

**SA**  
SINGAPORE ARCHITECT

“  
IN  
THE  
END,  
NOBODY  
CAN  
TELL  
YOU  
WHAT  
TO  
DO.  
”

—WILLIAM S. W. LIM

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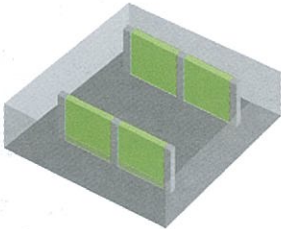


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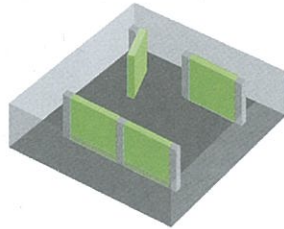
## CURATED SPACE FOR ART FOST Gallery Interiors by Ministry of Design

TEXT BY CHRISTINE LIEW

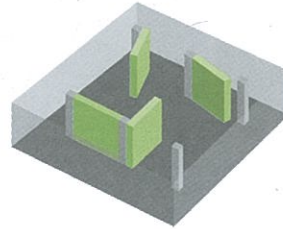
STATIC POSITIONS



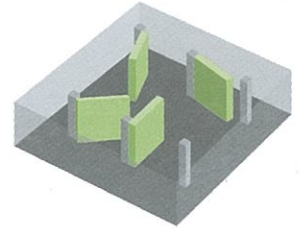
FLEXIBLE OPTION 1



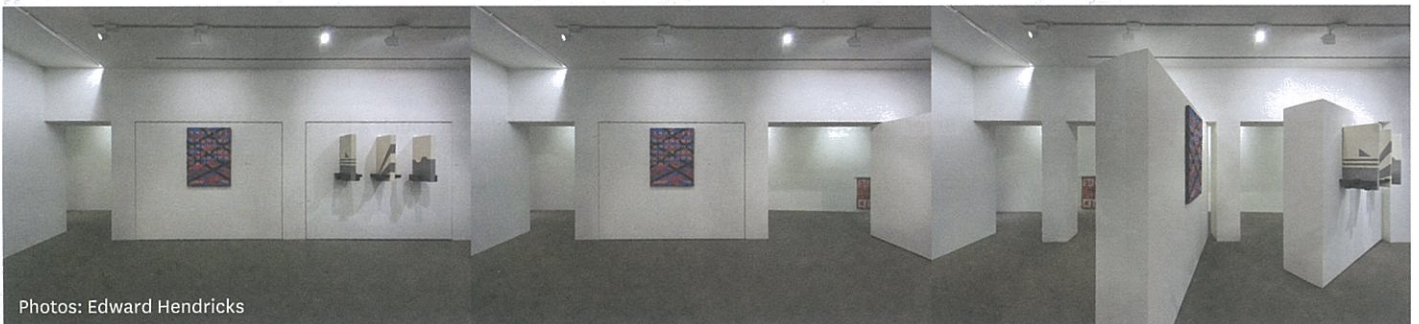
FLEXIBLE OPTION 2



FLEXIBLE OPTION 3



images: Ministry of Design Pte Ltd



Photos: Edward Hendricks

One of the 15 galleries housed at Singapore's newest contemporary art space Gillman Barracks, FOST Gallery has the distinction of being the only gallery from Singapore and taking a chance with Ministry of Design's bold and innovative solution for exhibition design. Completed in September 2012, the Gallery's transformable interiors assume a life and character of their own, holding their own position in the Gallery in the background of the exhibited art works.

From the outset, FOST Gallery Owner Stephanie Fong wanted a contemporary space that would mark a distinct departure from the colonial building's rich architecture and history. Without detracting from and rather elevating the art, the striking white, blank, and clean face of the interiors first poses a strong contradiction to the surroundings and second encourages visitors to empty any existing preconceptions they might have and step in with a curious and open mind.

As an extension of the Gallery's function to curate art, the flexible exhibition space has been conceptualised as physical space for curation, described by the architects as "curated for constant change." An innovative, flexible system of four pivoting two-by-three-metre walls sets up a simple and elegant mechanism for the owners to orchestrate various scenographies in the Gallery to their will and

judgement. Anchored by six columns, the walls can be pivoted up to right angles to semi-enclose a central bigger space or partition several smaller, cosier areas, comfortably accommodating various sizes and mediums of art and various methods of installation.

Mobile furniture was developed to add another focus to the design and as instruments to alter the spaces. One of the first items encountered, the reception desk was customised to continue the geometry and pristine environment of the interiors. Designed to interlock seamlessly with the columns, its inner surfaces reveal a copper finish, alluding to the Gallery's corporate colour, the only subtle expression of the Gallery's identity on its design.

An unexpected recessed entrance leads to the bright interiors by framing a dark passage and strong views into the Gallery—and in so doing dissociates itself and its artworks from the colonial architecture and history it has inherited.

To open on April 5, 2013, FOST Gallery will be presenting a solo exhibition by Wyn-Lyn Tan, *Silence On a Milk Mountain*, including paintings and video installations created during her residency at The Arctic Circle in 2011. The show will run until June 2. ▀



Photos: Edward Hendricks