

# Baltinglass Courthouse and Heritage Centre

## PROJECT TEAM

### CLIENT

Wicklow County Council  
Department of Justice, Equality and  
Law Reform

### ARCHITECTS

Newenham Mulligan & Associates  
Dermot Mulligan, Daragh O'Brien, Tiago  
Faria, Michael Grace, Shane Martin, Mark  
Faulkner

### STRUCTURAL / CIVIL ENGINEERS

O'Connor Sutton Cronin

### SERVICES ENGINEERS

Johnston Reid & Associates

### QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Keogh McConnell

### MAIN CONTRACTOR

Duggan Brothers (Construction) Ltd

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Barbara Egan Photography

Square and beside it, a gaoler's house. To the rear of these structures, there was a gaol and its exercise yard. These had, in time, been converted to many and very different uses, including a cinema, dance hall, badminton hall and grain store.

- The courthouse was restored with practical minor alterations to house a contemporary district court. New furniture was designed to achieve the required courtroom layout.

- The original gaoler's house, of which little of the original fabric remained, had its façade restored to its original form.

- The ground floor of this building acts as a reception area and also as a tourist information office.

- A heritage centre with an exhibition to explain the history

of the area was located in the ground floor of the former gaol.

- An open-plan first-floor area was provided, which accommodates the district library.

- The cells below the courthouse and exercise yard to the rear were reinstated for public viewing.

The design strategy was to preserve and consolidate the existing structure, inserting new elements as free-standing additions, to be read against the existing fabric.

A steel structure, supporting the new construction, sits therefore within the existing envelope and is clearly articulated when touching it.

The new floors, walls and roof supported by this structure are clad with various different skins (plasterboard, plywood, timber,

metal), which in their treatment are distinguished from the original fabric.

A continuous strip window, inserted between the top of the existing walls and the eaves of the new roof, over-sails the entirety of the space, and delineates the divide between new and old.

## Clients' Comment

Wicklow County Council

The heritage centre is bright and full of light. The roof, windows and mezzanine floor all add to a sense of openness and space.

The main window at first-floor level frames the hilltop in a very special way. While the façade is traditional, the building is unashamedly modern.

## Architects' Account

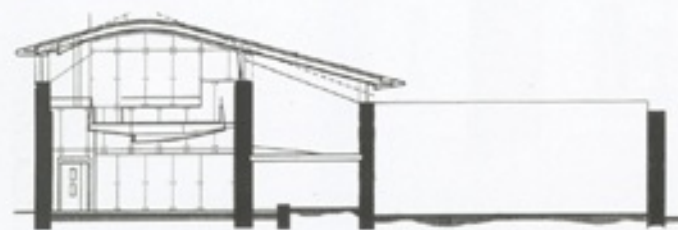
The existing buildings consisted of a Courthouse, composed of two storeys over a basement Bridewell, facing onto Market



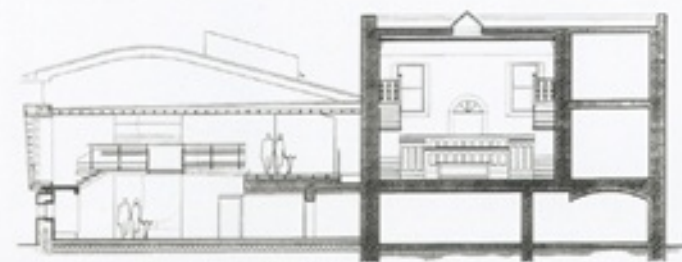
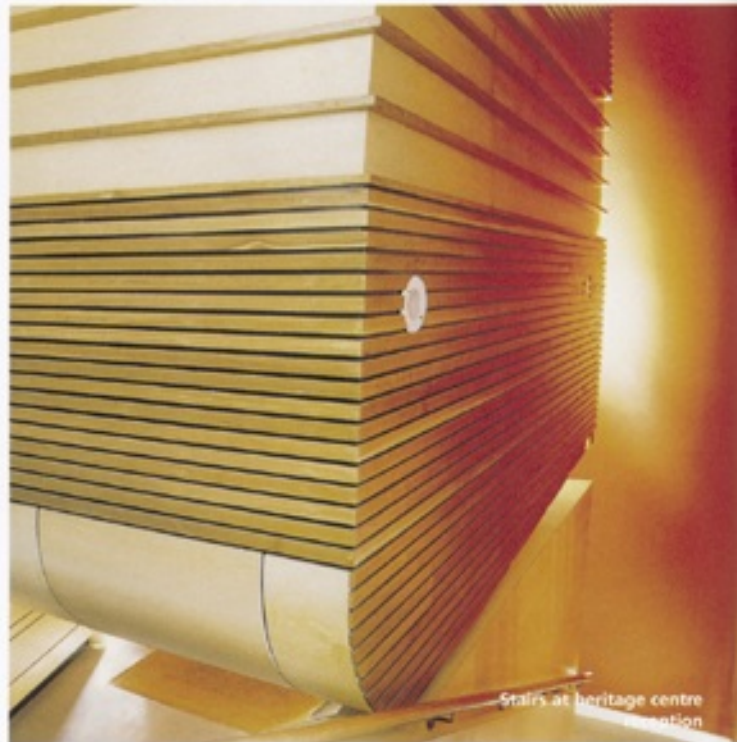
View of north-west corner; heritage centre in the foreground



Front elevation west



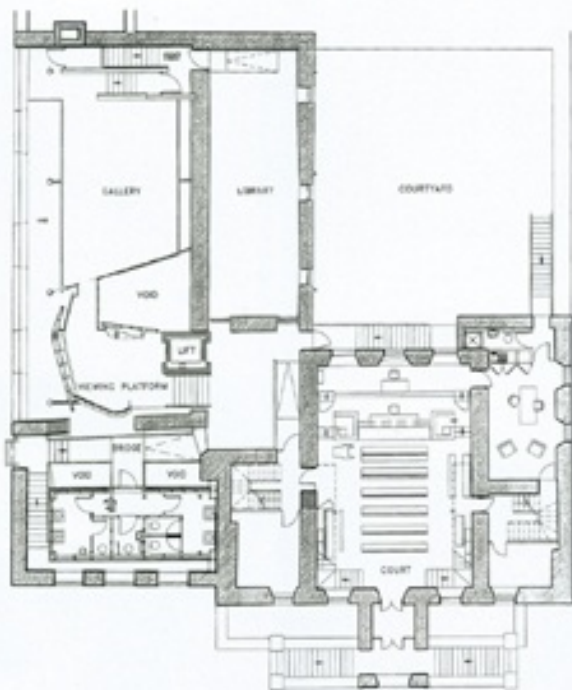
Section



Section



First floor mezzanine



First Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan

# NMA

Newenham Mulligan & Associates  
Architects | Project Managers | Interior Designers

## Articles

Extract from:  
Irish Architect - Nov / Dec 2000

