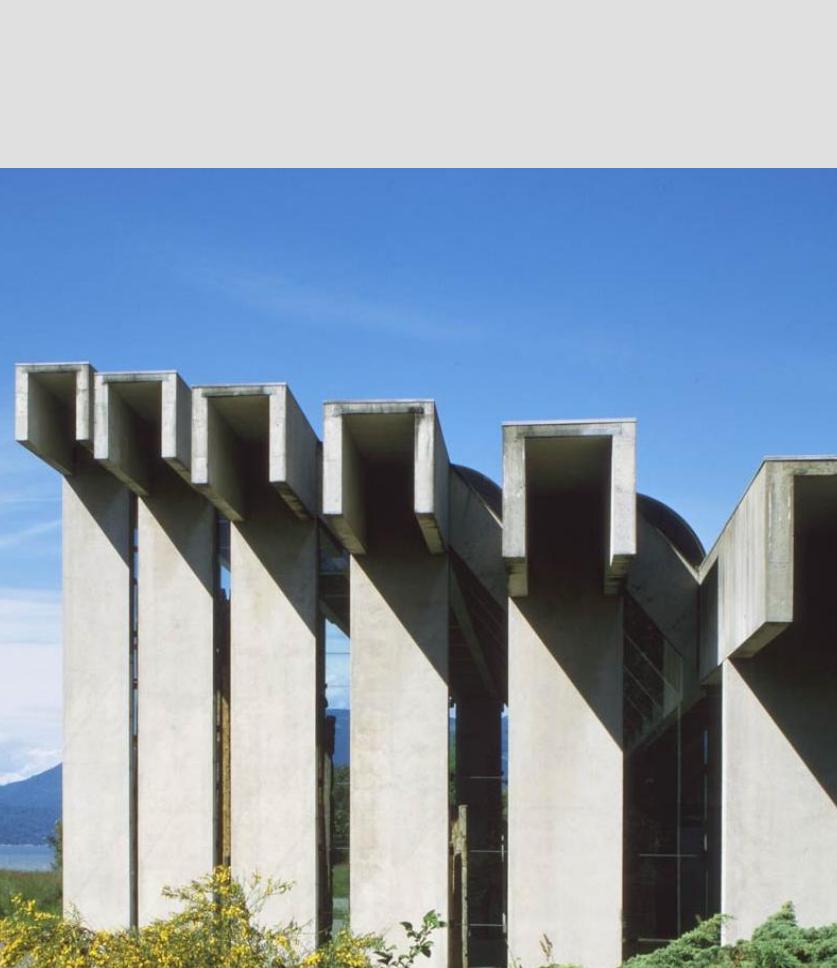


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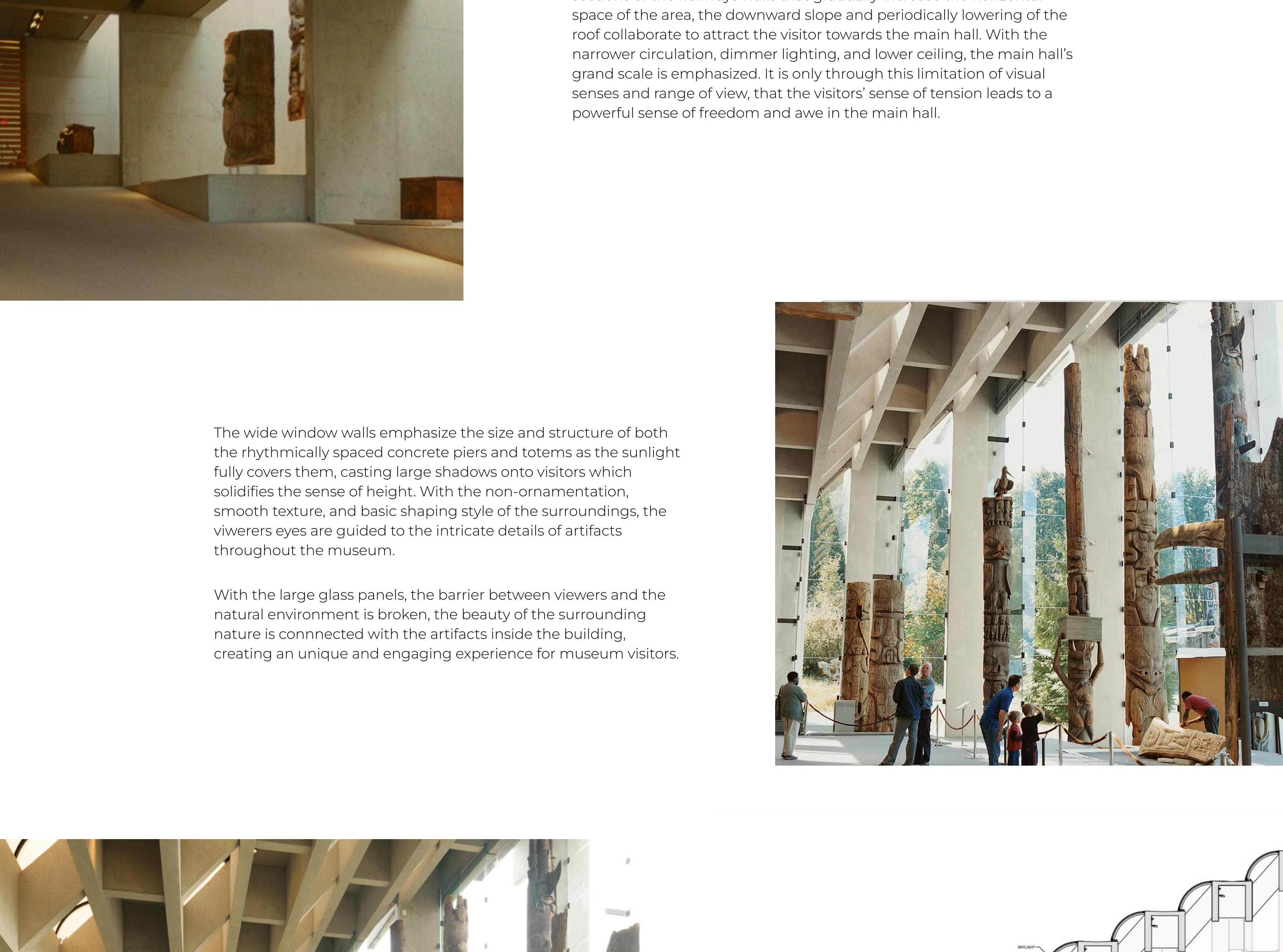


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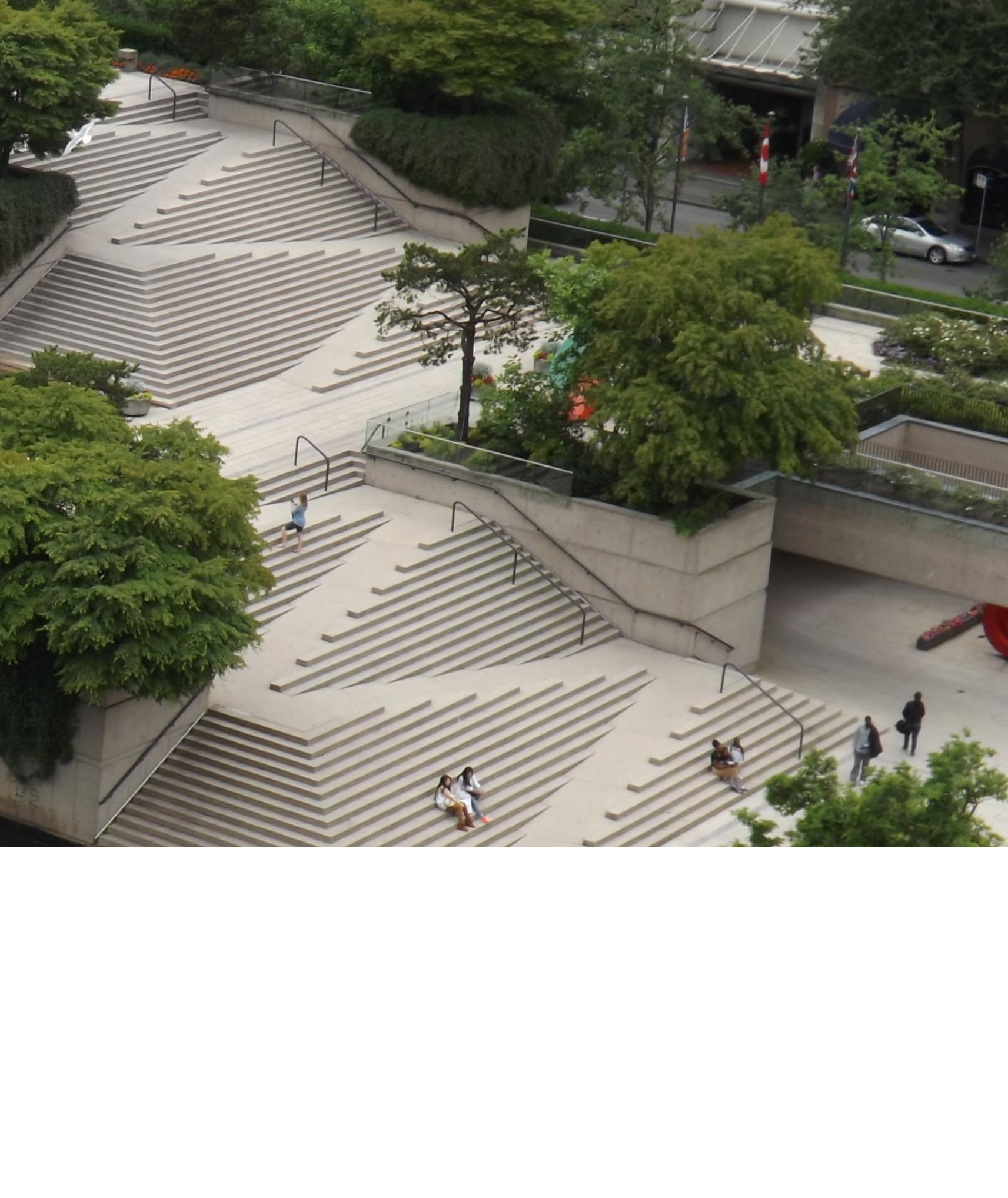
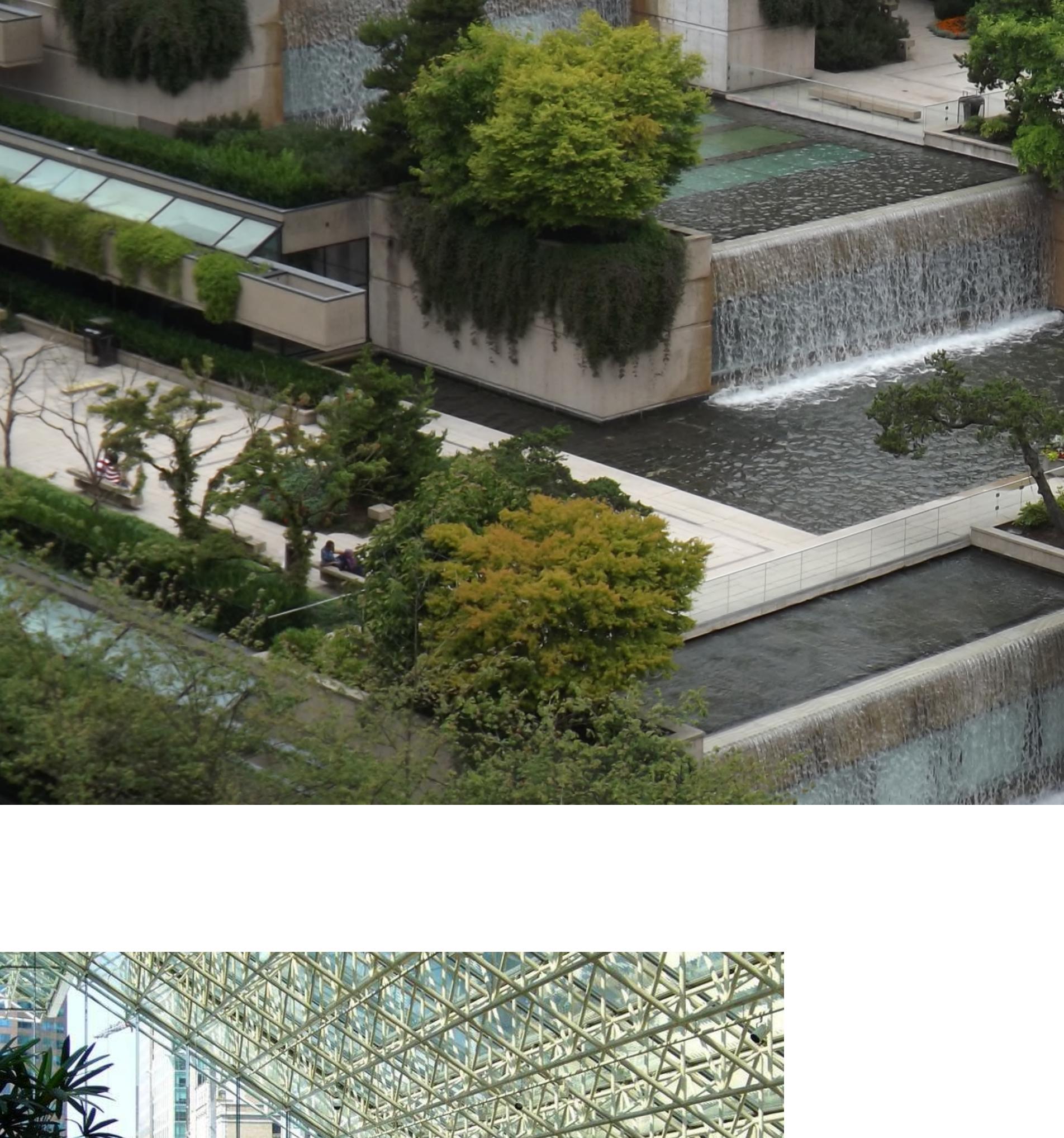
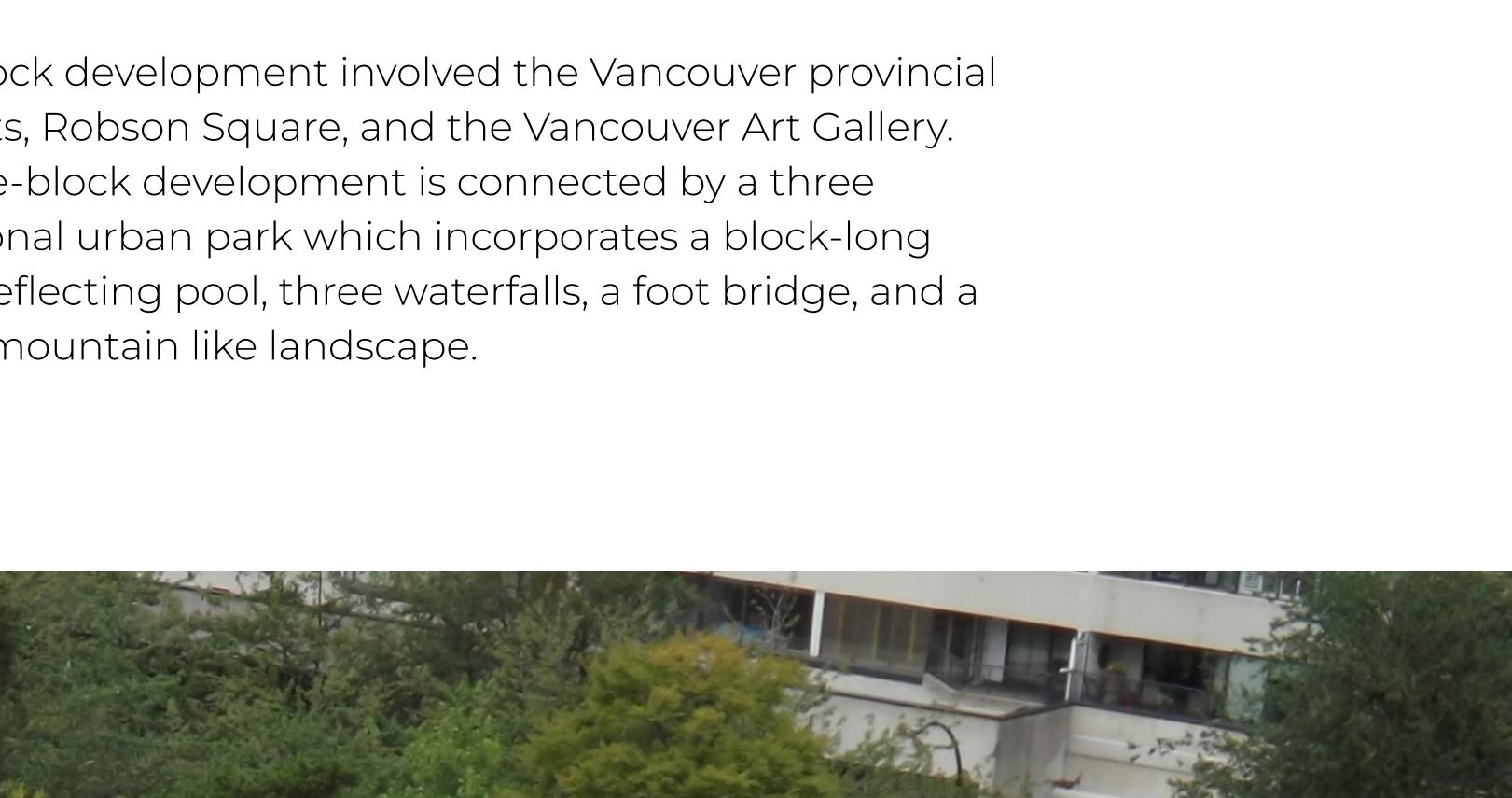
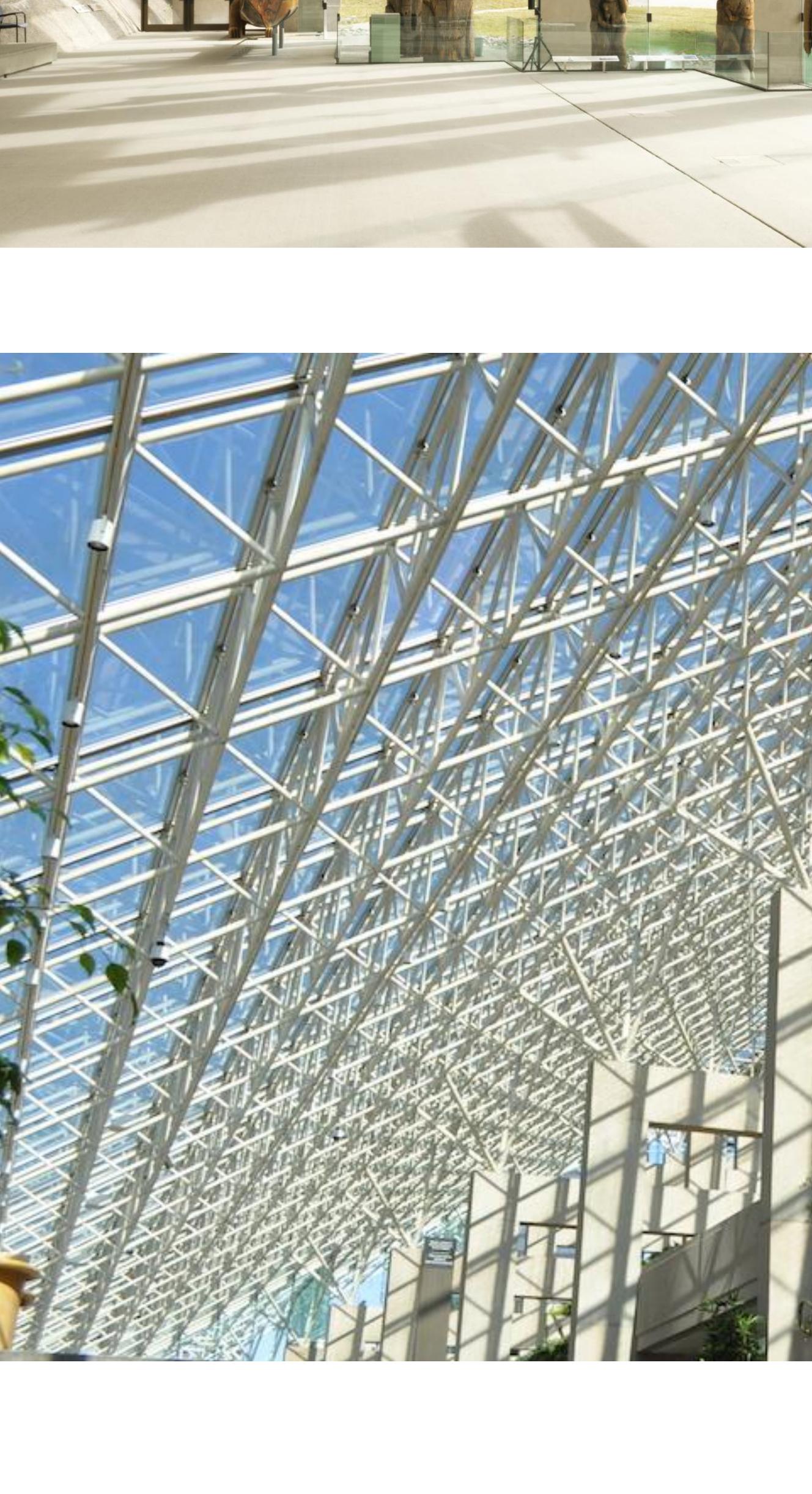
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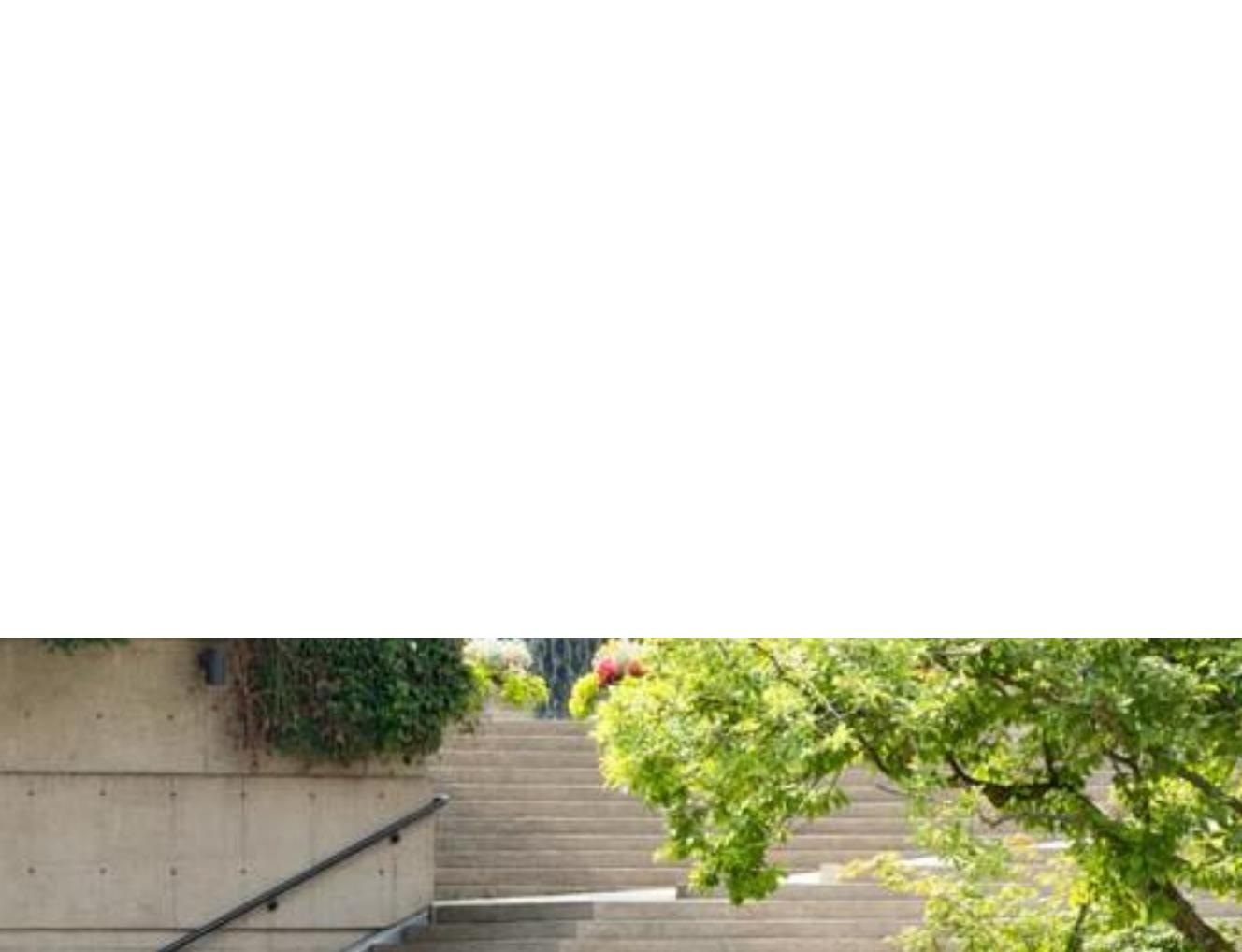
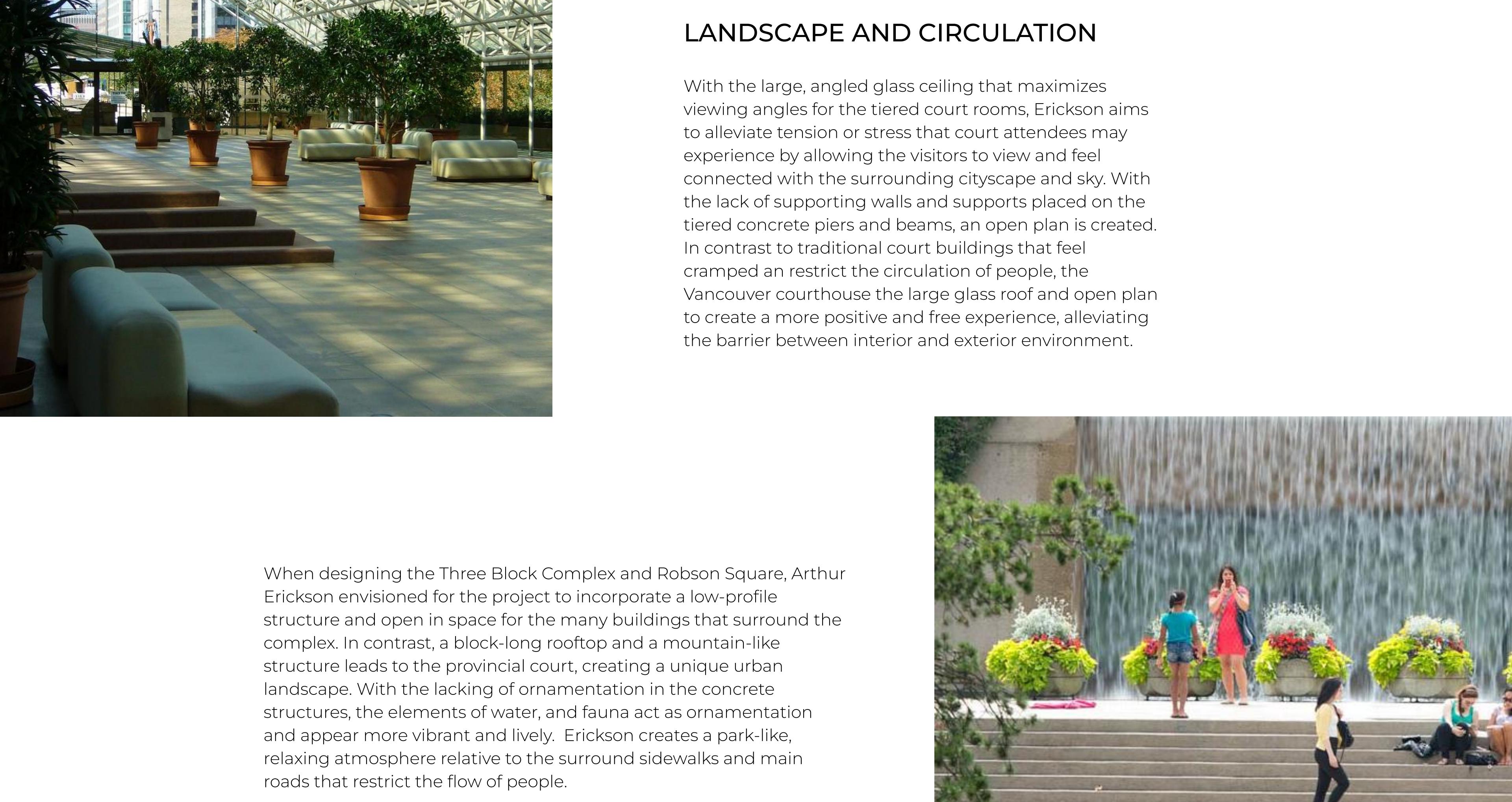
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