



COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna



Ballyshannon Courthouse

Teach Cúirte Bhéal Átha Seanaidh



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BALLYSHANNON COURTHOUSE

Scope of the project

The brief for this project meant that the architect was challenged with providing both a new courthouse and garda station on adjacent sites for Ballyshannon and the surrounding environs. The existing temporary court accommodation was not suitable for court sittings and the provision of the new site has enabled the Courts Service to provide a new courthouse to meet modern-day requirements. Although both buildings use a similar architectural language, the courthouse and garda station are both stand alone buildings in their own right.

The courthouse and garda station sites are on the outskirts of the town. Each of the buildings on the site is clearly visible from both approaches along the Bundoran road. The buildings have a commanding presence. Although eye-catching, the scale of the courthouse ensures that it is not obtrusive and allows it to become an inherent part of its surroundings.

The function of the buildings meant that there were complex security requirements. The buildings' layout and orientation on site maximise the security requirements. The buildings are positioned to front onto an open space within the site providing a suitable civic space.

The works carried out

The courthouse is a modern contemporary structure. The materials used were of a high specification both internally and externally resulting in a pristine finish emanating prestige. It reflects a subtle formality one would expect from an important civic facility. External elements of the building are detailed in oak to add warmth to the facade. The roof is a zinc standing seam roof. A wall hugs the front of the building leading to the main entrance in a protective curve. There is a marble finish to the expanse of floor in the foyer. A courtroom, consultation facilities, judge's chambers, secure holding cell accommodation for prisoners with separate access and accommodation for the legal profession are among the new facilities provided.

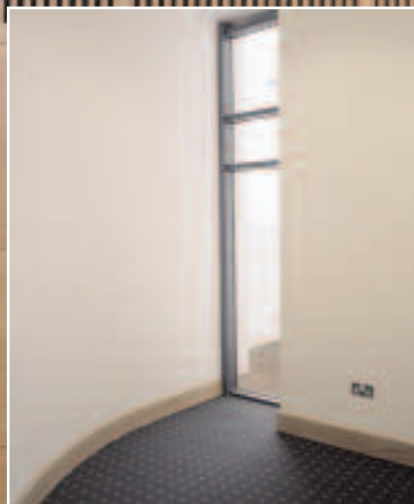
Particular attention was paid to the courtroom itself, and again security issues dictated the layout of the room and the entrances to it. Natural light is provided by a large roof light that spans along one side of the room. This light source has an electronically controlled louver so that the judge can alter the light level in the room for comfort. Four large feature uplighters suspended from the ceiling provide plenty of artificial light to the room. All four walls are panelled with European oak. The rear wall incorporates absorbent panels to improve the courtroom acoustics. The furniture is also constructed of European oak, creating a coherent interior which has a modern bright appearance yet is restrained in keeping with the building's function.

There is an extensive amount of electrical work involved in the courtroom, including microphone system and an induction loop hearing system. All the electronic equipment has been incorporated into the building fabric.

Artwork

The artwork in the reception area and on the external wall refers to one of the earliest accounts of 'judgment' in Ireland. The artist has used the old Irish text of this legend on the bronze cast externally with the English translation displayed on the 21st century electronic panel within the foyer.

The building is a valuable addition to the community and will remain valid and functional for many decades to come.





TEACH CÚIRTE BHÉAL ÁTHA SEANAIDH,

Scóip an tionscadail

Chiallaigh an mionteagasc don tionscadal seo go raibh an dúshlán roimh an Ailtire de stáisiún garda agus teach cúirte nua araon a sholáthar do Bhéal Átha Seanaidh agus na ceantair máguaird. Ní raibh an chóiríocht chúirte sealadach a bhí ann oiriúnach do shuíonna cúirte agus cuireann an suíomh nua ar chumas na Seirbhíse Cúirteanna teach cúirte nua a sholáthar chun riachtanais an lae inniu a chomhlíonadh.

Tá suíomh an tí cúirte agus an stáisiún gharda ar imeall an bhaile. Tá an dá fhoirgneamh ar an suíomh le feiceáil go soiléir ón dá bhealach chuige ar bhóthar Bhun Dobhráin. Tá láithreach cheannasach ag na foirgnimh. Cé go bhfuil sé cuidsúileach, cinntíonn scála an tí chúirte nach bhfuil sé starrach agus ligeann sé dó a bheith mar chuid bhunúsach den áit mórthimpeall.

Toisc feidhm an fhoirgnimh bhí riachtanais slándála casta aige. Tá na riachtanais slándála tugtha go dtí an t-uasleibhéal ag leagan amach agus treoshuíomh an fhoirgnimh. Tá siad deartha i dtreo is go bhfuil spás oscailte os comhair aghaidh na bhfoirgneamh a sholáthraíonn spás cathartha oiriúnach.

An obair déanta

Is struchtúr comhaimseartha nua-aoiseach é an teach cúirte. Bhí na hábhair a úsáideadh, go himmheánach agus go seachtrach araon, de shonraíocht ard a thug críochnúlacht chianaosta a eislíonn oirircis. Léiríonn sé an fhoirmiúlacht chaol a bhfeifí ag súil le ó shaoaráid chathartha thábhacht. Tá mionmhaisiú darach ar ghnéithe seachtracha den fhoirgneamh chun teocht a chur lena haghaidh. Is díon sinc séama seasta é an díon. Tá ball i ngar do aghaidh an fhoirgnimh ag dul suas go dtí an príomhdhoras i gcuairt cosantach. Tá críoch marmair ar an réiléis urláir san fhorhalla. Bhí seomra cúirte, áiseanna comhairlithe, dlísheomraí na mbreitheamh, cóiríocht i bhfoirm cillín coinneála daingean do phríosúnaigh le rochtain ar leith, agus lóistín don lucht dlí mar chuid de na saoráidí nua soláthartha.

Tugadh aird ar leith don seomra cúirte féin, agus arís b'iad na saincheisteanna slándála a dheachtaigh leagan amach an tseomra agus na bealaí isteach chuige. Tá solas nádúrtha soláthartha trí sholas mór sa dhíon a leathnaíonn thar taobh amháin den seomra. Tá lata leictreonach ag an bhfoinse solais seo i dtreo is gur féidir leis an mbreitheamh leibhéal solais an tseomra a athrú ar mhaith le compord. Tugann ceithre soilse a lonraíonn aníos ag crochadh ón síleáil a dhóthain solais saorga don seomra chomh maith. Tá painéaladh darach Eorpach ar na ceithre ballaí. Tá painéil súiteacha ionchorpraithe sa chúlbhalla chun fuaimíocht an tseomra cúirte a fheabhsú. Tá an troscán déanta de dhair Eorpach chomh maith, ag cruthú taobh istigh comhleanúnach le cuma geal nua-aoiseach air ach fós ag cur le feidhm an fhoirgnimh.

Tá a lán oibre leictreach i gceist sa seomra cúirte, lena n-áirítear córas micreafóin agus córas éisteachta lúibe insealbhaithe. Tá an trealamh leictreonach go léir ionchorpraithe i bhfabraic an fhoirgnimh.

Obair Ealaíne

Tagraíonn an obair ealaíne san áit fháiltithe agus ar an mballa seachtrach do cheann de na cuntais is luaithe de “bhreithiúnas” in Éirinn. Bhain an tEalaíontóir úsáid as an seantéacs Gaeilge den dhíonscéal seo ar an teilgean cré-umha go seachtrach leis an aistriúchán Béarla le feiceáil ar phainéal leictreonach na 21ú aoise laistigh den fhorhalla.

Is suimiú luachmhar é an foirgneamh seo don phobal agus fanfaidh sé bailí agus i feidhm ar feadh na déaga amach romhainn.



COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna

Design Team:

Architects :
HMD Architects Ltd.

Civil/Structural
Engineers :
Concannon Healy Heffernan.

Quantity Surveyors :
Sammon Quantity Surveyors

Building Services
Consultants :
Patrick Mc Caul
Environmental Consulting
Engineers

Main Contractor :
Tracey Brothers Ltd.

Mechanical Sub-Contractor :
Walsh Mechanical
Engineering Ltd.

Electrical Sub-Contractor :
Tim Kelly Electrical
Contractors Ltd.

Judges:

Vacant
(Judge of the Circuit Court).

Judge John O' Donnell
(Judge of the District Court).

Court Officials:

County Registrar :
Ms. Geraldine O' Connor
Tel: 074 9128711
Fax: 074 9121097

Chief Clerk :
Ms. Annie Mc Ginley
Tel: 074 9128711
Fax: 074 9121097

District Court Clerk:
Mr. Daniel J. O' Grady
Tel: 074 9721532
Fax: 074 9721947

Regional Manager :

Ms. Olive Caulfield
Tel: 047 38100
Fax: 047 38101

Foireann Dearthá:

Ailtirí :
HMD Architects Ltd.

Innealtóirí
Sibhialta/Struchtúra: :
Concannon Healy Heffernan.

Suirbhéirí Cainníochta :
Sammon Quantity Surveyors

Comhairleoirí do
Sheirbhísí Foirgníochta :
Patrick Mc Caul
Environmental Consulting
Engineers

Príomh Chonraitheoir :
Tracey Brothers Ltd.

Fo-Chonraitheoir Meicniúil:
Walsh Mechanical
Engineering Ltd.

Fo-Chonraitheoir Leictreach:
Tim Kelly Electrical
Contractors Ltd.

Breithiúna :

Folamh
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Cuarda).

Judge John O' Donnell
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Dúiche).

Oifigigh Chúirte :

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Produced by the Courts Service Information Office on the occasion of the official opening of the courthouse by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell T.D. on Monday the 17th day of October 2005.

Curtha ar fáil ag Oifig Eolais na Seirbhíse Cúirteanna ar ócáid na hoscailte oifigiúil den teach cúirte ag an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí, an t-Uasal Michael Mc Dowell T.D., Dé Lún an 17ú Deireadh Fómhair 2005.