

A bi-annual newsletter from the Office of Public Works



OBAIR

Issue 9 June 2003





National Aquatic Centre



Joseph's Cottage, Wicklow



New Customs House, Dublin

Welcome to issue 9 of Obair



I am delighted to present the ninth issue of Obair.

This issue offers a selection of the broad range of work currently being carried out, or recently completed, by the very professional workforce in the Office of Public Works. The articles chosen are intended to give a representative view of the diverse nature of the work we do throughout the country and abroad. The Office of Public Works continues to deliver a high quality service and we strive to continue to improve on this already high standard in line with Government policies.

This issue features articles on the hugely successful National Aquatic Centre in Dublin which opened to the public in March, the award-winning restoration of Joseph's Cottage in Wicklow, the innovative sculpture exhibition by Brother Joseph McNally and the new Customs House in Dublin Port, to mention but a few.

Congratulations go to Clare McGrath, on her appointment in January as a Commissioner of the OPW – the first woman to be appointed to the Board in the OPW's 170-year history!

My thanks as always to all those who have taken time out from their busy schedules to submit articles for the magazine. I also wish to thank John Bergin and Denis Murphy for their invaluable assistance in producing this issue.

I'd like to remind everyone that I welcome articles at any time of the year not just in June and December!

Lynda Hendley
Public Relations Officer

I appreciate all the comments that were made following the distribution of the last issue and again would welcome any comments anyone wishes to make in relation to this one. Please email any comments or suggestions to lynda.hendley@opw.ie

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Photography by Harry Weir

National Aquatic Centre

The National Aquatic Centre at Abbotstown was officially opened by the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, TD, on Monday 10 March 2003.





...this magnificent facility marks a very important milestone along the road to providing Ireland with a first-class sporting facility...



The National Aquatic Centre is one of the world's largest indoor water centres

In his official opening address the Taoiseach said, 'For me, the opening of this magnificent facility marks a very important milestone along the road to providing Ireland with a first-class sporting facility with its state-of-the-art 50-metre swimming pool, top class diving facilities and excellent leisure facilities. We can truly say that today a visionary concept has now been brought to magnificent fruition. It is all the more impressive given that construction began less than two years ago, and that this project has been completed on time and within budget. I congratulate all those involved in this tremendous achievement'.

The Taoiseach also acknowledged that even before the National Aquatic Centre had been officially opened, it had been agreed that a number of major international competitions would take place there. 'Next December, the European Short-Course Championships are scheduled to take place in the main pool. This event will attract the cream of European

swimmers, and will be seen by over 29 million television viewers throughout Europe. For 25 years we have been talking about having proper facilities, now we have one of the top three in Europe in terms of the best swimming facilities, along with the facilities we have in Limerick University'.

In June 2003 the National Aquatic Centre truly came into its own with the Special Olympic World Games. The whole island of Ireland played host to the largest sports and multicultural event in the world. From 21 – 29 June 2003, the Special Olympics World Games was held here. This was the first time the Games had been held outside the United States and provided Ireland with the largest international sporting event in this island's history. The National Aquatic Centre played a large part in the Games, hosting the swimming events. There were 7,000 athletes, 3,000 coaches/delegates and 28,000 families and friends at the Games. Over 40,000 international visitors were expected to come to



Ireland specifically for the Games.

The Centre is also set to attract the world's top swimmers and is expected to transform competitive swimming in Ireland for Olympic standard athletes. Following negotiations, the Centre will provide up to 1,300 hours of free pool time each year for the training of elite swimmers for both national and international competitions. In December 2003, 500 swimmers from 40 countries together with 200 coaches will arrive in Dublin when the Centre will host the European Short Course (25-metre event) Championships.

The National Aquatic Centre is one of the world's largest indoor water centres. It comprises:

- a 10-lane 50 metre x 25 metre international standard swimming pool with two moveable floors and submersible booms which allow it to be reconfigured for leisure activities

- a 25 metre international standard diving pool / warm up pool with diving boards at 1m, 3m, 5m and 10m heights
- European standard timing system, drug testing, marshalling and scoring facilities
- extensive state-of-the-art leisure waters including adventure water rides, with children's play pool and wave pool
- a Health and Fitness centre with state-of-the-art equipment.
- seating for 2,500 spectators
- cafés.

Statistics demonstrate the Centre's impressive scale: twelve double-decker buses could be submerged in the diving pool; it would require 25,000 domestic baths to fill the competition pools and indoor water park and, laid end to end, the blue and white tiles in

The Centre is also set to attract the world's top swimmers and is expected to transform competitive swimming in Ireland for Olympic standard athletes



the Pool would stretch from Dublin to Tralee !

The role of the OPW

The Aquatic Centre was originally envisaged as a part of 'Campus and Stadium Ireland'. It was intended that the Campus would consist of a National Aquatic Centre, a National Stadium and other facilities, including an indoor arena, indoor and outdoor training halls, a sports science and medical centre and headquarter accommodation for a number of National Governing Bodies of Sport. All of the facilities, except the Aquatic Centre, are on hold, subject to Government decisions on how best to provide any or all of these facilities in the years ahead.

On 25 January 2000, as part of a Government decision, Campus and Stadium Ireland Development (CSID) – a development agency established for the purpose of delivering the Sports Campus Ireland project – was tasked with considering the feasibility of developing an Aquatic Centre for the Special Olympics, as part of the Sports Campus Ireland project.

In early March 2000 the OPW put its case to the Department of the Taoiseach for project managing the provision of the Sports Campus project. On 18 March 2000, following receipt of a submission from the OPW, the Department of the Taoiseach wrote to confirm that the OPW should 'handle the project management of the design, construction, equipping and commissioning of the Campus on behalf of, and under the direction of CSID.' A further Government decision of 12 July 2000 decreed that the development of an Aquatic Centre should proceed and CSID was to advertise seeking expressions of interest to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Centre. Finally, a Government decision of 19 December 2000 authorised CSID to proceed with the development of the Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

While the OPW's role in relation to the Sports Campus Ireland project was changing during late 2000/early 2001, it continued to provide detailed commentaries advices to CSID and its advisors in relation to Draft Heads of Agreement, Draft Project Agreement, Draft Project Lease etc., in respect of the Aquatic and Leisure Centre. This

involved a significant input of time and resources from the Special Projects Unit of the OPW which included Ciaran McGahon, Senior Architect, and Keith Milsom, Mechanical and Electrical Division.

After a meeting on 2 March 2001, convened to discuss arrangements for the Project Management element of Sports Campus Ireland, it was decided that the OPW would act as technical advisors to the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism (DAST). In this role we provided, and continue to provide, detailed advices in relation to all aspects of the Aquatic Centre project, including verification of requests for payment made to DAST by CSID in relation to the Pool contract, site visits to the Pool in that connection and advice in relation to contracts being entered into by CSID with other firms.

The OPW Chairman Sean Benton has also served as acting Chief Executive Officer of CSID and currently serves on the Board of CSID, so the OPW's involvement in the project has been very 'hands on' indeed. On the Saturday prior to the official opening on 10 March an Open Day was held at the Centre. Many OPW



staff and their families took this opportunity to see and experience the facilities available, in advance of its opening to the general public. The virtually unanimous view from young and old was that the Centre is a stunning facility. In addition, press reports on the new Centre were effusive in their praise. A few examples illustrate the point:

‘Country acquires a world-class swimming pool’ – Headline, Irish Times 11 March.

‘The National Aquatic Centre..... has the Wow! factor in buckets’.

‘.... the Aquatic Centre will make a magnificent showcase for the Special Olympics which Ireland hosts next June.’

Claire Mulholland, Press Officer with Swim Ireland said, ‘It’s vital for Swim Ireland that we have something like this in the country..... We are thrilled and delighted to see it finished, and it’s as good as you’ll get anywhere in the world’.

The Chief Executive of the Irish Sports Council, John Treacy called it a world-

class facility which finally provided the country with a proper training base and said, ‘It fills our need for a dedicated swimming facility that can match the role of Swim Ireland in terms of rolling out elite swimmers’.

In the first week of opening alone approximately 24,000 people, mainly families, visited Europe’s largest leisure park, 50-metre competition pool and fitness centre. The National Aquatic Centre is confident of reaching its target of one million visitors in the first year.

So, from conception to completion in three years! The OPW can be justly proud of its contribution in bringing the project to completion.

WILLIE McINTOSH
Special Projects Unit

JOSEPH'S COTTAGE

Restoration of 'Polite Vernacular'
cottage in Wicklow







Project Team –

Client:

Wicklow Mountains National Park, Dúchas

Project Management:

OPW Project Management Service -
Anne Moran, Stephen Monks

Architects:

OPW Architectural Services-
Angela Rolfe, Aidan Kinsella, Edel Collins,
Aoife Donnelly

Structural Engineers:

OPW Engineering Services - Ian Wolfe

Service Engineers:

OPW Engineering Services - Tom Guy

Quantity Surveyors:

John Murray Associates

Main Contractor:

Pierce Healy Developments

Photographer:

Ross Kavanagh



Joseph's Cottage has been described as a 'polite vernacular' two-storey cottage located in the Wicklow Mountains National Park, built circa 1840 to house the senior shepherd of the Downshire and Blessington Estate. The condition of the cottage had deteriorated very seriously during the years preceding commencement of the restoration.



The last occupants of Joseph's Cottage had been airlifted from the site in bad snows in the mid-1980's, when that area of the Wicklow Mountains was cut off for a significant time. Since then the cottage had lain empty and had suffered considerably at the hands of plunderers and harsh winters alike.

The brief was to restore the cottage and create facilities for the National

Park Rangers and for future use as a visitor point for the western edge of the National Park. This entailed the provision of two public spaces on the ground floor, the reception area and the exhibition area, with a dramatic double height space carved out at the gable, and two staff spaces on the first floor, the kitchen and office.

The insertion of a tectonic lightweight stair, offset from the two remaining

granite treads, ties the new and old elements together. The palette of materials used was limited to Irish oak, local granite gravels, Wicklow granite, terracotta tiles, mosaic tiles, glass and stainless steel with lime wash, lime plaster and lime paint applied to the faces of the massive, 'breathing', walls.

Angela Rolfe
Architectural Services

The final piece of the project is the viewing point and terrace, drawing the visitors' view across the river Liffey to the south, and focusing on the obelisk in the Coronation Plantation which has a distinctive flora and fauna.







National Library of Ireland

No. 4 Kildare Street

Built in 1745, No. 4 Kildare Street served as a townhouse until 1889. Commercial uses predominated until the Office of Public Works purchased the building in 1964. The development is part of an integrated development plan for the National Library of Ireland. The project brief was to upgrade the building from its former use as book repository to offices for the National Library Director and senior library staff.

This 18th century Georgian building was modernised in the mid-1930s to designs by the architect Frederick Hayes. The building was faced with polished limestone at plinth level and grey fossilised limestone slabs above. This re-ordered the previous façade of Venetian and Georgian sash windows with a neo-classic portico entrance at ground level. Fine metal windows, bronze on the ground floor and painted steel on the upper floors, were installed.

All of these features were repaired and retained according to the wish of Dublin Corporation. In the 1930s both Art Deco and Georgian styles were recognised as appropriate; they are both integral to the building and to Dublin's built history. Later alterations during the 1960s/70s /80s included the removal of the slated pitched roof and installation of a robust steel structure to sustain the loading.

The contract for the refurbishment of No.4 Kildare Street commenced in September 2001. A sensitive approach to conservation principles was taken in reversing the most recent and intrusive alterations. That stage of the contract complete, restoration of the main built fabric was undertaken. Removal of the structural steelwork and concrete ground beams proved to be a delicate operation. The floors were strengthened with new steelwork inserted in the existing floor thickness. Plasterwork was repaired using traditional methods and materials. The most impressive plasterwork is the rococo decorated ceiling over the grand entrance hall and staircase.

Extensive examination concluded that part renewal of the limestone façade had to be undertaken. This proved challenging. Current standards require a deep build up from the main structure to the face of the finished wall. Close liaison with the stone fixers on virtually a stone by stone basis afforded the best use of the space available and the closest match to the original pattern. A good match using Irish hard limestone, with a high visible fossil content, and cut to expose this, was sourced from the original quarry in Ballinasloe, County Galway, for replacement slabs to the upper area.



A circulation core to the rear in an existing gap between Nos. 4 and 5 was built to resolve the issues of circulation and fire escape. Internally the existing attractive rubble and clay brick construction was exposed. Externally steel windows are inserted into a zinc external skin. The architectural language used incorporated a simple contemporary structure.

SEÁN MOYLAN
Architectural Services

Project Team –

Client: National Library of Ireland
Project Management OPW: Clare McGrath, Dominick McNevin, John Hayes, Ciaran Ferns
Architects OPW: Klaus Unger, Stephen Kane, Séan Moylan, Bobby Carty, Mary Regan.
Site Architect: Rory Murphy
Structural Engineers OPW: John Gallagher, Nicola Hennigan.
Construction Services N. Ireland (Joe Mc Glade)
M&E Engineers: McCarrick Woods
Fire and Safety Engineering: Forbes Leslie Network
Quantity Surveyors: Turley Connolly
Stone Cladding Consultant: Barry Troy Engineer
Main Contractor: P J Mc Loughlin and Sons Ltd

AN INVITATION TO NATURE



At the Brother McNally Exhibition

From L to R:- George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Republic of Singapore; Pat Murphy, Art Advisor to the OPW; John O'Donoghue, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism; Tom Parlon, Minister of State at the Office of Public Works standing behind *Horseman* made of nickel, copper and bronze hammered.

An exhibition of sculpture by Brother Joseph McNally took place in the Atrium of the OPW's head office from 27 March to 20 April.

Brother McNally was a sculptor and educator who had lived and worked in Singapore since the mid-1940s. Born in Ballintubber, Co. Mayo, in 1923, he was a member of the La Salle religious community and founded the La Salle-SIA College of the Arts in Singapore. In 1997, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his lifetime contribution to the arts and education in Singapore and in 1998 he received the Mont Blanc de la Culture award for patronage of the arts. Brother McNally died in August 2002 in Ireland.

In July 2002, Brother McNally travelled to Dublin to search for an Irish venue for a major retrospective exhibition of his works and he personally selected the OPW as the most suitable location to display his work effectively. The exhibition was organised by the National Arts Council of Singapore, the National Heritage Board of Singapore in co-operation with OPW's Art Management Group.

Ms Bridget Tracy Tan, Curator and Head of Corporate Relations from the Singapore Art Museum, travelled to Dublin to set up the exhibition with Jacquie Moore of the Art Management Office. Ms Tan presented a short talk on Brother McNally's work to OPW staff during her brief stay in Dublin.

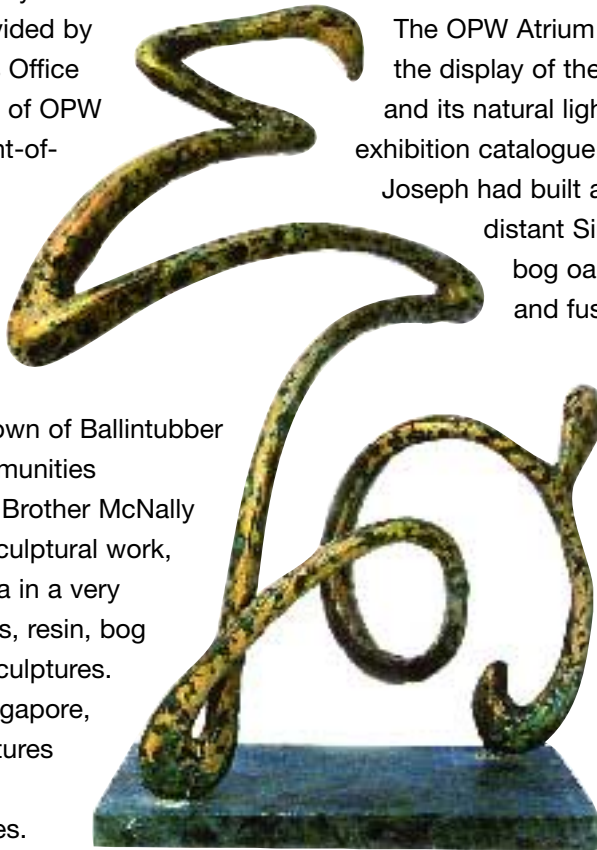
The exhibition, which was hosted by Minister of State Tom Parlon TD, was jointly opened by George Yeo, Minister for Trade and Industry, Republic of Singapore and John O'Donoghue TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Minister Yeo and Minister O'Donoghue in relation to the promotion of cultural relations between Singapore and Ireland.

The co-ordination of the exhibition was challenging as it involved transporting large scale works from Singapore to Dublin by air and sea and also borrowing some works from private collections in Ireland. With an



international exhibition of this calibre, museum standards of transportation and display had to be adhered to. Environmental checks had to be carried out on the Atrium in relation to temperature and humidity as well as a security survey. The Art Management Office worked closely with the Singapore Art Museum and the National Arts Council of Singapore to ensure that the works travelled to and from Dublin safely. In-house assistance was also provided by Anne O'Shea of the Chairman's Office and Mary Furlong and the team of OPW service officers, drivers and front-of-house staff.

The opening night was a hectic event with over 370 guests attending. Many guests had travelled to Dublin from Brother McNally's home town of Ballintubber and also from the La Salle communities throughout Ireland and abroad. Brother McNally had a unique approach to his sculptural work, experimenting with mixed media in a very dynamic fashion. He used glass, resin, bog oak, crystal and bronze in his sculptures. His work was well known in Singapore, where many of his public sculptures are located in schools, libraries, hospitals and government offices.



The response to his work from the Irish public was tremendous. Some visitors returned to the exhibition on a number of occasions, sitting in the Atrium and spending hours meditating on the works. Both the Irish Times and the Sunday Independent published articles on Brother McNally, paying tribute to his contribution to the arts and education in Singapore.

The OPW Atrium proved a most suitable location for the display of the thirty-five works because of its scale and its natural lighting. In his introduction to the exhibition catalogue, Minister Parlon noted that Brother Joseph had built an artistic bridge between Ireland and distant Singapore. By moving ancient Irish bog oak from Mayo to Asia and then carving and fusing it with epoxy resin and semi-precious minerals, he developed a new vision of art that was both occidental and oriental. The works have now returned to Singapore and to the Irish owners, and it is planned to have a similar exhibition in Singapore later this year to pay tribute to the artist in his adoptive country.

JACQUIE MOORE
Art Management Office

Promotions



>>Clare McGrath

Clare McGrath was appointed by the Minister for Finance to be a Commissioner in the Office of Public Works. Appointed with effect from 16 January 2003, Clare succeeds Sean Benton, who was appointed Chairman of the Office of Public Works in November 2002.

Clare, from Ballingary, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, is a graduate of UCD and a barrister.

She has responsibility for Project Management Services throughout the OPW's full range of projects.

Prior to this appointment Clare headed various Divisions within the OPW.



>>John Sydenham

John Sydenham was appointed by the Commissioners of Public Works to be a Principal Officer. Appointed with effect from 10 April, 2003, John succeeds Clare Mc Grath in Project Management Services.



>>John McMahon

John Mc Mahon was appointed by the Commissioners of Public Works to be a Principal Officer. Appointed with effect from 10 April, 2003, John succeeds Una Redmond who retired in April 2003, in Project Management Services.

The Glen



Project Team

Clients: Revenue Commissioners,
Dept of Agriculture & Food, Health
& Safety Authority.

Project Management Services:

Una Redmond, John Mc Mahon,
Gerry Gleeson, Noreen O'Leary

Architectural Services:

Design Team Leader Peter Rogers,
Brian Hamilton, Frank Hughes

Landscape Architects:

Anthony O'Neill

Consultant Architect:

Dalton & O'Donnell

Structural Engineer:

Douglas Baxter & Associates

Service Engineers:

V.M.R.A Cork

Q.S:

Nolan Ryan & Associates

Contractor:

Rohcon Ltd

The refurbished Waterford Government Offices were officially opened on 26 May 2003 by the Minister for Environment and Local Government Martin Cullen TD, in the presence of Minister of State Tom Parlon TD

The original building, which comprised five floors and approximately 4800 square metres in area, had been constructed in the late 1970s and was based on technology principles from the 1950s and 60s. The building was identical on almost every elevation, which created a highly monotonous appearance. It was very much a building of its time and had attracted much adverse comment. A feasibility study in 1999 found that a major refurbishment was required to bring the building up to a standard suitable for the new millennium.

A vital design objective of the project was to transform the exterior so that it would be fully in sympathy with the local environs. The works involved the stripping of the existing precast concrete panels and the fixing of curtain walling and stone cladding. The addition of an entrance atrium provides a welcoming area for visitors and a civic space that may be used for exhibitions and other public events. The project involved new urban landscaping proposals for the Summerhill and Glen elevations.

While the building was being refurbished, the Revenue Commissioners, Department of Agriculture and Food and the Health and Safety Authority moved to temporary accommodation. The interior of the building was fully refurbished with the addition of new conference rooms, training facilities and a multimedia library. Facilities for staff were further improved by the provision of a new roof-top staff canteen with outdoor timber decking, giving spectacular views of Waterford City.

The refurbished building has received much praise in Waterford. With its elevated position and prominence in the city, it has spectacularly enhanced the Waterford skyline.

GERARD GLEESON
Project Management Services



Martin Cullen, TD
Minister for the Environment and Local Government



Tom Parlon, TD
Minister for State



Project Team

Client:
Revenue Commissioners

Architects:
OPW Architectural Services

Structural Engineer:
Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd.

Service Engineers:
Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd.

Fire and Security:
Fire and Security, OPW

Quantity Surveyors:
Murray O'Brien and Partners

Main Contractors:
John Paul Construction

New Customs House

at Promenade Road, Dublin Port



Over the last century, times and trade have changed dramatically in Dublin with traffic to and from the port making new demands on customs management by the Revenue Commissioners.

A new Dublin Customs House has been built by the Office of Public Works for the Revenue Commissioners at Promenade Road in Dublin Port. This purpose-built landscaped building will facilitate the centralisation and reorganisation of the functions of the Revenue Commissioners Customs and Excise Division in the port of Dublin. The development accommodates office space for approximately 170 staff, and is now fully occupied.

Designed by an in-house OPW team headed by Michael Haugh, Assistant Principal Architect, the building is a steel-framed structure on concrete piled foundations to suit the ground conditions in this reclaimed site. The building composition contrasts a striking five-storey zinc-clad curved tower and spiral stairs, housing the staff canteen, conference rooms and offices, with the orthogonal masonry construction and stepped roofs of the warehouse and service areas to the

north and west. The transition between these elements on the eastern elevation is by means of the aluminium curtain-walling façade to the open-plan office areas. These overlook the sea, with views to Clontarf and Howth Head.

Internally, the curved lines of the public office reflect the structure of the tower above, complementing the simple forms of the oak fitted furniture in the reception and waiting area. From this space one will be able to catch a glimpse of the artwork commissioned for the building under the Percent for Art scheme. The piece is a wall-mounted bronze relief sculpture entitled 'Man with Kite' by Carolyn Mulholland.

Finishes to the offices have been kept simple, with any emphasis of colour or materials being placed on shared spaces such as the atrium area. The large rooflights allow natural light to reach the ground and first floor offices in the centre of the plan. A boldly painted curved staircase clad with Kilkenny limestone leads to the upper level, framed on one side by the glass, steel and oak balustrade onto the atrium and on the other by the full height glazing which looks out to sea.

From the staff canteen located on the fifth floor of the curved tower which is almost fully glazed there are panoramic views, to the south, past the industrial landscape of the port to the Wicklow Mountains, and also to the east across Dublin Bay.

Construction work started in May 2001 and reached practical completion in December 2002 on a project budget of euro14m.

The building was constructed by John Paul Construction and project managed by OPW Project Management Services.

Engineering services were provided by Jacobs Engineering with Murray O'Brien and Partners providing quantity surveying services. Architectural management passed from Michael Haugh to Klaus Unger during the project. The project architect throughout was Deirdre Heffernan.

This building is another significant architectural contribution to the city of Dublin by the Office of Public Works.

TOM O DONOGHUE
Project Management Services

IMPRESSIONS

ART OF THE STATE EXHIBITION 2003

An exhibition of contemporary prints

This year's Art of the State touring exhibition features the work of contemporary Irish printmakers. *Impressions* is a joint exhibition of contemporary prints from the collections of art works managed by the OPW and from the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel.



The King's River by Remco de Fouw

Both Departments are responsible for the acquisition of art works for public buildings and these contemporary prints are located in buildings throughout Ireland, north and south. It is the seventh joint exhibition managed by the two Departments, and the thirteenth OPW touring Art of the State exhibition. It is the first joint exhibition devoted exclusively to original prints.

The Art of the State exhibition is organised annually under the direction of the OPW's Art Management Group. The Art

Management Group is led by the OPW Chairman Seán Benton, and this year will be his first year to oversee the annual touring exhibition. Other members of the Group are Commissioner Clare McGrath; Michael O'Doherty, Director of Architectural Services; Angela Rolfe, Senior Architect; Mary Heffernan, General Manager, Farmleigh; Eithne Dunford, Board Support Unit; Patrick J. Murphy, Art Advisor; Jacquie Moore, Deputy Art Advisor and Jenny Lonergan who acts as Secretary to the Group. The exhibition of works features many different types of original



Garden Fish I by James McGreary

prints by emerging and established artists based throughout Ireland including etchings, lithographs, carborundum and mixed media prints. A fully illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition. As well as biographical information on each artist, the catalogue contains two perceptive and educational essays on the nature of printmaking and its practice in Ireland by two distinguished practitioners, Andrew Folan from Dublin and David Barker from Belfast. One aim of this touring exhibition is to make prints more popular and encourage a wider public to purchase limited

edition original works of art which can be had for a fraction of the cost of paintings and sculpture.

One of the OPW's responsibilities under the terms of the Government's Per Cent for Art scheme is to ensure that measures are taken to use public art as an educational resource and to make the works publicly accessible. This year, the exhibition will visit five venues, three in the Republic of Ireland and two in Northern Ireland. The exhibition runs in the Greyfriars Municipal Gallery in Waterford for the months of July and August. It

then travels to the Clotworthy House Arts Centre in Antrim in early September and to the Omagh Council Gallery in late September and October. It opens at the Wexford Opera Festival in Wexford Vocational College at the end of October and ends in the Athlone Institute of Technology in November.

PATRICK J. MURPHY

Art Advisor

Dúchas Accommodation Programme

Project Management Services operate a programme of works to provide Office Accommodation for Dúchas, Department of Environment and Local Government. This Programme is funded by the Office of Public Works. In addition, Dúchas also provide funding for a variety of other projects such as refurbishment works to Castletown House and the Botanic Gardens. Currently, the programmes span some 80 separate projects country-wide. The following is an outline of some of the most recently completed projects.



NEW PLAYGROUND, PEOPLES GARDENS, PHOENIX PARK, DUBLIN

On Tuesday 29 April 2003, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD, officially opened the new Playground in the Peoples Gardens, Phoenix Park, Dublin.

The Phoenix Park is considered to be one of the greatest urban parks of any city in the world. It was



established in 1662 as a royal deerpark, but with the building of the Royal Hospital at Kilmainham, which commenced in 1680, the Park was reduced to its present size, which extends to more than 1,750 acres. Through the centuries the Phoenix Park has gradually been transformed from an outlying country estate to an integral part of the city of Dublin and its environs. The new playground will add to the magnificent amenities already in place in the Park.

The project which involved the complete refurbishment of the playground, was funded by Dúchas. The contract involved the supply and installation of core playground equipment, ancillary items and wet-pour safety surface.

The main contractor, Synthetic Sports Surfaces Ireland Ltd, was engaged in December 2002. They stripped out the old equipment, installed in the 1980s, which was in very poor



Jerpoint Abbey



Fota House



Joseph's Cottage

condition. It was considered not safe for future use and was removed from the site. The surface of the playground was also removed and replaced under the contract, which was completed in approximately four months.

The playground is divided into two areas juniors (3-6 years) and seniors (6-12 years). The play equipment was supplied by SMP (Playgrounds) Ltd as nominated sub-contractors.

Project Management Services:

Stephen Monks

Architectural Services:

Noelle Sweeney, Marie Fox

Dúchas Representative:

Gabriel Gleeson

CEIDE FIELDS, CO. MAYO

In March 2003 an extension to the Céide Fields Visitor Centre was completed. The single-storey extension to the Services Section provides additional staff facilities, including changing rooms, toilets, office, store and staffroom. A universal access route was also incorporated into the project.

Project Management Services:

Edel Kirby

Architectural Services:

Malcolm Jackson Practice

Tony O'Shaughnessy

Structural Engineer:

Kieran Walsh

M&E Services:

Padraig Cronin

Dúchas Representative:

Martin Luby

FOTA HOUSE, FOTA ISLAND, CO. CORK

Restoration and reconstruction works were carried out in the Sunken Italian gardens at Fota House. Stone steps were relaid adjacent to the Rose and Cordyline gardens, paths were reinstated and the existing paths in the Walled Pleasure Garden were renovated. It was important to preserve the historic character of the gardens and plants as Fota is a heritage garden and is well known for its many unusual and rare plants. The approach to the work was to replicate the original in all respects. Work was completed in January 2003.

Project Management Services:

Stephen Monks

Architectural Services:

Liz Morgan

Dúchas Representative:

Gabriel Gleeson

JERPPOINT ABBEY, CO. KILKENNY

Jerpoint Abbey, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny is an outstanding Cistercian abbey founded in the late twelfth

century. The Visitor Centre on the site houses an exhibition, as well as facilities for guides. The recent works involved an extension to existing guide facilities at Jerpoint Abbey and were completed in April 2003. This involved extending the exhibition space and upgrading the existing offices and toilets. The extension is clad in cedar wood, which will mature over time to complement the limestone of the adjoining centre.

Project Management Services:

Edel Kirby

Architectural Services:

Michele O'Dea, Aighleann

O'Shaughnessy (Dúchas)

M&E Services: Hayes Higgins

Partnership

Dúchas Representative:

Martin Luby

This contract was carried out by Pierce Healy Developments Ltd

JOSEPH'S COTTAGE, CO. WICKLOW

Joseph's Cottage is a small two-storey house located in the Wicklow Mountains National Park in Kippure East and it is now used as a ranger base for the Wildlife Service. It was formerly the residence of a shepherd who worked for the Downshire, later the Darley and later still the McHenry Estate. The project involved the refurbishment of the original cottage, the rebuilding of the attached store,



Knockreer House



St. Enda's



St. Enda's

viewing point, and garage, together with associated external pavings, entrances and drainage works. It was handed over to the client in December 2002.

Project Management Services:

Stephen Monks

Architectural Services:

Aoife Donnelly, Angela Rolfe

Structural Engineer:

Ian Wolfe

M&E Services:

Tom Guy, Keith Milsom

Dúchas Representative:

Loretta Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh

KNOCKREER HOUSE, KILLARNEY, CO. KERRY

Knockreer House was designed by the English architect Francis Spollen and built in 1958, as the residence of the late Beatrice Grosvenor, a direct descendant of the Earls of Kenmare. Dúchas now occupy the house as a research and education centre for Killarney National Park. The main roof of the house was leaking badly and was recently re-roofed with red cedar shingles by Séan Clifford, Building Contractor. The works were completed in April 2003.

Project Management Services:

Edel Kirby

Architectural Services:

Michael Brennan, Peter Rogers (Cork District Office)

Dúchas Representative:

Loretta Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh

ST. ENDA'S, RATHFARNHAM, DUBLIN

The school founded by Patrick Pearse in 1908, St. Enda's, is now a museum dedicated to him and his work.

St. Enda's has been completely re-roofed by William Byrne & Co. Ltd and work was completed in April 2003 this year. The works consisted of the repair/renewal of five separate slated pitched roofs, five flat roofs and one glazed mono pitch roof and the repair and reglazing of a conservatory, which has a partially curved section. Major refurbishment of the interior of the museum is planned for the future, together with the refurbishment of the Gate Lodge at St. Enda's Park.

Project Management Services:

Anne Moran

Architectural Services:

Architects Des Byrne in association with O'Dowd. O'Herlihy Horan

Dúchas Representative:

Gabriel Gleeson

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS INCLUDE:

- The faithful restoration of the Palm House Complex, Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin
- Extension to Kilafin Wildlife Office, Co. Wicklow,
- The provision of a new Entrance Pavilion at Connemara National Park
- The provision of a new entrance to the Iveagh Gardens from Upper Hatch Street, Dublin

ANNE MORAN

Project Management Services



Flood Review Group

Back Row L-R: Matt Twomey, County and City Manager's Association; Colm O Bric, Dept Agriculture & Food; Donal Buckley, IBEC; Gerard Farrell, Dept of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources; John Crimmins, OPW; John Tiernan, County and City Manager's Association; Jim Blighe, OPW; Gerry Gunning, IFA.

Front Row L-R: Tom Walsh, Dept Environment & Local Government; Eric Hartman, Dept Finance; Commissioner Clare McGrath, OPW; Minister of State Tom Parlon; OPW Chairman Séan Benton. Tony Smyth, OPW

On 27 November 2002, Minister of State Tom Parlon, TD, announced a major review relating to flood relief policy would be undertaken to examine:

- The causes and extent of flooding
- In general terms, the impact of flooding on different sections of society, e.g. farmers, householders, businesses etc.
- How the state should respond to different categories of flooding and recommend which agencies should have responsibility in each case
- Criteria for the prioritisation of expenditure between response programmes and within programmes where appropriate
- The extent and adequacy of existing powers and processes and recommend any changes and any new or additional powers considered necessary.
- Strategies to manage any increase

in the present extent of areas at risk of flooding, with particular reference to current predictions regarding the effects of climate change

- Criteria for initiation of any future Humanitarian Aid Schemes.

In order to facilitate this process and to ensure all social groups were fairly represented within the review, it was decided to not only invite all relevant Government Departments, but also other members of the social partnership process to sit on the review group which would be tasked with examining the above terms of reference and reporting its findings by Autumn 2003.

The Group, which is chaired by the Minister of State, Tom Parlon TD, consists of representatives from the Office of Public Works; Departments of Finance; Environment & Local Government; Communications, Marine & Natural Resources; Agriculture & Food; the County & City Managers Association; Irish Business and Employers Confederation; and

the Irish Farmers Association.

The first meeting of the Group took place on 17 January 2003, following which an advertisement was placed in the three national daily newspapers inviting submissions from all interested parties wishing to have their views considered by the Group. Following this request 70 written submissions were received from a wide range of individuals and bodies including various local authorities, representative organisations and private individuals. In addition, as part of the consultation process, a number of key stakeholders whose inputs it is thought are key to the development of future policy were identified and met with to discuss their opinions and issues in more detail.

To date the Group has met five times and will continue to meet on a monthly basis until the final report is presented to Government later in the Autumn.

JOHN CRIMMINS
Project Management Services

The system of singling out and rewarding design has been developed in most industrialised countries in recent years

Diary of Exhibitions and Events 2003

Interiors and Crafts - Bowls





Excellent Swedish Design - Cloud



Excellent Swedish Design - Watering Cans



Venice Pavilion

...the subtlety of dealing with the colours of the materials themselves to the strength of colour achievable through dyes, glazes and pigments ...

EXCELLENT SWEDISH DESIGN

7 – 20 JANUARY

Design is a field of knowledge that demands training and skill on several levels. Svensk Form (the Swedish Society of Crafts and Design) would like to contribute to this debate by annually composing a public exhibition of what a professional jury, newly selected each year, decides are examples of good design. The system of singling out and rewarding design has been developed in most industrialised countries in recent years. One of the most extensive systems is found in Sweden and is called Excellent Swedish Design. In order to be entered, a product must be the result of a collaboration between a designer and a manufacturer which has resulted in a product that has been created during the past twelve months and that is currently on the market.

Selection of a product leads to a ceremony at which a diploma is awarded. The designer gains a merit point and a broad public gains increased insight into design and into an interesting world of design in everyday life. Excellent Swedish

design is one of many instruments used by Svensk Form to promote good design. The results are present in a travelling exhibition which will travel to a number of locations including Stockholm, Lisbon, Switzerland, Milan, Iceland and Rome.

This exhibition was opened on 7 January 2003, in the Atrium, 51 St. Stephen's Green, by the Ambassador of Sweden Mr. Nils Daag.

8TH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE VENICE

23 JANUARY – 20 FEBRUARY

On 22 January in the Atrium of the Office of Public Works, 51 St. Stephen's Green, the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr. John O'Donoghue TD inaugurated this second presentation of the work of Bucholz McEvoy Architects.

In 2002, for the first time, the Irish presentation was located within the Italian Pavilion situated in Venice's

Public Gardens, the Giardini Pubblici. There, Dublin-based architects presented their design for Limerick County Hall currently under construction at Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick, and due for completion in Summer 2003.

The Irish Pavilion comprises elements used in the actual construction of Limerick County Hall. Visitors are invited to move along a path constructed of formwork that weaves its way between components exhibited in ways suggestive of their use on site. Thus fiber glass moulds (used to form concrete floor slabs) and timber and glass façade elements are propped against a backdrop of text and images that describe the architects' design process. A steel rib nicknamed 'the hockey stick' will hang from a specially constructed canopy.

Ireland's participation at the Architecture Biennale is an initiative of the Cultural Relations Committee of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. It has received supplementary support from the Arts Council and from the Office of Public Works.

This exhibition ran until 20th February 2003.



Venice Pavilion



18th AAI Annual Awards Exhibition and Book Launch

...visual art in Singapore is very much about the making of art and not exclusively about its presentation...

INTERIORS AND CRAFTS

3 – 19 MARCH

'Of Colour in Craft' – There are many different starting points in the making of a piece of work. For the 14 people in this Crafts Council of Ireland, National Craft Gallery exhibition that starting point is colour. Across a range of disciplines we see how varied and individual this approach is. From the subtlety of dealing with the colours of the materials themselves to the strength of colour achievable through dyes, glazes and pigments we follow the various paths travelled.

This exhibition opened on 3 March in the Atrium, 51 St. Stephen's Green

A STAGE FOR DIONYSOS – THEATRICAL SPACE AND ANCIENT DRAMA EXHIBITION

7 MARCH – 3 APRIL

This exhibition derived its theme from the cultural heritage of Greece. It presented the power of Greek civilization, the continuity of its theme and its influence on the contemporary theatrical creativity. The exhibition showed the connection of democracy and ancient

drama and has been on tour since July 1997.

Vase painting, theatrical costumes, giant photographs from significant performances are part of the great number of exhibits that describe the development of ancient drama. Audiovisual extracts from 30 Greek and foreign performances of ancient drama are also shown on video. One of the main axes of the exhibition is the architectural development of the theatres from antiquity to the 20th century. The exhibition presented a significant collection of authentic costumes from great performances, such as Oedipus Rex, Medea, Orestia Antigone, Birds and others. This was the first time, on a global level that a map of the ancient theatres and odeons was presented. It depicted all the 733 ancient Greek and Roman theatres that existed in antiquity. This exhibition was highly educational in its scope and character. Its historical evolution was represented by a series of audiovisual and multimedia programmes.

This exhibition was held in the Erin Room, State Apartments, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2 from 7 March.

BROTHER MC NALLY SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

27 MARCH – 20 APRIL

The work of the late Brother Joseph McNally was exhibited at the Atrium in the Office of Public Works, 51



18th AAI Annual Awards Exhibition and Book Launch



Cerda Exhibition

... to demonstrate how consultation and design solutions can achieve inclusive accessibility ...

St. Stephen's Green, from 27 March to 20 April 2003. Brother McNally was a sculptor and educator who lived and worked in Singapore since 1945. He was born in Ballintubber, Co. Mayo in 1923 and became a member of the La



Salle Brothers religious community. He studied art at the National College of Art, Dublin, in the 1950s and obtained his PhD in Arts Education at Columbia University, USA in 1972. He founded the La Salle-SIA College of the Arts in Singapore in 1983. In 1997, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his lifetime contribution to the arts and education in Singapore. In 1998 he received the Mont Blanc de la Culture award for patronage of the arts. He died in 2002 while on a visit home to Ireland.

Brother McNally had exhibited since the 1950s, working as a sculptor and a painter. In his sculptures, he combined metals and glass, wood and crystals, as well as using ancient bog wood. In Brother McNally's own words, matter's inertia must be given energy, in the way people must be given spirit, that is, inspired. Although Brother McNally spent most of his adult life in Asia and

Singapore, he expressed his commitment to his Irish roots in his art works by combining Celtic elements with Eastern symbolism. His works are represented in private and institutional collections in Europe, the USA and Asia.

Bridget Tracy Tan of the Singapore Art Museum was the curator of this exhibition - An Invitation to Nature. In discussing Brother McNally's work, she stated that visual art in Singapore is very much about the making of art and not exclusively about its presentation. She considered that Brother McNally's work transcended material experience and reached a spiritual one. A famous photographer once said I like quiet pictures. Pictures that speak without shouting. That was both Brother Joseph McNally and his art,' she said.

This retrospective exhibition of Brother McNally's work was organised by the National Arts Council of Singapore, the National Heritage Board of Singapore in co-operation with the Office of Public Works. It opened on 27 March in the Atrium, 51 St, Stephen's Green.

18TH ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND AWARDS EXHIBITION

28 APRIL – 2 MAY



Design for All



Design for All

The 18th annual AAI Awards for Excellence in Architectural Design exhibition opened on Friday 25 April 2003 in the Atrium at the Office of Public Works, 51 St. Stephen's Green. The launch of the 18th volume of the best-selling 'New Irish Architecture' by Gandon Editions coincided with the opening. O'Donnell + Tuomey received an award for the Leinster House Press Reception Room. The Office of Public Works was the client for this project.

'CERDA' PIONEER OF MODERN URBAN PLANNING – THE BARCELONA EXHIBITION 7 – 30 MAY

The Catalan architect Ildefons Cerda (1812-79) was one of the most influential urbanists of his time. His plans for the Barcelona extension converted this city into one of the great metropolis in Europe. This exhibition shows through drawings, photographs, a video and CD-ROM, Cerda's town planning projects and their relevance. It has been shown in 50 cities around the world.

This exhibition was open to staff and the public at the Office of Public Works, 51 St. Stephen's Green from 7 to 30 May 2003.

DESIGN FOR ALL

The exhibition was presented by the OPW in conjunction with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Institute for Design and

Disability.

The theme of the exhibition was universal design and its aim was to highlight the difficulties experienced by people with varying degrees of disability and to demonstrate how consultation and design solutions can achieve inclusive accessibility.

The exhibition, designed by Scroope Design, was itself an example of Design for All. It included, for example, audio commentary behind each panel describing the text and visual messages, through a button-activated handset mounted on a tactile plate on each panel.

The exhibition was of interest to central and local government, professional bodies, trade, product developers, manufacturers and special interest groups, as well as the general public.

This exhibition opened in the Office of Public Works, 51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin on 14 October 2002. As part of its nationwide tour during 2003 - European Year of People with Disabilities, it travelled to Limerick in March, Tullamore in April, Our House Exhibition in Punchestown, and Longford during May.

Due to the phenomenal success in Ireland, the exhibition travelled to Malaga, Spain, in May to be displayed at the 2nd European Conference of Ministers responsible for integration policies for people with disabilities.

The exhibition will continue to tour other venues throughout the country during the remainder of 2003.



Issue 9 June 2003

OBAIR

A bi-annual newsletter from the Office of Public Works

Published by

Office of Public Works

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