

AROUND THE BLOCK



WHY WE LOVE IT

MODERNIST ...TO THE EXTREME

The Canterbury Society of Arts (CSA) was established in 1880 to promote the study, practice, and cultivation of the fine arts.

Now named Centre of Contemporary Art (CoCA), it remains committed to these principles through its exciting exhibition programme and spaces dedicated to the work of young people.

The 1968 building is typical of Modernist New Zealand architecture from the 1960s - where function is important. The architect created a large hanging space in one related area, bare of fixtures and with as natural lighting as possible. The new gallery led the way in modern thinking around displaying the visual arts – specific spaces were created for solo as well as group shows.

STYLE GURUS

In 1965 architects Minson & Henning-Hanson and Dines provided plans for a new gallery to be built at 66 Gloucester Street and this was opened in 1968.

WHAT WENT ON BEFORE?

From 1895 until 1968 exhibitions were held in the CSA gallery on the corner of Durham Street and Armagh Street.

WONDERFUL & WEIRD

In 1996 the gallery had a name change and renovation to ensure that it retained its relevance to working artists and issues. As the Centre of Contemporary Art (CoCA) the gallery sought to act "...as a dynamic and vibrant centre that embraces the diversity of contemporary cultural production."

CHALLENGES

In 1963 debate took place over the relocation of the Society into a new gallery and site in Christchurch.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz>