

Landmark Clock moved to new location



Brief

When The Irish Times moved from their offices on Westmoreland Street, they decided to take their landmark clock with them and have it erected beside their new offices on Tara Street. We were asked by Architects Henry J Lyons to design a structural system to allow the clock to cantilever high above street level, independent of the building

Challenges

The main challenge on this project was caused by the physical size of the clock. The body of the clock is 1m in diameter suspended approximately 2.5m out from its support point. Following a detailed examination of the existing offices at the location where it was intended to erect the clock structure, it was decided that it would not be practical to cantilever the clock from the façade at that point due to tight deflection limits imposed on the structure by the façade system. As an alternative, it was decided to erect the clock as a stand-alone piece of Street Architecture adjacent to the entrance of the offices. This new design called for two 9m tall free standing posts off which the clock was to hang.

Key features

In what must have been Dublin's smallest building site, work commenced on the foundations for the new posts. The ground in the area was fill to a depth of several metres due to the construction of the office block. Fortunately there was reputed to be a tower crane base just under where the posts were to be located.

On opening the foundations the base was discovered to be about 1.5m away from the desired position. Due to the location of live services, the posts could not move so a foundation was designed which hung off the edge of the crane base.

In September 2008, to much fanfare, the clock was unveiled in its new location. Internally the clock had also undergone a transformation so that it would light up at dusk and is now automated, removing the need to adjust the time twice yearly.



LeeMcCullough
Consulting Engineers

Project 3813: Street Architecture

Irish Times Clock

Client: The Irish Times

Architects: Henry J Lyons

Value: €100K (2009)

Project scope:

- *Street Architecture*
- *Landmark development*

Engineering New Buildings

For more than 30 years, we at LeeMcCullough have been providing structural and civil engineering services for new buildings in the commercial, education, leisure, retail, and residential sectors.

Key aspects of our services are:

- An open, collaborative philosophy providing engineering design solutions that are appropriate for the specific project, will support architectural creativity and are cost-effective in delivery
- A close working relationship with all parties involved; effective team participation; and knowledgeable and experienced integration with other service providers
- A professional commitment to our client's projects; delivering a flexible and quality service, cost efficient and on time.

At LeeMcCullough we provide senior, experienced personnel supported by the required resources, to lead our involvement in your project, demonstration of our commitment to provide excellent client service and quality/innovative, design solutions.