

**FIRSTSITE:NEWSITE, VISUAL ARTS FACILITY**  
Colchester, United Kingdom

RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS



As the first effort in the revitalization of Colchester's historic St. Botolph's Quarter, firstsite:newsite anchors the long-term development plan of an under-utilized district. Rafael Viñoly Architects' design for this new visual arts facility expands on the project brief, which would have destroyed the historic character of St. Anne's Street by introducing an institutional scale within the small grain of

a historic community strip. Once the construction site was moved eastward at the center of the block, the crescent-shaped museum could sit within new parkland while simultaneously maintaining and showcasing local heritage sites, including early Roman ruins. The museum's bold and bright form is intended to draw visitors to participate in the art facility programs.

April 2016

**FACTS + FIGURES**

**Completion**  
2011

*Architectural Record*, "Opening for Viñoly's Controversial U.K. Arts Center, firstsite," September 2011

**Size**  
3,800 gsm

**Awards**

The American Architecture Award, The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Design and the Chicago Athenaeum, 2013  
Silver Award of Merit, Design Awards, Society of American Registered Architects New York, 2013  
Citation, AIA New York State, 2013

**Media Coverage**

*Arch Daily*, "firstsite:newsite," December 2011  
*Architects' Journal*, "firstsite, Colchester, Essex," October 2011  
*Art & Architecture*, "firstsite, Colchester," September 2011

**Client**

Colchester Borough Council

**Consultants**

*MEP Engineer*  
Arup

*Structural Engineer*

AKT II

*Landscape Architect*

GROSS MAX  
Kinnear Landscape Architects

*Contractor*

Banner Holdings Ltd.  
Mace

**New York**  
50 Vandam Street  
New York, NY 10013  
+1 212 924 5060

**London**  
11-29 Fashion Street  
London, E1 6PX  
+44 (0) 20 8206 6200

**New Business + General Inquiries**

Andrea Lamberti  
alamberti@rvapc.com

**Media Inquiries**

Raymond Lee  
rlee@rvapc.com

[www.rvapc.com](http://www.rvapc.com)



**FIRSTSITE:NEWSITE, VISUAL ARTS FACILITY**  
Colchester, United Kingdom

RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS

