



Face Lift for the Master's Lodge

Project in brief

When Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company began its development of the Harbour Yard, it also decided to restore and extend the Harbour Masters Lodge.

The Harbour Masters Lodge, originally the Harbour Commissioners House, was built by George Smith in 1820 for the princely sum of £330. It is built in the neoclassical style with Dalkey granite and is surmounted by a clock tower and signalling turret.

In recent years the Harbour Company used the lodge as their head office, but vacated the building during the Harbour Yard development. This opportunity was taken to renovate and restore the interior of the lodge and to construct a modern 2 storey extension to the rear occupying the entire area of the original garden.

As the lodge is a protected structure, it was a condition that the original garden walls be retained. To provide light into the ground floor of the new extension, window slits had to be carefully formed through the 600mm thick rubble walls by installing new steel heads. Considerable underpinning was also required to enable the construction of new foundations for the extension, which was to be structurally independent of the original building.

All the work was carried out under the watchful eye of the Conservation Officer whose offices overlooked the site!

The new extension was formed by a steel frame and wide slab floors to enable quick construction as there was only a small window of opportunity for the development work to be completed prior to the site becoming virtually land locked by the completion of the Harbour Yard development and a new concourse in front of the lodge.

The fabric of the lodge was in remarkably good condition given its 190 year life so far. The removal of the external render revealed some minor cracking which was stitched as a precaution. A number of timber window lintels were uncovered but found to be in good condition.

During the restoration, the opportunity was taken to restore the clock on the tower. This now provides an accurate timepiece for all those walkers returning from the battery at the end of the East Pier.



LeeMcCullough
Consulting Engineers

Project 3721: Office-Restoration
Harbour Master's Lodge
Dun Laoghaire

Client: Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company

Architects: Walsh Associate Architects

Value: 1.3m (2007)

Project scope:

- Restoration of historic structure
- New build extension
- Confined site & programme

Historical Renovation

At LeeMcCullough we have exceptional experience of revitalising existing buildings, which is often more complex than the structural engineering of new buildings.

Over many projects we have addressed and resolved a wide range of issues, including:

- Strengthening historical joists and beams to carry increased loading
- Masonry Decay/Delamination
- Threading modern services into old structures

At LeeMcCullough we always seek to identify and resolve issues early, innovatively address demanding building difficulties and deliver our solutions on time and cost efficiently.

When it comes to renovation and refurbishment, anticipating and resolving engineering issues effectively is the key to a successful outcome.