



COURTS SERVICE
An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna



Ardee Courthouse

Teach Cúirte Bhaile Átha Fhirdhia



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ARDEE COURTHOUSE

Ardee Courthouse forms part of the Mid-Louth Civic Services Centre. This comprises facilities for the Courts Service, Louth County Council and the Office of Public Works. The existing buildings for the three bodies/agencies in Ardee were no longer adequate to meet modern functional and working requirements. The Courts Service, Louth County Council and the Office of Public Works formed a partnership to develop the site adjoining the 'Fair Green' public park.

Brief

The brief was for a 'Green' building that would be inviting to the local community and well integrated into the adjoining public park. The final product is a building with a dynamic architectural design coupled with impressive sustainable credentials. The brief for the courts building also included the segregation of circulation routes for the judiciary, members of the public and prisoners. The building was also designed to become a focal point, part of the local community and be easily accessible by all.

Design Concept

In essence, the building is split into two parts, one is the courthouse and the other is the Louth County Council/Office of Public Works facilities. The buildings are linked by a brick volume which houses the ancillary facilities of the two buildings. The hierarchical spaces of the courtroom and offices are expressed as zinc clad volumes connected to the brick spine. Both zinc volumes are expressed differently, sharing equal status, while clearly expressing their different functions.

The architectural design and the removal of the existing boundary security fence separating the site from the public park allows the building to merge seamlessly into the public park and metaphorically into the wider community. The building was designed with the use of sustainable materials and technologies, creating a healthy and comfortable environment for the occupants and users. The extensive use of timber and natural materials reinforces the connection between the building and its surrounds whilst reflecting the clients environmentally friendly intentions. The concept of having three combined buildings rather than separate buildings resulted in short and long term cost savings and a much more sustainable approach to the buildings construction and use.

Facilities in the courthouse include a non-jury courtroom, legal practitioners room, consultation room, reception, public waiting area, judges chamber, court clerk's office and holding cell area for prisoners.

The facilities now available will ensure that court demands in Ardee and the surrounding area will be met for many years to come.





TEACH CÚIRTE BHAILE ÁTHA FHIRDHIA

Tá Teach na Cúirte i mBaile Átha Fhirdhia ina chuid d'Ionad Seirbhísí Sibhialta Lár Chontae Lú. I measc na nithe atá san ionad, tá áiseanna don tSeirbhís Chúirteanna, do Chomhairle Contae Lú agus d'Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí. Na foirgnimh a bhí i mBaile Átha Fhirdhia go dtí seo, níor leor iad do na trí eagrais/áiseineacht le riachtanais oibre agus feidhmiú na linne seo a chomhlíonadh. Chuir An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna, Comhairle Contae Lú agus Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí le chéile le forbairt a chur ar an láthair in aice le páirc phoiblí na 'Faiche Glaise'.

An Cúram Féin

Is é cúram a bhí ann foirgneamh a chur ar an 'bhFaiche' a mbeadh mealladh phobal na háite ann agus luí aige mar ba chóir leis an gcarrchlós poiblí in aice láimhe. Is éard atá i dtoradh an tsaothair foirgneamh a bhfuil leagan ailtireachta lán beochta aige mar aon le dintiúir mhóra ó thaobh inbhuanaitheachta de. Is é cúram a bhí ann freisin maidir le teach na cúirte na bealaí tráchta a bhíonn faoi lucht dlí, faoin bpobal agus faoi na príosúnaigh faoi seach a choinneáil glan ar a chéile. Dearadh an foirgneamh ionas gur pointe fócais a bheadh ann chomh maith, ionas gur cuid de phobal na áite a bheadh ann agus sroicheadh gan stró chomh fada leis do chách.

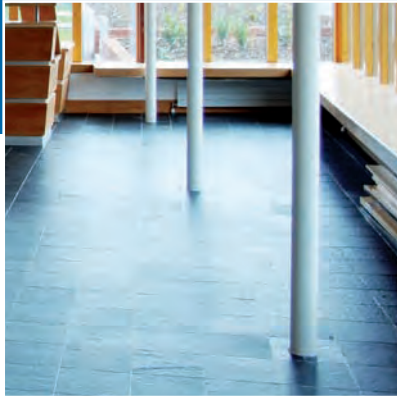
An Ceap atá sa Dearadh

Is é bunsmaoineamh atá san fhoirgneamh go bhfuil sé roinnte ina dhá chuid, teach na cúirte i gcuid amháin díobh, agus Comhairle Contae Lú/Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí sa chuid eile. Tá pasáiste brící idir na foirgnimh ina bhfuil na háiseanna breise a bhaineann leo araon. Na limistéir ordfhilthais atá i seomra na cúirte agus sna hoifigí, is aonaid iad a bhfuil culaith since orthu agus iad fuaite leis an bpríomh-ais brící. Tá mianach faoi leith dá gcuid féin sa dá aonad since, iad ar aon stádas le chéile, ach gan amhras ar bith ann faoi na feidhmeanna éagsúla atá acu.

Ó tharla an dearadh ailtireachta mar atá, agus an clái teorann a bhí ann idir an láthair seo agus an pháirc phoiblí a bheith bainte anuas, titeann an foirgneamh isteach leis an bpáirc go han-líofa, agus ó thaobh na meafar de, is de dhlúth agus d'inneach an phobail féin é dá bharr. Baineadh úsáid as ábhair agus as teicneolaíochtaí inbhuanaithe agus an foirgneamh á dheardh, rud a chruthaíonn sláinte agus compord timpeallachta dóibh siúd a bhíonn istigh ann agus do lucht a úsáidte. Baineadh úsáid mhór as adhmaid agus as ábhair nádúrtha, rud a chuireann treise sa cheangal idir an foirgneamh agus an áit máguaird, agus rud a léiríonn an dea-rún i leith na timpeallachta atá ag na cliaint. Nuair ab ann do smaoineamh seo na dtrí fhoirgneamh faoin aon díon amháin, ní hionann agus foirgnimh dealaithe óna chéile, is é toradh a bhí air go bhfuil laghdú costais ann sa dá théarma idir ghearr agus fhada, sin agus cur chuige i dtógáil agus in úsáid an fhoirgnimh ar bhealach is inbhuanaithe go mór.

I measc na n-áiseanna atá i dteach na cúirte, tá seomra cúirte nach don giúiré é, seomra do chleachtóirí an dlí, seomra comhairle, halla fáilte, áit feithimh don phobal, seomra na mbreithiúna, oifig don chléireach cúirte agus cillín coinneála i gcomhair na bpríosúnach.

De dheasca na n-áiseanna a bheidh ar fáil feasta, is cinnte go mbeidh sásamh na n-éileamh cúirte ann i mBaile Átha Fhirdhia agus sa cheantar máguaird go ceann blianta fada.



Design Team:

Architects
van Dijk Architects

Main Contractor
John Sisk & Son Ltd

Quantity Surveyor
McGahon Surveyors

Structural & Civil
Engineers
Duffy Chartered
Engineers

Mechanical & Electrical
Engineering Consultants
Semple & McKillop Ltd

Project Managers
Louth County Council

Judges:

*His Honour Judge Michael
O'Shea*
(Judge of the Circuit Court)

Judge Tom Fitzpatrick
(Judge of the District Court)

Court Officials

Louth County Registrar
Ms Mairead Ahern
Tel: 042 939 2300
Fax: 042 939 2349

Circuit Court Chief Clerk
Ms Helen Lennon
Tel: 042 939 2300
Fax: 042 939 2349

Dundalk District Court Clerk
Mr Brendan Cleary
Tel: 042 939 2350
Fax: 042 939 2399

Regional Manager

Ms Paula Lyons
Tel: 047 381 00
Fax: 047 381 01

Foireann Deartha:

Ailtirí
Ailtirí van Dijk

Príomhchonraitheoir
John Sisk & Son Teo

Suirbhéir Cainníochta
McGahon Surveyors

Innealtóirí Struchtúir agus
Sibhialta
Duffy Chartered
Engineers

Comhairleoirí le
hInnealtóireacht
Mheicniúil agus Leictreach
Semple & McKillop Teo

Bainisteoirí Tionscadail
Comhairle Contae Lú

Breithiúna:

*An tOnórach Breitheamh Michael
O'Shea*
(Breitheamh an Chúirt Chuarda)

Breitheamh Tom Fitzpatrick
(Breitheamh an Chúirt Dúiche)

Oifigigh Chúirte

Cláraitheoir Contae Lú
Mairéad Ahern Uasal
Teil 042 939 2300
Facs 042 939 2349

Príomhchléireach na Cúirte Cuarda
Helen Lennon Uasal
Teil 042 939 2300
Facs 042 939 2349

Cléireach Chúirt Dúiche Dhún
Dealgan
An tUas. Brendan Cleary
Teil 042 939 2350
Facs 042 939 2399

Bainisteoir Réigiúnach

Paula Lyons Uasal
Teil 047 381 00
Facs 047 381 01

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 Dermot Ahern, T.D. on Friday the 6th day of June 2008

Chuir Oifig Eolais an tSeirbhís Chúirteanna an t-eolas seo i riocht a léite i gcomhair oscailt oifigiúil Theach na Cúirte, cúram de chuid an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí, An tUasal Dermot Ahern T.D., Dé hAoine an 6ú lá de Mheitheamh 2008.