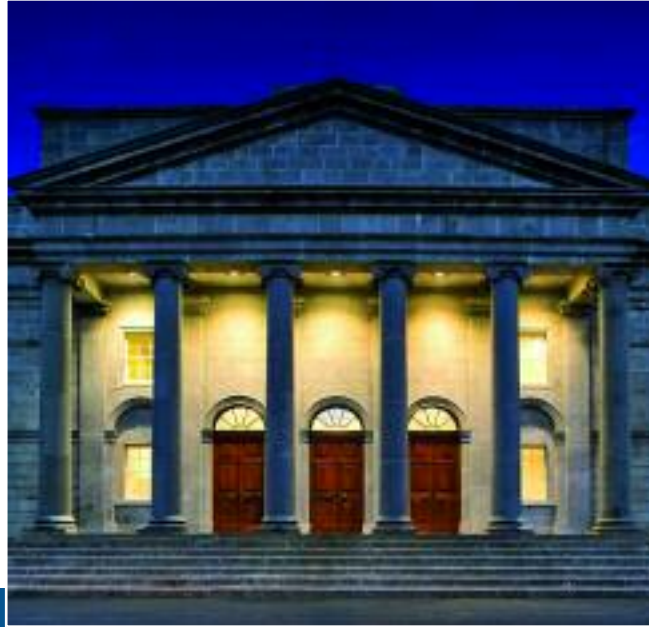




COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna



Tullamore Courthouse

Teach Cúirte Thulach Mór



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TULLAMORE COURTHOUSE

Historical background

The recently completed works represent the third major building project at the courthouse. A competition for a new courthouse in Tullamore was held in 1832. The competition was won by John Benjamin Keane architect. The courthouse was opened in 1835. The first meeting of 'Kings County' Council was held in the building in 1899. Kings County Council changed its name to Offaly County Council in June 1920. The building was burned to its masonry shell in July 1922. Refurbishment works were undertaken in 1925-1927. The architect for these works was T. F. McNamara. The building was shared by the Courts and the County Council until 2002 when Offaly County Council moved to new offices nearby. This presented the opportunity to refurbish the building.

The challenge was to respect and conserve the character of the existing building by making the minimum intervention necessary in conservation terms, whilst seeking to meet the functional requirements of a courthouse with the necessary security, universal access, fire safety and adequate accommodation for all court users. The detailed brief for the courthouse was compiled following an extensive consultation process with the judiciary, staff and all court users. Detailed historical research of the building's architectural, legal and social history was undertaken.

Refurbishment and extension project

The old building presented significant challenges in respect of security and accessibility. The new building provides significantly more accommodation and facilities than were available in the old building and allows for universal access. The accommodation includes: three courtrooms with the latest technology, judges chambers, a jury suite, a family law suite, a victim support suite, a video evidence suite, and 12 consultation/waiting rooms. A media room and probation office have also been provided.

New facilities have been provided for An Garda Síochána and the Prison Service. New prisoner accommodation including six cells and a secure interview room have been located in the basement. New accommodation has been provided in the centre of the building for legal practitioners returning to where they were originally located in the 1830's.

The Circuit and District Court offices have their own distinct area on the south-east side of the building, which includes the latest information technology, whilst respecting the character of the well proportioned original rooms. The Grand Jury Room in the original 1832-1835 building has been re-instated. New accommodation is provided for the public visiting the Circuit and District Court offices including private meeting rooms. The Courts Service Midlands Regional Office is also housed in the building.

The inherent character, quality and presence of the existing building has been respected and retained. Considerable care and attention was taken to conserve the existing fabric including stonework, timber windows and doors. Many spaces that were sub-divided by the need for offices between 1930 and 1999 have been returned to their original proportions.

The new building element is separated from the existing building by glass bridges and shows a clear distinction between old and new. All of the building's mechanical and electrical services have been completely upgraded.

The Courthouse is an important part of the architectural and historical heritage of Tullamore. This refurbished courthouse will meet the accommodation needs of the Courts Service in Tullamore and County Offaly for many decades to come.





Teach Cúirte Thulach Mór

Cúlra stairiúil

Léiríonn na hoibreacha a críochnaíodh le déanaí an tríú mórthionscadal ag an Teach Cúirte. Tharla an comórtas do Theach Cúirte nua i dTulach Mhór thiar sa bhliain 1832. Bhí an bua ag an Ailtire John Benjamin Keane sa chomórtas. D'oscail an Teach Cúirte thiar sa bhliain 1835. Tionóladh an chéad chruinniú de Chomhairle 'Chontae an Rí' san fhoirgneamh thiar sa bhliain 1899. D'athraigh Comhairle Chontae an Rí an t-ainm s'acu go Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí i Meitheamh 1920. Dódh an foirgneamh agus gan fágtha ach fothrach saoirseachta i mí Iúil 1922. Rinneadh oibreacha athchóirithe a chomhlíonadh idir na blianta 1925-1927. T.F. McNamara a bhí mar Ailtire ar na hoibreacha seo. Bhí an foirgneamh á roinnt ag an Teach Cúirte agus ag an gComhairle Chontae go dtí 2002 nuair a bhog Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí go hoifigí nua i ngaireacht dó. Chruthaigh sé seo an deis athchóiriú a dhéanamh ar an bhfoirgneamh.

Bhí dúshlán ann ó thaobh ómós a thabhairt agus carachtar an fhoirgnimh a bhí ann cheana féin a chaomhnú trí mhion-idirghabháil a dhéanamh i dtéarmaí caomhnaithe, ach riachtanais feidhmeacha na dTithe Cúirte, slándáil, rochtain uilíoch, sábháilteacht dóiteáin agus cóiríocht leordhóthanach a shásamh chomh maith d'úsáideoirí uile na cúirte. Rinneadh treoracha sonracha don teach cúirte a thiomsú tar éis próiseas comhairliúcháin fhorleathan leis na breithiúna, na baill foirne agus le húsáideoirí uile na cúirte. Tugadh faoi thaighde staire ar stair ailtireachta, dhlíthiúil agus shóisialta an fhoirgnimh.

Tionscnamh athchóirithe agus sínidh

Chruthaigh an sean-foirgneamh dúshlán suntasacha maidir le cúrsaí slándála agus inrochtana. Soláthraíonn an foirgneamh nua i bhfad níos mó cóiríochta agus saoráidí ná mar a bhí ar bhí ar fáil sa sean-foirgneamh agus ceadaíonn sé don rochtain uilíoch. Cuimsíonn an chóiríocht de: trí sheomra cúirte leis an teicneolaíocht is déanaí, seomraí na mbreithiúna, seomra an ghiúiré, seomra an dlí teaghligh, seomra tacaíochta d'íospartaigh, seomra na fianaise físeáin, agus 12 seomra comhairliúcháin/feithimh. Tá seomra na meán agus oifig phromhaidh soláthraithe chomh maith.

Tá saoráidí nua soláthraithe don Gharda Síochána agus don tSeirbhís Phríosúin. Tá cóiríocht nua do phríosúnaithe ina gcuimsítear sé chill agus seomra agallaimh dhaingne lonnaithe san íoslach. Tá cóiríocht nua soláthraithe i lár an fhoirgnimh do Chleachtóirí Dlí, ag filleadh arís chuig an áit inar lonnainíodh iad an chéad lá riamh sna 1830í.

Tá limistéar ar leith dá gcuid féin ag na Cúirteanna Cuarda agus Dúiche a thaobh oirdheisceartach an fhoirgnimh, a chuimsíonn an teicneolaíocht faisnéise is déanaí, agus meas a thabhairt do charachtar na mbunseomraí. Tá Seomra an Ard-Ghiúiré sa bhunfoirgneamh 1832-1835 ar ais mar a bhí. Tá cóiríocht nua soláthraithe don phobal atá ag tabhairt cuairte ar oifigí na Cúirte Cuarda agus Dúiche a chuimsíonn seomraí cruinnithe príobháideacha. Tá Oifig Réigiúnach Lártire na Seirbhíse Cúirteanna lonnaithe sa fhoirgneamh chomh maith.

Tá ómós tugtha do charachtar, cáilíocht agus láithreach an bhunfoirgnimh agus mórán tréithe caomhnaithe. Tógadh fíor-chúram agus an-aire chun déanamh na creatlaí mar a bhí ann cheana féin a chaomhnú, a chuimsíonn saoirseacht cloiche, fuinneoga adhmaid agus doirse. Tá mórán spásanna go ndearnadh fo-roinnt orthu toisc riachtanas a bhí ann d'oifigí idir 1930 agus 1999, anois fillte ar an mbundearadh in athuair.

Tá eilimint nua an fhoirgnimh roinnte ón bhfoirgneamh a bhí ann cheana féin trí dhroichid ghloine a léiríonn idirdhealú soiléir idir sean agus nua. Tá seirbhísí leictreacha agus meicniúla uile an fhoirgnimh uasghráidithe go hiomlán.

Is cuid thábhachtach é an Teach Cúirte d'oidhreacht ailtireachta agus staire Thulach Mhór. Sásóidh an teach cúirte athchóirithe riachtanais chóiríochta na Seirbhíse Cúirteanna i dTulach Mhór agus i gContae Uíbh Fhailí ar feadh na mblianta atá romhainn.



COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna

Design Team:

Architects:
Newenham Mulligan &
Associates

Civil/Structural Engineers:
Horgan Lynch &
Partners Consulting
Engineers

Quantity Surveyors:
JCP Consulting

Main Contractors:
Purcell Construction Ltd

Mechanical & Electrical
Sub- Contractor:
MacArdle
McSweeney Associates

Project Managers:
Office of Public Works

Judges:

His Honour Judge Anthony Kennedy
(Judge of the Circuit Court)
Her Honour Judge Miriam Reynolds
(Judge of the Circuit Court)

Judge John F Neilan
(Judge of the District Court)

Court Officials:

County Registrar:
Ms. Verona Lambe
Tel: 057 9321205
Fax: 057 9352921

Chief Clerk:
Mr. John Gaffney
Tel: 057 9321205
Fax: 057 9352921

District Court Clerk:
Mr. Denis O'Leary
Tel: 057 9321153
Fax: 057 9321626

Midland Regional Manager:

Ms. Ann Price
Tel: 057 9329140
Fax: 057 9329103

Forieann Deartha:

Ailtirí:
Newenham Mulligan
& Associates

Innealtóirí
Sibhialta/Struchtúracha:
Horgan Lynch & Partners
Consulting Engineers

Suirbhéirí
Cainníochta:
JCP Consulting

Príomh
Chonraitheoir:
Purcell Construction Ltd

Fo-Chonaraitheoir
Meicniúil &
Leictreach:
MacArdle McSweeney
Associates

Bainisteoirí
Tionscadail:
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí

Breithiúna:

An Breitheamh Onórach Anthony Kennedy
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Cuarda)
An Breitheamh Onórach Miriam Reynolds
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Cuarda)

An Breitheamh John F Neilan
(Breitheamh na Cúirte Dúiche)

Oifigigh Chúirte:

Cláraitheoir Contae:
Ms. Verona Lambe
Guthán: 057 9321205
Facs: 057 9352921

Príomh Chléireach:
Mr. John Gaffney
Guthán: 057 9321205
Facs: 057 9352921

Cléireach Cúirte Dúiche:
Mr. Denis O'Leary
Guthán: 057 9321153
Facs: 057 9321626

Bainsteoir an Lár-Réigiúin:

Ms. Ann Price
Guthán: 057 9329140
Facs: 057 9329103

Produced by the Courts Service Information Office on the occasion of the official opening of the courthouse by the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell T.D., on Tuesday, 17th April 2007.

Táirgthe ag Oifig Eolais na Seirbhíse Cúirte ar ócáid na hoscailte oifigiúla den teach cúirte ag an Tánaiste agus Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí, an tUasal Michael McDowell T.D., ar an Máirt, 17ú Aibreán 2007.