The development of the courthouse on Anglesea St. comprises an extension to the rear of the former Cork Model School. The extension houses the workings of the courthouse; courtrooms, custodial suite, jury rooms and judges' accommodation. The Model School itself houses the courthouse’s administrative functions.

The Model School refurbishment works reinstate the original school layout. The large tall-ceiling former classrooms are now used as open plan offices and rooms for staff training. In these rooms, particular attention was paid to refurbishing the elegant roof trusses. Externally the key elements of the restoration were the brickwork, stonework, roof-slating and leadwork. Extensive investigation was needed to source exact matches for repairs to these elements. The restoration of the Model School tower proved to be a particular challenge given its height and also the level of stone and brick detail to be refurbished. The standard of workmanship in the restoration is a testament to the skill and commitment of the design and construction teams.
The new extension is in the form of a sculpted block of limestone whose design reflects the stature of the buildings civic function. It is clad in limestone selected from a quarry in Lecarrow in Co. Roscommon and this matches the pale grey colour of Cork limestone. The building respects the shape and pattern of the surrounding streetscape and also the heights of the Model School. For example, the majority of the building is no taller than the Model School tower. A new landscaped courtyard separates the new extension from the Model School.

The new complex of buildings is about respecting our built heritage exemplified in the Model School and contrasting this with a modern building sculpted from Irish limestone to provide a modern courthouse for Cork City.

History of the building
The Irish Board of National Educaion established the Model School for Cork in 1864. The following is an extract from Illustrated London News Vol. XLVII 1865.

'The building, shown in one of our illustrations, was commenced in January, 1864, and finished this summer. The architect was Mr. E. T. Owen, and the work, according to his designs, was done by Mr. James Delvin, the contractor; Mr. P. Lynch being clerk of the works. The style of architecture is Italian, the materials are red and black bricks, with Portland stone dressings and sculptured capitals and limestone columns.

The interior is divided into three compartments—namely, male, female, and infant schools—which are distinctly separated from each other. The entire length of the front line of the building is 291 ft., exclusive of yards or railings.

A tower 60 ft. high rises in the centre, the upper story of which is intended as an observatory for the advanced classes of the male department.

The boys' school is 60 ft. long by 30 ft. wide; the girls', 40 ft. by 30 ft. There is a maritime school, 40 ft. by 25 ft., with four class-rooms attached, with lavatory, cap-room, and coatroom.

The infants' school is 48 ft. long by 25 ft. wide, with one class-room, lavatory, cloak and bonnet room.

To each school-room are attached large, airy sheds, with spacious playgrounds and every necessary accommodation.'