

photographic essay / PATRICK REYNOLDS

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## KRTA's Conference Centre Building, 22 Symonds Street, Auckland



Fig. 1 The complex roof forms, with the Architecture and Planning Library in the foreground. It sits back-to-back with the Design Theatre (under the turret), with the Dean's Office to its left (south), and the Conference Centre Lecture Theatre and so-called Flat Floor Space to the right (north). Construction of a new building for the Faculty of Engineering is underway.

In 2018, the University of Auckland's School of Architecture and Planning commissioned Patrick Reynolds to photograph the University's Conference Centre Building, ahead of its likely demolition in 2019 or 2020. The University also announced, in mid-2018, that it would be closing the three branch libraries of the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries and consolidating their collections into the General Library Building on Alfred Street. The three are Architecture and Planning; Music and Dance; and Fine Arts. As the Conference Centre Building is home to the Architecture and Planning Library, this photographic essay records the library ahead of the relocation of its collections, as well as the building ahead of its demolition. Bill McKay has discussed the design and construction of the building in the School's centennial history publication (2017: 79–81, 93–97). Here it suffices to say that both the high-rise Architecture and Planning Building at 26 Symonds Street, and its low-rise wing, the Conference Centre Building at 22 Symonds Street, were designed by Kingston Reynolds Thom & Allardice