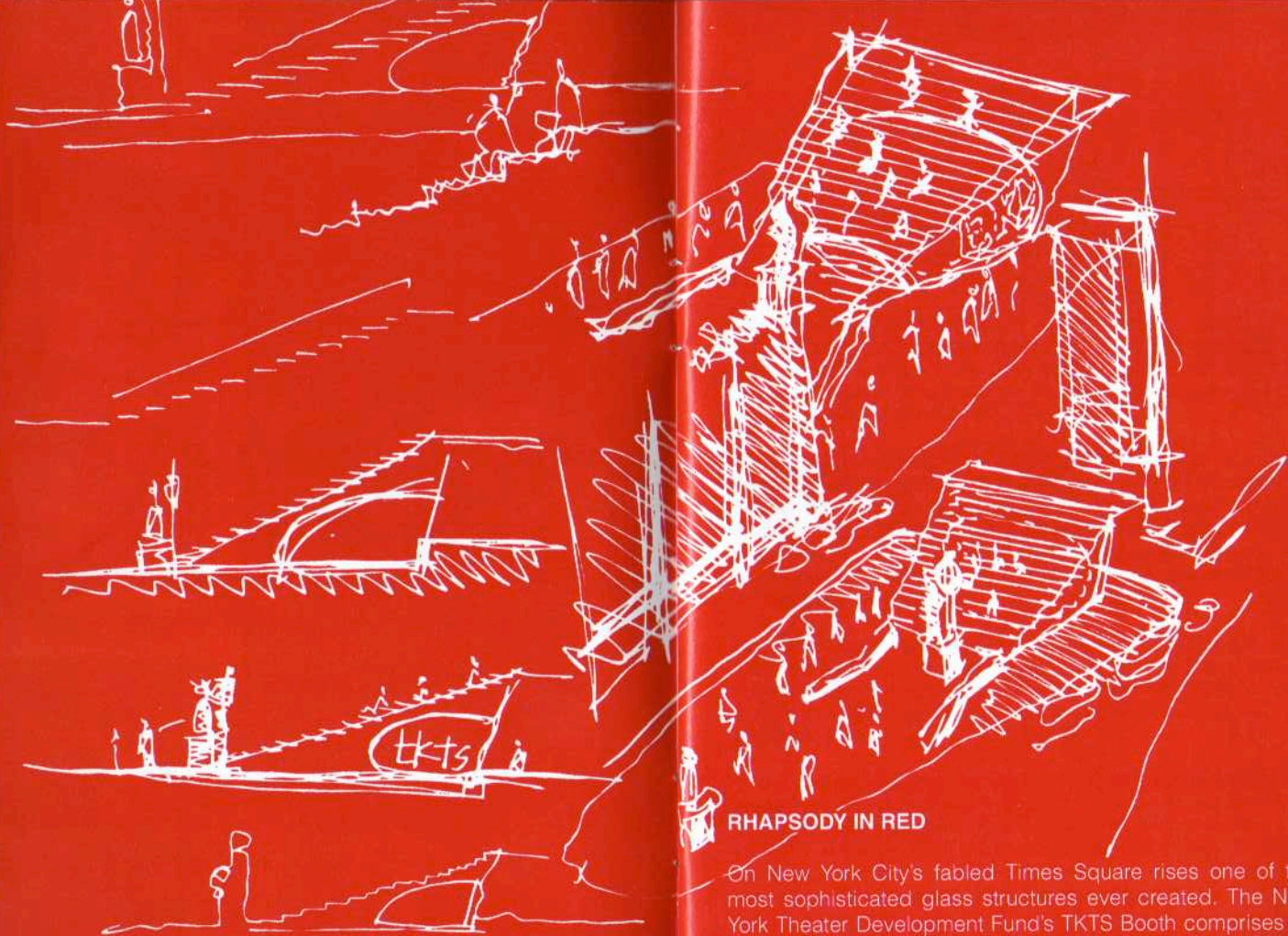




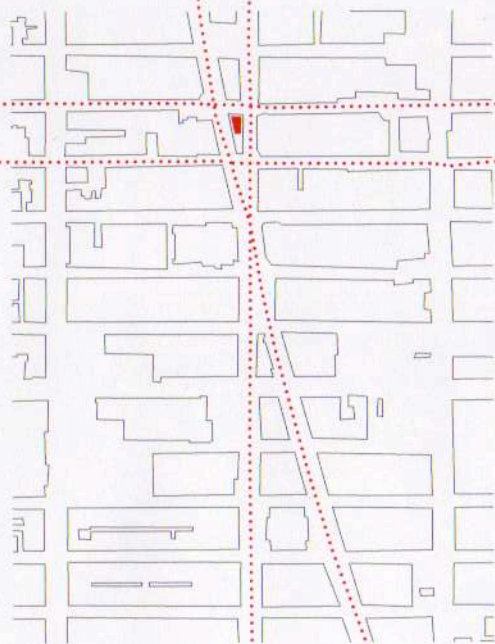
“The great function  
of the city is to encourage  
and incite the greatest  
possible number  
of meetings, encounters,  
and challenges  
between all persons,  
classes and groups,  
providing a stage upon  
which the drama of social life  
may be enacted,  
with the actors taking  
their turns as spectators,  
and the spectators as actors.”

— Lewis Mumford



#### RHAPSODY IN RED

On New York City's fabled Times Square rises one of the most sophisticated glass structures ever created. The New York Theater Development Fund's TKTS Booth comprises an airstreamed fiberglass shell encased entirely in transparent walls and topped with 27 sweeping, luminous red glass steps. This show-stopping urban structure at once celebrates the theatrical glory of its neighborhood—and more than doubles the pedestrian area of America's busiest corner.



## AMERICA'S TOWN SQUARE

The 1970s were not kind to New York City. Starting in the late '60s a host of convergent ills seemed set to drive New York inexorably derelict, perhaps nowhere more sadly than on Times Square. By 1973, the grand crossroads of American performance had become the archetypal setting of degeneracy, crime and decay.

The original TKTS booth was one group's buttress against this slide. By placing their temporary ticket concession at Times Square's focal point on Father Duffy Square, the Theater Development Fund hoped to create a safe destination for both locals and tourists, and in turn spark a rebirth of one of the world's cherished public spaces. Little did they expect their humble construction trailer to define the spot for another three decades.

By 1999, Times Square was indeed a new world, the vulgar entertainments and squalid street life swept away on a tide of ebullient corporate glitz, the weather beaten TKTS trailer now more detraction than relief. It was time for New York to do for TKTS what TKTS had helped do for it.

In an international design competition, a team of Australians presented the winning concept for a new booth. A series of red, resin steps would rise from ground level atop a steel frame, at once forming a roof for TKTS and a grandstand for visitors to Times Square. Solid side walls would enclose the booth beneath. It was the stroke of genius Times Square needed to become a truly public space.

Finally in 2001, Times Square Alliance, the Theater Development Fund and the Coalition for Father Duffy asked Perkins Eastman for a feasibility study. From several approaches, we were to develop preliminary options informed but not necessarily determined by the competition concept. Of course the concept was brilliant. But only a 21st Century approach was going to produce a 21st Century landmark.



### NOT JUST DIFFERENT, BETTER.

The answer was glass. This quintessentially 21st Century material would be perfect for a couple reasons:

Times Square is by design a visual cacophony of millennial scale. In literally every direction and from seemingly every surface neon and LED displays pulsate, monstrous video screens glare, and architecture itself is swathed in screaming media. Cutting edge technologies adhere to a bluntly maximalist dictum: Be Loudest.

On one hand we wanted our building to be in the spirit of this place: technologies of spectacle, spectacles of technology. What could be more Times Square? Yet our effect would consist in a subtle contrast to the surroundings, not in outdoing them. The crystalline, red steps would float and hum rather than loom and shout; lights would gleam through and against our building's transparent, reflective skin, not all over it. Occupants would pause at the eye of a visual storm, turning in slow motion amid the racing gyre of light and sound. The roof? Both stairway to the stars and free front row seats at America's longest running show.

But glass is more than just dazzling. These days it also happens to be one of the strongest materials around. Strong enough, in fact, to serve as the TKTS Booth's sole structural component. Completed in the Fall of 2008, the building embodies a collaboration between Perkins Eastman and the world's leading glass specialists. Its visual elegance belies tremendous structural complexity; 28-foot, laminated glass stringer beams support red-tinted glass treads between glass load bearing walls—all stronger than a comparable structure in steel.

Perkins Eastman