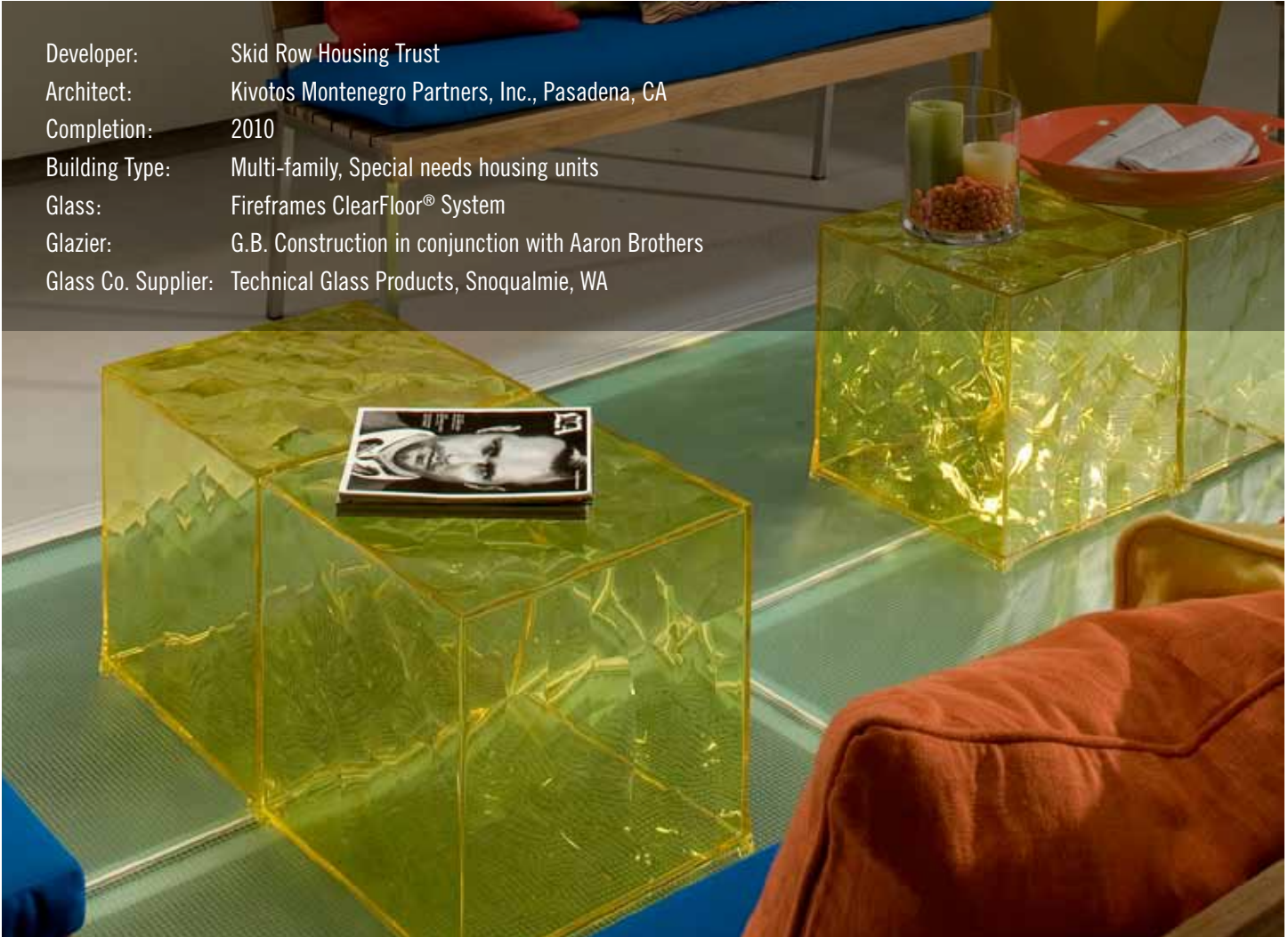


Developer: Skid Row Housing Trust
Architect: Kivotos Montenegro Partners, Inc., Pasadena, CA
Completion: 2010
Building Type: Multi-family, Special needs housing units
Glass: Fireframes ClearFloor® System
Glazier: G.B. Construction in conjunction with Aaron Brothers
Glass Co. Supplier: Technical Glass Products, Snoqualmie, WA



Designed by the Pasadena architecture firm Kivotos Montenegro Partners, and funded and managed by the Skid Row Housing Trust, the Charles Cobb apartment complex in downtown Los Angeles provides safe, healthy and affordable living for chronically homeless and disabled men and women.

During the design phase of the 75-unit complex, the architecture firm was tasked with creating a building that would be filled with natural daylight—which studies show is a key contributor to healthy living environments.

The design factored in room orientation and windows to let sunlight into individual units, along with a sixth floor skylight to transmit daylight down an interior shaft extending to the second floor. This light portal provides supplemental lighting to community areas.

The problem? Local building codes did not allow the shaft to be open higher than two stories. To meet code, the firm needed a floor on the fourth level to divide the shaft into two open segments.

To allow for continual light penetration from the sixth floor to the second, the architects used a fire-rated glass floor system from Technical Glass Products. The Fireframes ClearFloor® System is impact-resistant and fire-rated for two hours. Design professionals can specify the glass floor with a non-slip walking surface and as seen in the Charles Cobb Apartments, it can handle foot traffic and bring daylight deep into building interiors. The UL-listed system is approved for both interior and exterior applications with loads up to 150 psf.

For more information on Fireframes ClearFloor, along with TGP's other specialty architectural glass and framing, visit www.fireglass.com.