



Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA)

100 Northern Avenue
Boston, MA 02210

Diller Scofidio + Renfro

2006

62,000 sq. ft.

www.icaboston.org

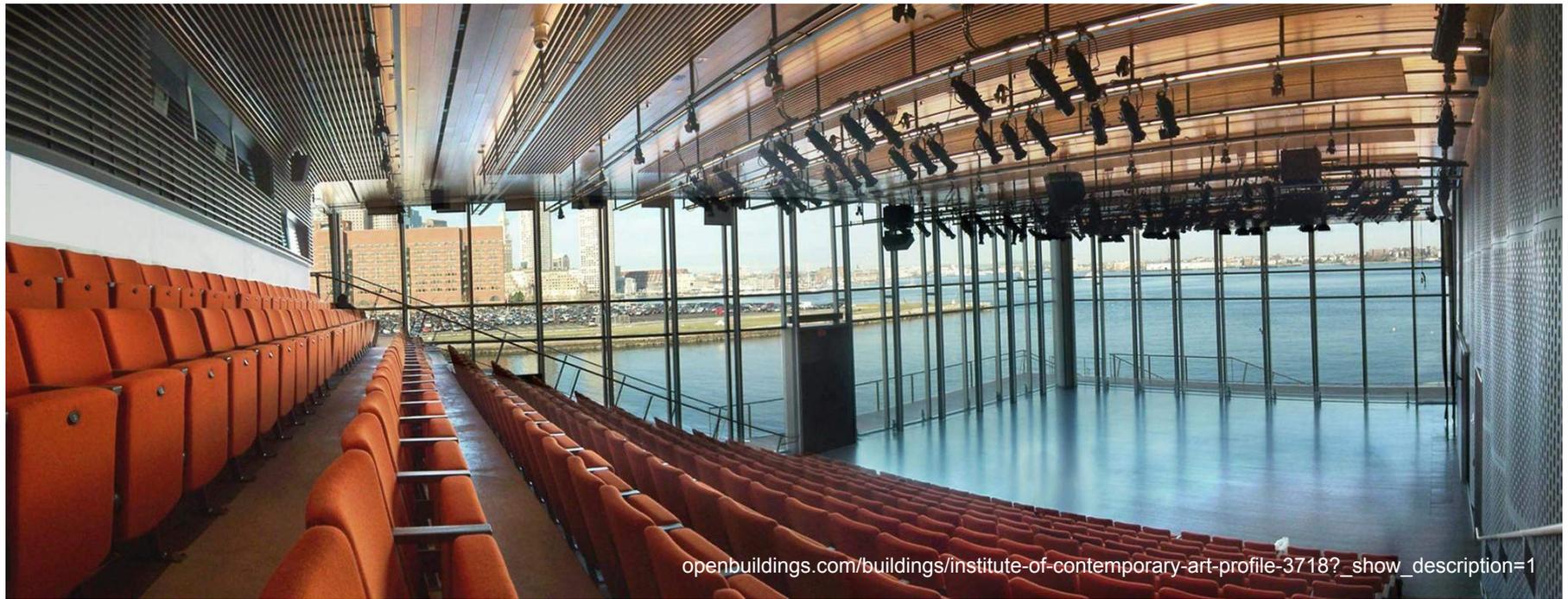
Vichitta Srisouraj



upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/79/955_Boylston_Street.jpg

History

The ICA was founded as the Boston Museum of Modern Art in 1936. The museum was considered a laboratory where innovative approaches to art could be supported. Planned as "a renegade offspring" New York's Museum of Modern Art, the institution established a reputation for identifying important new artists. In pursuit of this mission, it parted ways with MoMA in 1939 and changed its name to "institute". As the ICA's reputation grew, it paved the way for other institutes and museums of contemporary art as well as artist spaces and alternative venues.

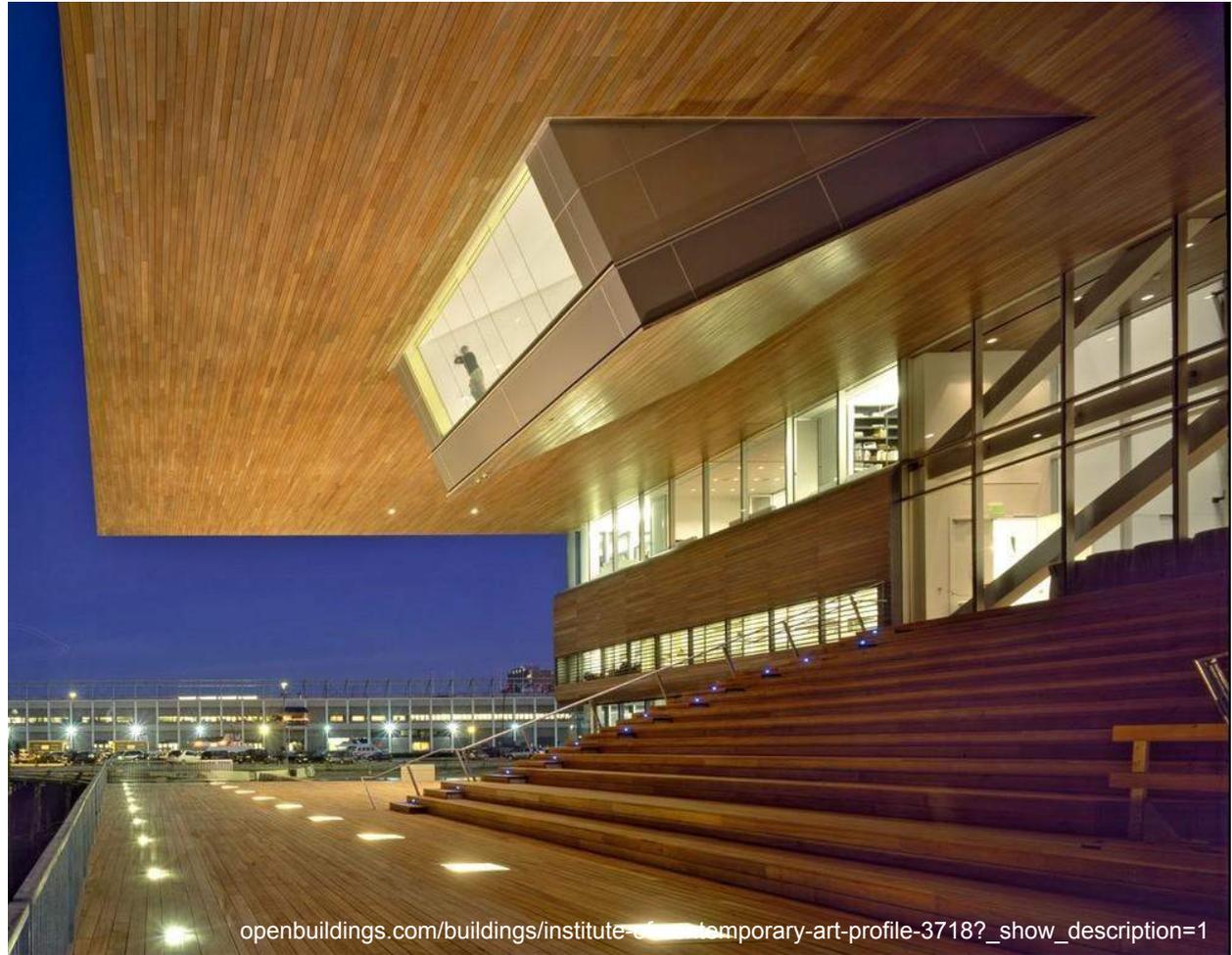


openbuildings.com/buildings/institute-of-contemporary-art-profile-3718?_show_description=1

Site and Context – The ICA opened its 62,000-square-foot building designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro on Boston’s waterfront in 2006. The outdoor plaza and stepped seating beneath the cantilevered design merge with the Harborwalk, a 47 mile public walkway along the waterfront. To the ICA, the move was an opportunity to become a major cultural venue on the Boston waterfront with a building that offers the scale and flexibility for the presentation of cutting edge, contemporary art, combined with the launch of a permanent art collection. The Institute had outgrown its previous home in historic Back Bay, which curtailed its possibilities due to limited size and layout.

Style and Characteristics

The conceptual framework of the design informs its signature gesture, a wide curve that folds up wrapping the building like a giant ribbon. The wood decking from the public Harborwalk, begins at the water's edge, continues through the glass envelope, following the contours of the 325-seat theater and then slips back out through the building skin above the grandstand. Resting on top is the dramatically cantilevered gallery, a boxlike form wrapped on three sides in channel glass. At night, its backlit surface glows like a lantern on the harbor's edge.





Program – The ICA offers exhibitions and events as well as a permanent collection of 20th and 21st century art with works by Paul Chan, Marlene Dumas, Mona Hatoum, Christian Jankowski, and Cornelia Parker, among other notables. The Institute continues to focus on presenting the most significant contemporary art from emerging and established artists. The well-designed spaces of the building allow the ICA to blur boundaries between performance, art, film/video, presentations, and contemporary culture, sometimes with unexpected results. The ICA's eclectic programming draws crowds from diverse interest groups.