

## Curate.

5A GORE STREET, BRITOMART, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

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IN THE MIDST OF the mad crush of people that infiltrated downtown Auckland for the opening of the Rugby World Cup, a new store stood serenely by, offering a small dose of calm within the chaos. Curate is a new retail space that features more than a dozen of New Zealand's top fashion labels, plus accessories, jewellery and art.

Clad in perforated black steel the shop's shell glows at night making it something of a beacon in the middle of Britomart. This exterior box was originally designed by Cheshire Architects, with Wellington-based Assembly Architects also working on the project. Inside, interior designer Olivia Harper from Material Creative has injected a rustic feeling into the slick space. Wool honeycomb-like lights by Rebecca Asquith hang above an upholstered tin basin while in another area vintage Multipl chairs from The Vitrine sit alongside old green filing cabinets. The generosity of the space and the clean, architectural finishes of the building mean that these rustic touches don't clutter the room, but add texture and warmth. The defining element of the store are the timber racks that suspend with ropes from the ceiling creating clearly articulated areas for different brands. Currently, the range of labels on show include Sylvester, Sabatini, Stolen Girlfriends Club, Cybèle, Taylor, TK and many more. LYN ROSS