



Institute of Contemporary Art Boston: Museum Building Guides

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The Institute of Contemporary Art, designed by Diller + Scofidio (now Diller Scofidio + Renfro), was the first new art museum to be built in Boston in a century. Opened in December 2006, the ICA is located on a small parcel of land on Boston Harbor and this is the 25th location for the museum in its 75 year history and its first, permanent, free-standing home.

“The ICA’s decision to hire Diller + Scofidio reflected our belief in the firm’s vision that architecture can shape as well as reflect contemporary experience,” stated Jill Medvedow, director of ICA. The architects’ balanced use of cool and transparent glass with the warmth of wood and the energy of light, as well as their design of spare, flexible spaces for presenting contemporary art, was a revelation for both the city and the resident architectural community.

“Their brilliant and beautiful design of the ICA was a harbinger of change. Edgy, bold and breathtaking, it transformed the landscape for contemporary art and culture in Boston and for the artists, art and ideas of our time,” Medvedow has said.