

aljira – a center for contemporary art

Aljira, an important part of Newark's surprisingly vital art community, commissioned Kiss + Cathcart to design its new 6000 sf storefront space opposite the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Aljira's program required flexible galleries for contemporary art and performance, offices, a graphic design studio, educational areas, storage, and a small retail shop. Kiss + Cathcart's design allowed these functions to overlap to give a sense of vital creative activity and optimized the use of space.

Much of the previous construction was reused, including terrazzo and tile floors, plaster ornaments, and skylight openings previously covered over. New work was mostly simple partitions and steel-framed mezzanines. An elevated gallery enclosed in glass provides a simple but remarkable exclamation point for Aljira's space.

The Client:

Aljira

The Team:

Kiss + Cathcart, Architects

Project Details:

\$700,000

3,500 sf

Phase I completed 2003

