



COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna



Cork Courthouse

Teach Cúirte Chorcaí



The refurbishment of Cork Courthouse.
Athchóiriú Teach Cúirte Chorcaí

CORK CITY AND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The present Cork City and County Courthouse was built in 1895 and stands on the site of the original 1836 Courthouse designed by the Pain Bros. which was destroyed by fire in 1891. A competition was subsequently instigated by the Corporation of Cork and the Commissioners, in which there was a condition requiring the preservation of the portico and façade on Washington Street, which was all that remained intact after the fire. The winning scheme was completed in 1895. Until the current contract started in April 2003, the building had remained largely unaltered since that time.

Design Strategy

The 1895 building was designed with an open courtyard at its centre, in which the bar room was located, providing the barristers immediate access to the two main courtrooms. By removing the old bar room and glazing over the courtyard at roof level, natural light has been introduced into the building at all levels. A new fire-rated glass floor was inserted at first floor level in this zone (the atrium) creating an assembly area which links the two main courtrooms. This new enclosed atrium is lined with the existing glazed bricks and has a new fully glazed roof supported by coffered glass beams, which also serve as acoustic baffles.

Lowering the ground floor level of the whole building by over 2 feet has greatly increased the ceiling height throughout this level, effectively adding an extra floor to the building. This enabled the addition of three new courtrooms, ten consultation rooms, a family law office and barristers/ solicitors rooms at the existing upper levels, without compromising any of the existing four courtrooms in the building.

The ground floor now includes two new stone-lined entrances on either side of the portico steps, leading to a central foyer, flanked by new reception/security facilities. A new stone staircase rises from the foyer accommodating lifts and toilets at all 3 levels. The ground floor now provides spacious, well-lit and well ventilated offices and facilities for the court staff, as well as a victim support suite with video link room.

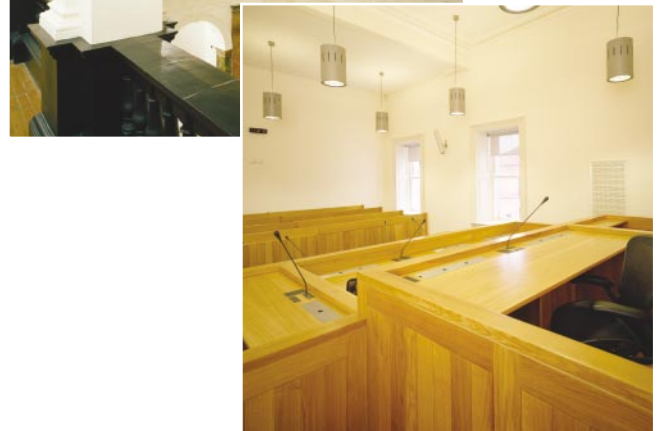
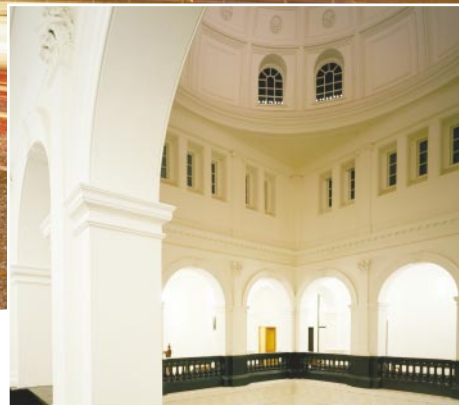
Video Conferencing

All Courts now have Voice Enhancement and Digital Audio Recording facilities and the three main Jury Courts are fitted out with full Audio Visual and Video Conferencing systems, one of which also includes Evidence Presentation.

There are two new prisoner remand areas on the ground floor, with 5 cells in total, together with two secure interview rooms. These are located under the two main courtrooms and are linked by a new tunnel. During excavations, the original oak piles and foundations of both the 1836 Courthouse and its late Victorian replacement were uncovered and preserved.

Wherever possible, the original architecture of the building has been retained and carefully restored. This included all courtroom furniture, upholstery, baldachinni over the Judge's podia, flooring, fireplaces, cornices, doors, architraves, skirtings and particularly the stone, mosaic, terrazzo and decorative plaster finishes under the dome in the entrance hall. The dome itself has been comprehensively restored, re-fenestrated and re-clad externally in copper.

Completion on the project was achieved in 20 months, coinciding with the start of Cork's reign as European City of Culture for 2005 and ensuring the building's future as one of the City's finest and most enduring assets.





TEACH CÚIRTE CHATHAIR AGUS CHONTAE CHORCAÍ

Tógadh Teach Cúirte Chathair agus Chontae Chorcaí na haimsire seo i 1895 agus seasann sé ar shuíomh an chéad Tí Cúirte de 1836, a bhí deartha ag na Deartháireacha Pain agus a scríosadh i dtine i 1891. Ina dhiaidh sin thosaigh Bardas Chorcaí agus na Coimisinéirí comórtas, ina raibh coinníoll gur ghá an póirse agus an aghaidh ar Shráid Washington, a fágadh slán tar éis na tine, a chaomhnú. Críochnaíodh scéim an bhuaiteora i 1895. Go dtí gur thosaíodh an conradh reatha in Aibreán 2003, fágadh an foirgneamh gan mórán athraithe ón uair sin.

Straitéis Deartha

Bhí an foirgneamh 1895 deartha le clós oscailte i lár, ina raibh an seomra barra lonnaithe, ag soláthar rochtain láithreach chuig na dá phríomh sheomra cúirte. Tugadh tús áite don solas nádúrtha go domhain i gcroí an fhoirgnimh ag gach leibhéal toisc gur baineadh an sean-bharra agus gloiníodh thar an gclós ag leibhéal an dín. Cuireadh urlár gloine nua de chaighdeán dódhíonach ar leibhéal a haon sa chríos seo (an t-aitriam) ag cruthú limistéar dálach a cheanglaíonn an dá phríomh sheomra cúirte. Tá líne de na brící gloine eiseacha ar an aitriam nua agus tá sé faoi chlúdach atá á thacú le bíomaí gloine ciste, a bhíonn mar sciatha fuaimiúla freisin.

Trí leibhéal urlár na talún den fhoirgneamh uile a laghdú faoi níos mó ná 2 troigh, méadaíodh airde na síleála go mór ar fud an leibhéil sin, ag cur urlár breise leis an bhfoirgneamh mar sin. Chumasáigh sé sin trí sheomra cúirte nua breise, deich seomra comhairleora, oifig do lucht dlí teaghlaigh agus seomraí na n-abhcóidí/na n-aturnaetha ag na leibhéil uachtaracha eiseacha, gan na ceithre seomraí cúirte san fhoirgneamh a chomhréiteach.

Cuimsíonn urlár na talún dhá bhealach isteach nua línithe i clocha ar gach taobh de na céimeanna póirse, ag leanúint ar an bhforhalla lárnach, ag baint le háiseanna nua fáilteora/slándála. Ardaíonn staighre ón bhforhalla ag freastal ar ardaitheoirí agus leithris ar gach ceann de na 3 leibhéil. Tá oifigí agus áiseanna lán de sholas agus análach le fáil do fhoireann na cúirte ar urlár na talún, chomh maith le sraith le haghaidh tacaíochta na n-íobartach le seomra físchomhdhála.

Físchomhdhála Iomlána

Tá áiseanna Leasaithe Ghutha agus Taifeadta Digiteach Fuaime i ngach cúirt agus tá córais Chlosamhairc agus Físchomhdhála iomlána le fáil sna trí phríomh Chúirteanna Giúiré, ceann a chuimsíonn Cur i láthair Fianaise.

Tá dhá limistéar athchuir príosúnaigh nua ar urlár na talún, le cúig chillín san iomlán, chomh maith le dhá sheomra agallaimh daingne. Tá siad seo lonnaithe faoin dá phríomh sheomra cúirte, agus tá siad ceangailte trí thollán nua. I rith na tochailte, nochtadh agus caomhnaíodh na cruacha daracha bunúsacha agus na bunchlocha den Teach Cúirte 1836 agus a ionadaíocht Vichteoiriach araon.

Pé áit ab fhéidir, coimeádadh agus athchóiríodh go cúramach an ailtireacht bhunúsach den fhoirgneamh. Cuireann sé san áireamh gach píosa de throsacán an tí chúirte, cumhdach, baldachinni thar phóidiam an bhreithimh, urlár, tinteáin, coirnis, doirse, fordorais, cláir sciorta, agus go háirithe an cloch, mósáic, terrazzo agus an críochnú plástair maisiúla faoin gcruinneachán san fhorhalla. Tá an cruinneachán féin athchóirithe go lán, fuinneoga ath-oscailte agus ath-ghléasta go himeachtracha i gcopar.

Éiríodh le críochnú ar an dtionscnamh laistigh de 20 mí, ag comhtharlú le tosach réimeas Chorcaigh mar Phríomhchathair Chultúir na hEorpa 2005 agus ag cinntiú todhchaí an fhoirgnimh mar cheann de na háirgí is deise agus is acmhainní sa Chathair.



COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna

Design Team:

Architects :
*Cork City Council Architect's
Department.*

Civil/Structural
Engineers :
Horgan Lynch.

Quantity Surveyors :
Bruce Shaw Partnership.

Building Services
Consultants :
Arup Consulting Engineers.

Main Contractor :
Rohcon.

Mechanical & Electrical
Sub-Contractor :
I. I. F. Ltd.

Consultant Project
Managers :
*Interactive Project
Managers Ltd.*

Judges

*His Honour
Judge Patrick Moran.*
(Judge of the Circuit Court).

*His Honour
Judge Brian Curtin.*
(Judge of the Circuit Court).

*His Honour Judge
Sean O'Donnabhain.*
(Judge of the Circuit Court).

*His Honour Judge
James O'Donohoe.*
(Judge of the Circuit Court).

Court Officials:

County Registrar :
Ms. Deirdre O'Mahony.
Tel: 021 – 4270508.
Fax: 021 – 4273618.

Chief Clerk :
Ms. Marian Quinn.
Tel: 021 – 4270508.
Fax: 021 – 4273618.

Southern Regional Manager :

Mr. Eamonn Kiely.
Tel: 021 – 4270542.
Fax: 021 – 4222819.

Foireann Deartha:

Ailtirí :
*Roinn Ailtirí Chomhairle
Cathrach Chorcaí.*

Innealtóirí
Sibhialta/Struchtúracha :
Horgan Lynch.

Suirbhéirí Cainníochta :
Bruce Shaw Partnership.

Comhairleoirí do
Sheirbhísí Foirgníochta :
Arup Consulting Engineers.

Príomh Chonraitheoir :
Rohcon.

Fo-Chonraitheoir
Meicniúil & Leictreach :
I. I. F. Ltd.

Bainisteoirí Tionscadail
Comhairleacha :
*Interactive Project
Managers Ltd.*

Breithiúna :

*An Breitheamh
Onórach Patrick Moran.*
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Cuarda).

*An Breitheamh
Onórach Brian Curtin.*
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Cuarda).

*An Breitheamh Onórach
Seán O'Donnabhain.*
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Cuarda).

*An Breitheamh Onórach
James O'Donohoe.*
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Cuarda).

Oifigigh Chúirte :

Cláraitheoir Contae :
Deirdre O'Mahony.
Guthán: 021 – 4270508.
Facs: 021 – 4273618.

Príomh Chléireach :
Marian Quinn.
Guthán: 021 – 4270508.
Facs: 021 – 4273618.

Bainisteoir Réigiúin an Deiscirt :

Eamonn Kiely.
Guthán: 021 – 4270542.
Facs: 021 – 4222819.

Produced by the Courts Service Information Office on the occasion of the official opening of the refurbished courthouse by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell T.D. on Saturday the 26th day of February 2005.

Curtha ar fáil ag Oifig Eolais na Seirbhíse Cúirteanna ar ócáid na hoscailte oifigiúil den teach cúirte athchóirithe ag an Aire Dí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dí, an t-Uasal Michael Mc Dowell T.D., Dé Sathairn an 26ú Feabhra 2005.