

West Cork Arts Centre - Architectural Design Competition.



Diagram1. Concept sketch illustrating idea of a 'glass lantern' welcoming people to the building and creating a feeling of openness.

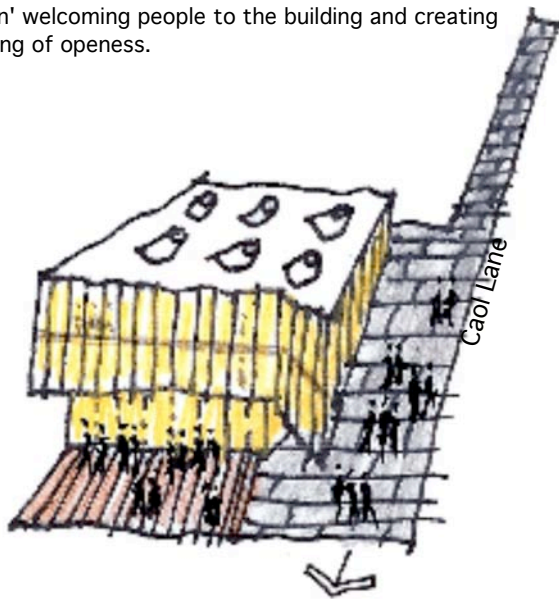


Diagram2. Concept sketch illustrating idea creating a new pedestrian route: 'Caol Lane' to connect Townsend Street and the new Arts Centre and also Main Street.

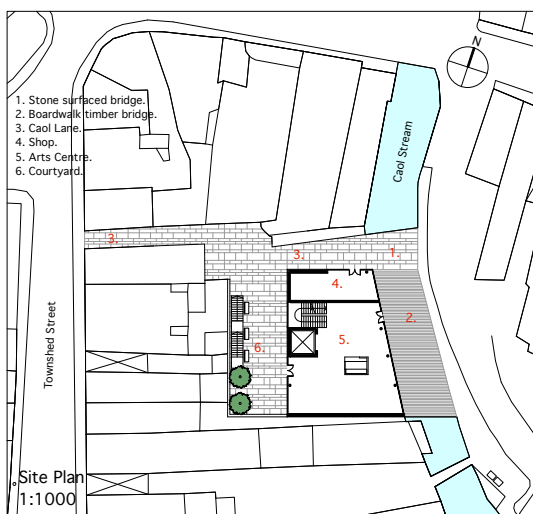


Diagram3. Site plan illustrating placement of building to form a new urban landscape with a new courtyard to the rear and the newly created 'Caol Lane' connecting Townsend Street to the Arts Centre and Main Street to the north.

The scheme aims to create an iconic landmark in the town of Skibbereen, which will promote the Arts and draw people to the building.

The building is conceived as a type of beacon, composed of a translucent glass lantern, which sits on a base that is open and inviting.

The positioning of the building on the site creates new urban spaces, with a courtyard to the rear and a new lane running along the northern part of the site. This new 'Caol Lane' forms a pedestrian connection between Townsend Street and the new Arts centre and Main Street.

At ground floor level the building can be approached from either the courtyard side or across a new boardwalk, which spans the Caol stream below. The foyer space at ground level is open and light and connects with Gallery 1, which is also open plan to allow for flexibility of use. A small coffee servery is located at this level and seating is possible both inside the building and outside, either in the courtyard or on the boardwalk. The rear courtyard could also serve as an extension of the gallery space or could be used as a sculpture courtyard, recalling the courtyard at the Bcelona Pavillion by Mies Van de Rohe. The commercial space is located on the north eastern portion of the ground floor plan and has good visibility from the Caol stream bridge and also the newly created Caol Lane.

Deliveries of large art works and materials are accommodated by a large goods lift, which connects to all floors in the building, including the artists studios, located at first floor level. This lift is also shared by passengers.

A performance space seating 120-140 persons is located at basement level. The seating is tiered and can be folded away against the eastern wall of the space, allowing the room to be used for other functions or 'in the round' performances. At this level there is a storage room and a workshop for the construction of frames, plinths, rostrums, etc.

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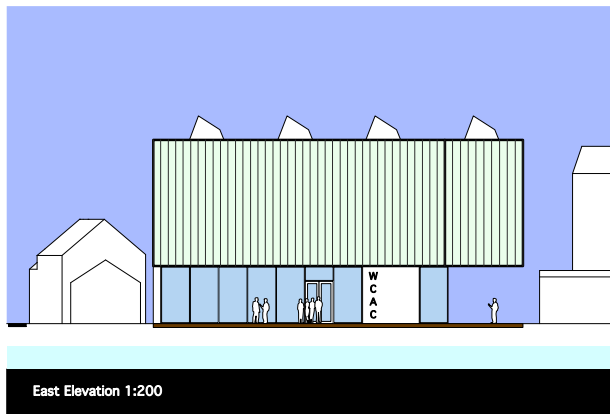


Diagram 4. Front elevation of building to Caol Stream. The U-glass facade on the two upper levels attempts to create an idea of an illuminated 'lantern'.

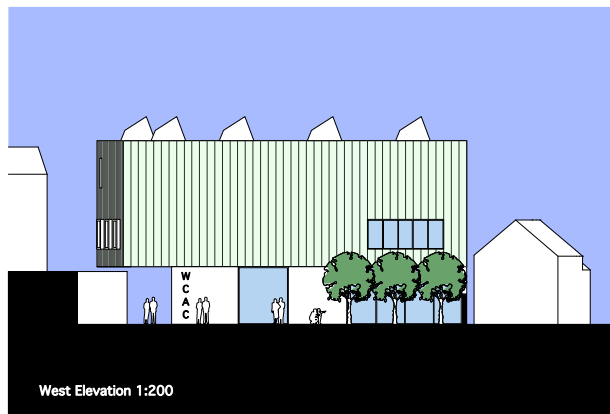


Diagram 5. Rear elevation of building to Courtyard.

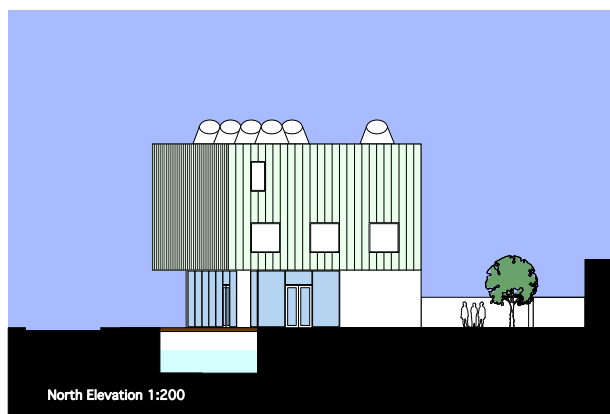


Diagram 6. North elevation of building to the newly created 'Caol Lane'.

The second gallery is located at first floor level and is also open plan for flexibility & adaptability. The entire eastern elevation of this room is made of u-glass which allows diffuse light into the gallery. There is also the possibility of blackout, with the provision of a mechanical roller blind inside the glass. It is also possible to project images onto the glass which could be read from outside or inside the building. The open plan administration area is situated at the rear, with the related Directors office and small meeting space located on the second floor above.

The three Artists studios are located on first floor level and have good access to the goods and passenger lift for the transportation of even large materials. Each of the three artists studios have a large north facing window to allow plenty of diffuse northern light into the studio space. These studio spaces are located adjacent to the gallery space and it is possible that members of the public could view the studios at certain times, giving an insight into the process of making Art.

The dance studio is located on the top floor of the building and has good diffuse light through the U-glass facade in addition to light and views through the overhead roof lights or 'light cannons'. The floor of the studio is a timber 'sprung' floor. Also located at this level is the Community workspace and the Directors office, which has a small meeting space.

The floor to ceiling heights are 3.8m throughout the building, allowing adequate clearance for large format art works and creating a feeling of spaciousness.

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Diagram 7. Section through building showing performance area at basement level. Foyer is open to both courtyard and boardwalk bridge creating strong urban relationships.

The structure of the building is predominantly concrete, with certain sections utilising cantilevered beams in order to carry the projecting upper floors on the eastern and northern sides of the building. Exposed GGBS concrete is used as a finish both internally and externally. The 'glass lantern' is effected by using U'glass panels, which are placed back to back and fixed as an elevational finish around the top two floors of the building. The geometry of the eastern elevation is informed by the Caol stream and the cranked elevation reflects the curvature of the stream and signals the new Caol Lane route.

Schedule of Principal Areas:

Gallery I:	90 m2
Gallery II:	110m2
Foyer:	90m2
Performance Space:	90m2
Workspace:	70m2
Dance Studio:	84m2
Changing room/ Cloakroom:	30m2
Artists Studio spaces:	85m2
Administration office:	57m2
Directors office:	29m2
Commercial Space:	<u>43m2</u>
	778m2



Diagram 8. Front of building at night showing idea of illuminated lantern.



Diagram 9. Aerial view of building in urban context