

MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM MONAGHAN, CO. MONAGHAN

County Museum
Client Monaghan County Council
Value € 13,500,000
Strategic Development Study 2008



Sheridan Woods Architects + Urban Planners were appointed by Monaghan County Museum to carry out a Strategic Development Study for Monaghan County Museum. This study provides Monaghan County Museum and Monaghan County Council with an opportunity to examine the feasibility of the development of a flagship cultural project.

The study comprises an evaluation of the existing museum and its facilities, formulates an appropriate brief for a new County Museum, gives an assessment of suitable Museums sites and finally develops a vision for a new Museum. Its purpose is to propose a clear plan to help the client with realising their goal of creating a completely accessible, socially inclusive Museum that works at the heart of the community

The chosen site for the case study forms an important entrance to the historic core of Monaghan town. However it is situated at a location of transition, between the historic fine urban grain and industrial building forms and retail unites of larger scale.

The building form is designed to create a landmark and strong identity, presenting a contemporary building form, balanced with the use of indigenous building materials that integrate with the contextual urban fabric.

The museum design is laid out in two blocks. One bigger block over three levels comprises the public areas and

one smaller over two floor levels serving the internal workflow of the museum. The museum is located at the junction of Glasslough Street and North Road and creates a small formal Civic Space which provides the main entrance to the museum with reception area and retail unit. A second informal entrance is provided to the rear serving vehicular and staff access to the lower level.

A community space with informal exhibition area, café, and lecture hall, are situated on this level and all address a landscaped informal civic green space with children's playground and outdoor facilities to allow the staging of events.

The top floor comprises permanent, as well as temporary exhibition spaces and an education room. Parts of the exhibition space project from the main volume to gain view of St. Peters Lake, adjacent train engine sheds and the hospital. These vistas offer a visual link from the exhibition to relevant aspects of the town.

The three floor are interconnected by a central double height space. Changes in level allow ease of movement between the various floors, creating fluid movement between the public parts of the building. The concept of the building is to integrate the various spatial hierarchies, the informal community spaces with café and green space, and formal aspects of the building, including lecture rooms, and permanent and temporary exhibits.

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