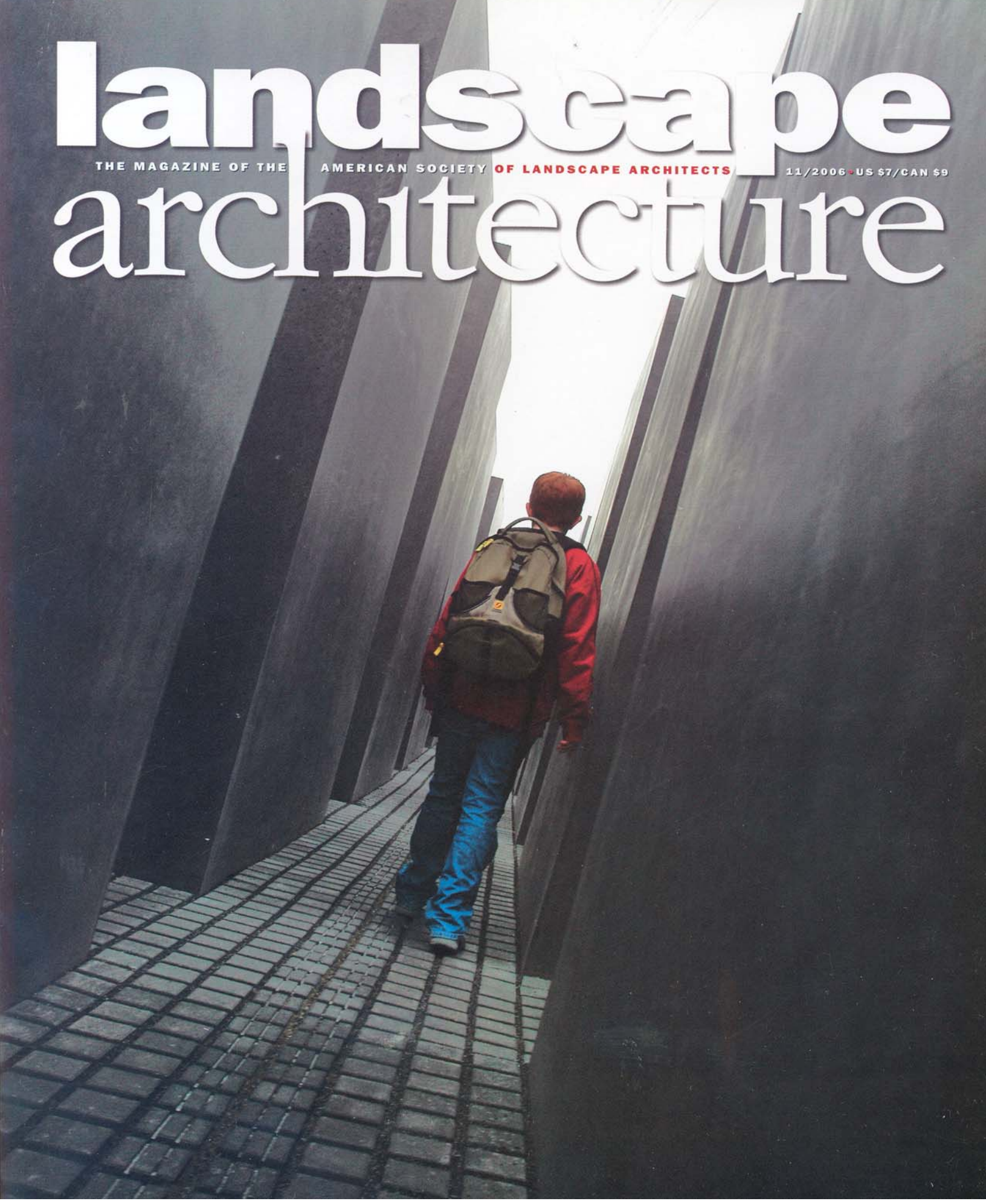


landscape architecture

THE MAGAZINE OF THE

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

11/2006 • US \$7/CAN \$9



RIPRAP

PLAYGROUNDS

Mod Gardens for the Swinging Set

At Métis, new gardens get physical.

GRAND-MÉTIS, Quebec's seventh International Garden Festival, known as Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens, located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, was held from June 24 to October 1, 2006. The 11 temporary installations by designers from Australia, France, Germany, the United States, and Canada are thoroughly modern in spirit and designed to complement the historic design of the Reford estate's permanent gardens.

Challenged by the short growing season of the northern Canadian location, designers worked in nontraditional ways to tap the theme of the garden's sensual pleasures. Instead of planting a traditional fragrance garden, Andy Cao and Xavier Perrot installed an orange grove scented with a custom perfume in *Le jardin des Hespérides*.

Bouncing through *Safe Zone* by Stoss Landscape Urbanism/Chris Reed, ASLA, visitors experienced the joy of motion. Colorful rubber safety and security materials threw visitors off balance and forced a kinesthetic relationship with the space. In a similar vein, the artist collective Cédule 40 built the ultimate work/play environment. Called *Sous-terrain de jeu*, the installation consisted of an oversized swing set suspended over a trench. Us-

ing the swing triggered the dispersal of oat and flax seed from cylinders mounted high on the swing's armature. As visitors took the plunge from the surface of the garden and swung through the subterranean pit, the seeds made a similar—if more chaotic—journey into the waiting soil.

Sound like fun? Start planning your 2007 visit at www.jardins-metis.com/english/festival/index.htm.



COURTESY REFORO GARDENS

In the *Safe Zone*, here, rubber surfacing made for a rollicking good time. Cédule 40's giant swing set, right, carried children and adults from the garden surface through a deep trench and back again.

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