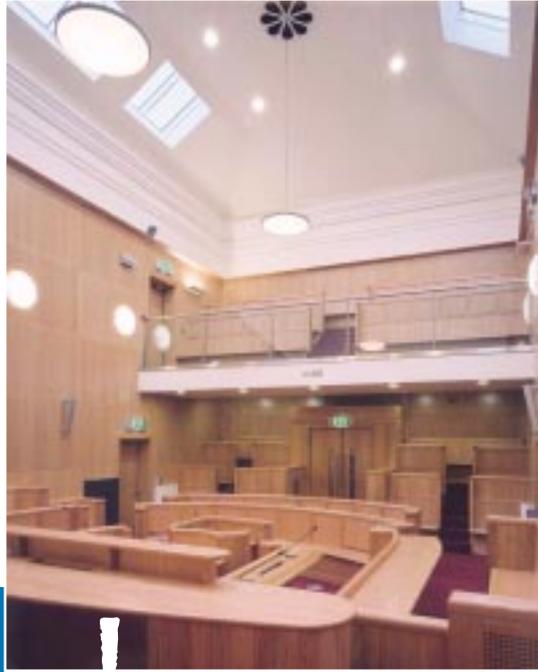




COURTS SERVICE  
*An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna*



# Castlebar Courthouse



The refurbishment of Castlebar Courthouse.

## Castlebar Courthouse

Castlebar Courthouse has and always had an eclectic mix of architectural styles reflecting its many extensions and modifications over the last two hundred years. While court sittings in Castlebar are reported dating back to the seventeenth century, earliest known records of a building refer to a "reconstruction" project by the architect George Papworth completed in 1822. This "reconstruction" set the footprint of the original building surviving today which included the two courtrooms and two judges' chambers. The architect George Wilkinson extended these buildings upwards in 1860 by adding the courtroom galleries and the jury rooms directly over the judges' chambers and the Greek Doric styled hexastyle portico. The façade was consequently totally remodeled in a neo-classical Venetian style. Like many courthouses around the country the building was occupied by the local authority (the successor to the Grand Jury system) since its foundation in 1899. For the purpose of the business of Mayo County Council it was substantially extended and altered over the following seventy five years with the loss of the central stair, the District Court interior, and the front railings and gas lamps in the portico.

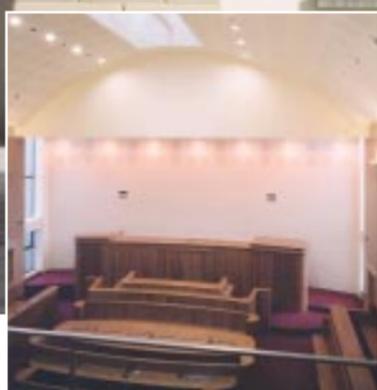
### *The Extension and Refurbishment*

The brief for the extension and refurbishment of the courthouse accommodating all the requirements of the Courts Service in Castlebar was substantially greater than the floor area of the existing building. In order to address this shortfall the Courts Service acquired the Motor Taxation Office and the County Enterprise building from Mayo County Council. The buildings to the rear of the two courtrooms were of poor architectural and constructional quality. The project was therefore divided into the refurbishment and restoration of the original two courtrooms, judge and jury rooms and the portico and the construction of an entirely new extension to the rear linked by an atrium.

Restoration works included total re-roofing, internal plastering and flooring along with very substantial updating works to provide for the comfort and technology standards of today. The wooden balconies of the old Circuit Court were retained and restored but all furniture was replaced. The original courtroom layout was retained. All original façade elements were retained, cleaned and repainted rather than replaced.

The symmetry of the original building now extends into the atrium of the new extension which in turn provides access to two new courtrooms, the District and Circuit Court public offices and a host of consultation and meeting rooms. Office accommodation extends into the former County Enterprise building facing Spencer Street and substantial archive storage is provided at attic level with lift access. The courthouse now has four courtrooms with modern facilities for all court users including judges, staff, legal profession, juries, An Garda Síochána, Victim Support, media and the public. Holding cells for prisoners have also been provided. The building also has universal access. The courthouse has been cabled to accommodate video conferencing and digital audio recording of proceedings. The building is also supported by a comprehensive information technology network.

# Castlebar Courthouse





## Building Team

Contractors:  
*Stewart JSL Limited*

Architects:  
*Mayo County Council*

Quantity Surveyors:  
*Peter F. Costello & Partners*

Structural Engineers:  
*Michael Punch & Partners*

Mechanical & Electrical Consultants:  
*Kyne and Clyne*

## Judges

*His Honour Judge Harvey Kenny*  
(Judge of the Circuit Court),  
*His Honour Judge Kevin Haugh*  
(Judge of the Circuit Court),  
*Judge Mary Devins*  
(Judge of the District Court).

### **Court Officials:**

Western Regional Manager:  
*Mr. Christopher Lehane*

County Registrar:  
*Mr. Fintan Murphy*

Chief Clerk:  
*Ms. Marie Quinn*

District Court Clerk:  
*Mr. John Healy*