



COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna



Blanchardstown Courthouse

Teach Cúirte Bhaile Bhlainséir



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BLANCHARDSTOWN COURTHOUSE

The courthouse in Blanchardstown forms part of the Grove Court Complex, part of Blanchardstown Town Centre. This development of over 22,000 square metres of floor space, also houses the Regional Offices of Fingal County Council. It has other offices available for letting, 97 apartments and underground and multi storey carparks. It adjoins the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre, the Draiocht Theatre and the Public Library. Car access is from Grove Road and pedestrian access is available from the shopping centre.

Brief

The brief sought a two-courtroom facility for the Circuit and District Courts, together with associated offices. The complex functional requirements of modern court buildings dictate that the design of the building provides for separate circulation routes for the various parties, judiciary, staff, members of the public, juries and prisoners.

Facilities

The court building includes two courtrooms which will facilitate the hearing of all District Court business and some Circuit Court jury trials.

There is a full-time District Court office, with separate interview rooms where members of the public can conduct sensitive business in private with court staff. The presence of this office will facilitate the lodging of small claims and family law matters and the payment of court fines locally.

The facilities also include a legal practitioners room, several consultation rooms, judges' chambers, a jury room, holding cells, public waiting areas, an information desk, a media room, victim support room, State Prosecution Solicitor's room and a Court Presenters (Garda) room.

The facilities are cabled for the latest video conferencing technology, video link and a room for remote testimony from child witnesses.

Design Concept

The design intent of the Courthouse fit-out is to provide a well considered, mature and comfortable facility for the Courts and its staff and visitors.

The new reception enclosure is located along the long West elevation, directly opposite the lobbies into the courtrooms, whilst opposite the entrance is a new steel staircase which leads to the first floor and the Public Counter, District Court Office and ancillary accommodation on that floor.

The two courtrooms are double height spaces with clerestory glazing along each east elevation, bringing natural light into each room above the judge's bench. This portion of glazing was accommodated through the use of a curved suspended ceiling which rises up towards the East within each room. All walls are clad in timber acoustic panelling to the level of the high window sills, above which walls are painted white, brightening the rooms and increasing the sense of space.

Throughout the fit-out, fixtures and fittings of the highest specification have been used to ensure an enduring high quality low maintenance finish.

The detention cells have been accommodated within a newly enclosed section of the existing site basement car-park, and are approached via a new van dock and stairs appended to the adjacent apartment block to the east, and through the internal secure stairs located between the two courtrooms.





TEACH CÚIRTE BHAILE BHLAINSEÍR

Tá an teach cúirte i mBaile Bhlainséir ina chuid de Ollionad Cúirte an Gharráin, agus ina chuid de lár Bhaile Bhlainséir. Tá Oifigí Réigiúnacha Chomhairle Contae Fhine Gall san fhorbairt seo chomh maith, ina bhfuil breis is 22,000 méadar cearnach de spás urláir. Tá oifigí eile ann le ligean amach ar léas, 97 árasán, agus carrchlóis faoi thalamh agus cinn ilstóracha. Tá sé in aice le hIonad Siopadóireachta Bhaile Bhlainséir, leis an Amharclann Draíocht agus leis an Leabharlann Phoiblí. Tá bealach isteach ag carranna ann ó Bhóthar an Gharráin agus ag coisithe ón ionad siopadóireachta.

An Cúram Féin

Lorg an cúram áis ina mbeadh dhá sheomra cúirte do na Cúirteanna Cuarda agus Dúiche, chomh maith le hoifigí ag dul leo. Mar gheall ar chomh casta is atá riachtanais oibre agus feidhme fhoirgnimh cúirte nua-aimseartha tá an foirgneamh féin deartha ionas go mbeidh na bealaí tráchta a bhíonn ag páirtithe éagsúla, an breithiúna, an fhoireann, an pobal, na giúiréithe agus ag príosúnaigh coinnithe glan ar a chéile.

Áiseanna

Tá dhá sheomra cúirte i bhfoirgneamh na cúirte a fhreastalóidh ar éisteachtaí a bhaineann le cúrsaí na Cúirte Dúiche chomh maith le roinnt trialacha giúiré de chuid na Cúirte Cuarda.

Tá oifig lánaimseartha de chuid na Cúirte Dúiche ann, le seomraí agallaimh ar leithligh áit ar féidir leis an bpobal dul i mbun a gcuid cúrsaí pearsanta féin go príobháideach le foireann na cúirte. Beifear in ann éilimh bheaga a thaisceadh go héasca mar gheall ar an oifig seo chomh maith le cúrsaí a bhaineann le dlí teaghlaigh agus beifear in ann fíneálacha cúirte a íoc go háitiúil.

Tá seomra cleachtóirí dlí mar chuid de na háiseanna freisin, agus cúpla seomra comhairliúcháin, dlísheomraí do bhreithimh, seomra giúiré, cillíní gabhála, limistéir feithimh phoiblí, deasc eolais, seomra do na meáin, seomra tacaíochta d'íospartaigh, seomra d'Atur nae lonchúisimh an Stáit agus seomra do Láithreoirí Cúirte (Garda).

Tá na háiseanna feistithe le cáblaí don teicneolaíocht físchomhdhála is déanaí, nasc físeáin agus seomra amach as féin chun fianaise a fháil ó fhinnéithe ar leanaí iad.

An Coincheap Dearaidh

Is éard a bhí ar intinn ag an té a dhear an Teach Cúirte ná áis stuama, chiallmhar agus chompordach a chur ar fáil do na Cúirteanna, don fhoireann agus do chuariteoirí.

Tá an seomra fáiltithe nua suite feadh an ingearchló fada ar an taobh Thiar, díreach os comhair na bpasáistí isteach sna seomraí cúirte. Os comhair an bhealaigh iontrála tá staighre cruach nua a théann suas go dtí an chéad urlár agus an Cuntar Poiblí, Oifig na Cúirte Dúiche agus cóiríocht choimhdeach ar an urlár sin.

Is spásanna airde dúbailte iad an dá Sheomra Cúirte le gloiniú barrbhalla ar gach airde ar an taobh thoir, rud a chaitheann solas na gréine isteach i ngach seomra os cionn binse an Bhreithimh. Bhíothas ábalta an píosa gloinithe seo a dhéanamh trí úsáid a bhaint as síleálacha crochta a shíneann soir i dtreo na gréine taobh istigh de gach seomra. Tá painéil adhmaid saor ó thorann sna ballaí suas go dtí leibhéal na leaca arda fuinneoige, agus tá péint gheal ar na ballaí os a gcionn sin, rud a thugann solas don seomra agus iad ag breathnú níos mó dá réir.

Tá an fearas iomlán feistithe amach leis na daingneáin agus feistis is fearr lena chinntiú go seasfaidh an t-ábhar atá in úsáid agus gur beag obair chothabhála a bheidh le déanamh air.

Tá na cillíní coinneála tógtha laistigh de phársa nua atá dúnta isteach de charrchlós an íoslaigh a bhí ann cheana, agus is féidir dul chomh fada leo trí dhuga nua do veaineanna agus staighrí atá ceangailte leis an mbloc árasáin atá in aice leis ar an taobh thoir, agus trí na staighrí slándála inmheánacha atá idir an dá sheomra cúirte.



COURTS SERVICE
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*The Honourable Mr Justice
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*Her Honour Judge Miriam
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President of the District Court

Judge Patrick McMahon
Judge of the District Court

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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 Finance, Mr Brian Lenihan, T.D. on Friday the 25th day of July 2008

Arna táirgeadh ag Oifig Eolais na Seirbhíse Cúirteanna le linn don Aire Airgeadais, an tUasal Brian Lenihan, T.D. an teach cúirte a oscailt go hoifigiúil Dé hAoine an 25ú Iúil 2008