

Baltinglass Courthouse and Heritage Centre

PROJECT TEAM

CLIENT

Wicklow County Council
Department of Justice, Equality and
Law Reform

ARCHITECTS

Newenham Mulligan & Associates
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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



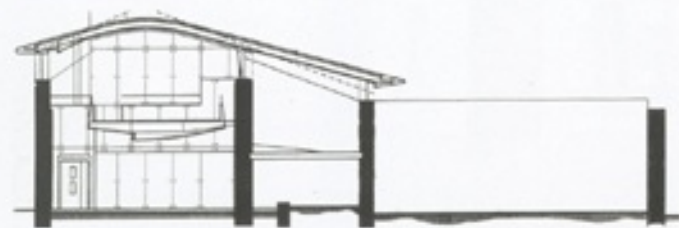
Restored courtroom



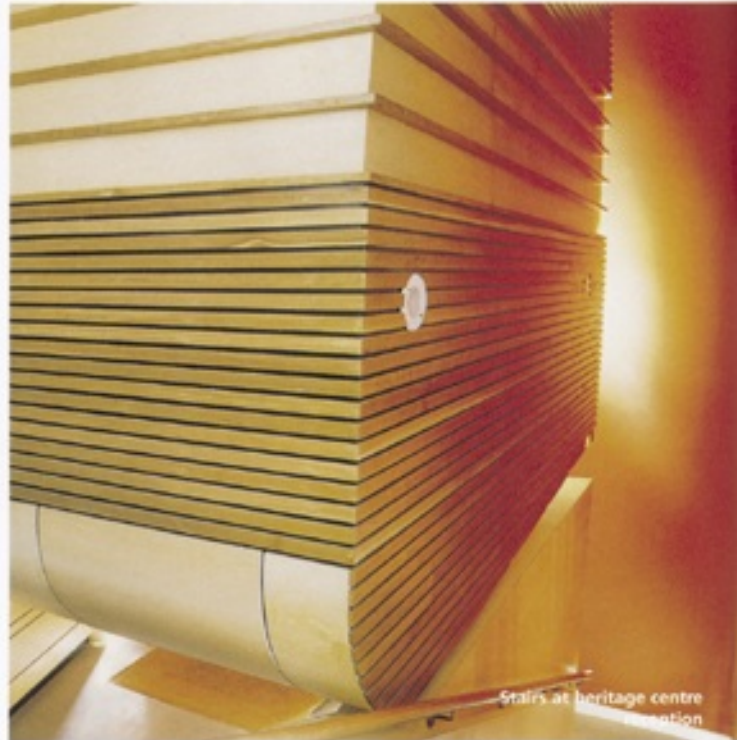
View of north elevation



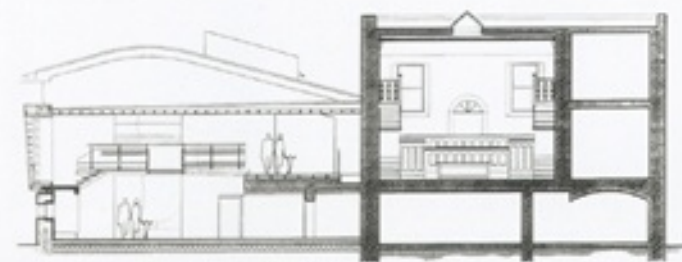
Front elevation west



Section



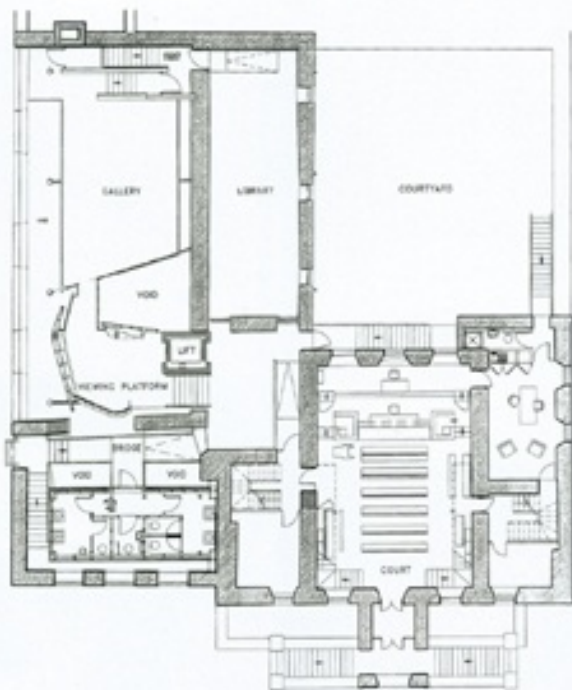
Stairs at heritage centre
restoration



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

