



COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna



Fermoy Courthouse

Teach Cúirte Mhainistir Fhear Maí



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FERMOY COURTHOUSE

History

Fermoy, a town with roots in two contrasting traditions, one monastic and the other military, is situated on the River Blackwater. The Cistercian Abbey from which the town developed was founded in 1170. In the late 18th century a Scotsman John Anderson designed the outline of what is now the modern town of Fermoy. It was he, who by offering cheap sites to the British Army, brought the military tradition to the town.

Fermoy Courthouse is referred to in Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* as a neat and appropriate building, at the east end of the town, erected in 1808.

The present appearance of the building has changed since this time. However a great deal survives from earlier periods. The courtroom furniture is believed to be original, and it is from this, and the viewing gallery, that the chamber derives its significance. Elsewhere, the unusual panelled, sheeted timber ceilings, uniform to both ground and first floors, are also of interest. The staircase to the north may be original, and appears to have been lit by a very large round-headed stair window in the north wall, the outline of which is now visible in the existing render finish.

The Project

This project is a joint project between the Courts Service and Cork County Council. The overall project includes the total refurbishment and extension to the existing Fermoy Courthouse, the construction of a new Civic Office complex to accommodate Fermoy Town Council and the Local County Council Engineer's Office. The alterations to the courthouse updated the court facilities. Access for the disabled, lifts, and public counters all form an integral part of the project, as the approach and entrances to the buildings have been fully detailed to a high standard.

Included in the development are rooms and facilities for both staff and members of the legal profession along with two new prisoner-remand rooms and a secure interview room on the ground floor with their own separate access.

The project team took this opportunity to correct or improve some of the previous alterations to the main courthouse building, including the reinstatement of appropriate timber sash windows, a smooth lime render finish, a slate roof, and the removal of the front porch to expose the original Gibbs door surround. The design of the new extensions to the building has been deliberately contemporary, in order that the older courthouse and new local authority offices can clearly be read as two distinct phases of building.

Internally, much has been retained, including the plan form (apart from rooms to the south of the main courtroom, where a new layout was proposed), original staircase, sheeted timber ceilings, doors and associated joinery, and as much of the main courtroom furniture as was feasible to hold in keeping with the court's requirements. The strategy proposed for the project retained as much as possible of the fabric that gives the building its unique character, while allowing the changes which make the continuing use of the building possible.

The overall contract value was €7 million of which €2.7 million was spent on the courthouse. The project took 25 months to complete.





TEACH CÚIRTE MHAINISTIR FHEAR MAÍ

Stair

Tá dhá thraidisiún éagsúla ag baint le baile Mhainistir Fhear Maí atá suite ar an Abhainn Mhór, traidisiún mainistreach ar lámh amháin agus ceann míleata ar an lámh eile. Bunaíodh an Mainistir Cistéirseach óna forbraíodh an baile in 1170. I ndeireadh an 18ú haois dhear Albanach darbh ainm John Anderson imlíne de bhaile nua-aimseartha Mhainistir Fhear Maí an lae inniu. Is eisean a thug an traidisiún míleata chuig an mbaile trí shuíomhanna saora a thairiscint d'Arm na Breataine.

Déantar tagairt do Theach Cúirte Mhainistir Fhear Maí i *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* le Samuel Lewis mar fhoirgneamh néata agus oiriúnach, ag eireaball thoir an bhaile, a tógadh in 1808'

Tháinig athrú ar ndóigh ar dhreach an fhoirgnimh ó shin i leith. Mar sin féin tá cuid mhaith de fós le feiceáil ó thréimhsí níos luaithe. Creidtear gurb é troscán an tseomra cúirte an chéad troscán a bhí in úsáid, agus is as seo, agus as an áiléar féachana a shíolraíonn tábhacht an tseomra. Is díol spéise freisin iad na síléálacha adhmaid brataithe neamhghnách atá painéalta, agus atá le fáil ar urlár na talún agus ar an gcéad urlár. D'fhéadfadh sé gurb é an staighre ó thuaidh an chéad cheann riamh a bhí san fhoirgneamh agus is cosúil go raibh solas aige ó fhuinneog mhór staighre ciorclach sa bhalla ó thuaidh. Tá imlíne dí sin le feiceáil anois san obair phlaistéireachta reatha.

An Tionscadal

Is comhthionscadal é an tionscadal seo idir an tSeirbhís Chúirteanna agus Comhairle Contae Chorcaí. Cuimsítear leis an tionscadal iomlán athchóiriú agus síneadh iomlán ar Theach Cúirte Mhainistir Fhear Maí mar atá sé inniu, coimpléasc Oifige Sibhialta nua a thógáil chun freastal ar Chomhairle Baile Mhainistir Fhear Maí agus Oifig Innealtóra na Comhairle Contae Áitiúil. Thug na hathruithe a rinneadh ar theach na cúirte saoráidí na cúirte suas chun dáta. Is gnéithe tábhachtacha den tionscadal iad an rochtain do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas, na hardáin agus na cuntair phoiblí, de bhrí go bhfuil an bealach isteach agus na hiontrálacha chuig na foirgnimh mionsonraithe go hiomlán go dtí caighdeán ard.

I measc na forbartha tá seomraí agus saoráidí don fhoireann agus do bhaill na gairme dlí chomh maith le dhá sheomra coinneála eile do phríosúnaigh agus seomra agallaimh daingean ar urlár na talún lena gcuid rochtana príobháideach féin.

Thapaigh foireann an tionscadail an deis chun cuid de na hathruithe a rinneadh ar phríomhfhoirgneamh theach na cúirte roimhe seo a chur ina gceart nó a fheabhsú, ina measc cuireadh isteach fuinneoga saise adhmaid oiriúnacha arís, pláistéireacht aoil mhín, díon slinne agus fuarthas réidh leis an bpóirse chun tosaigh ionas go mbeadh an colbha dorais Gibbs a bhí ann ós tús le feiceáil. Is in aon turas a rinneadh dearadh nua-aimseartha ar na síntí nua a cuireadh ar an bhfoirgneamh. Cinntíodh nár úsáideadh paistís, ionas gur féidir an teach cúirte níos sine agus oifigí nua an údaráis áitiúil a idirdhealú mar dhá chéim foirgníochta ar leithligh.

Tá cuid mhaith den bhunobair caomhnaithe laistigh, lena n-áirítear foirm an phlean (seachas seomraí a bhí ó theas den phríomh sheomra cúirte, áit a moladh leagan amach nua, an bunstaighre, síléálacha adhmaid brataithe, doirse agus obair shíúinéireachta ghaolmhar, agus an oiread de throscán na príomhsheomra cúirte a bhíodhas in ann a choinneáil ag teacht le riachtanais na cúirte. Choinnigh an straitéis a moladh don tionscadal an oiread agus ab fhéidir den chreatlach a thugann an tréith shainiúil sin don fhoirgneamh, agus ag an am céanna rinneadh na hathruithe a chiallaigh gur féidir leanúint ar aghaidh ag baint úsáide as an bhfoirgneamh.

Ba ionann luach iomlán an chonartha agus €7 milliún agus caitheadh €2.7 milliún de sin ar theach na cúirte. Thóg sé 25 mí an tionscadal a thabhairt chun críche.



Design Team:

Architects:
County Architect's
Dept., Cork County
Council.

Conservation Architect:
Jack Coughlan
Associates.

Quantity Surveyors:
Martin O'Callaghan

Main Contractors:
Brian McCarthy

Structural & Service
Engineering:
John O'Donovan
& Associates.

Judges:

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

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

His Honour Judge Con Murphy
(Judge of the Circuit Court)

Judge Michael Pattwell
(Judge of the District Court)

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District Court Clerk:
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An Príomhchonraitheoir:
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