



Multi-phase development at Dublin's famous city centre college

Belvedere College O'Reilly Theatre & Dargan-Moloney Science Wing.

Project in brief

Following teamwork on a master plan, we were engineers on four phases of work at Belvedere College. Phase 1 incorporated the refurbishment of the existing Kerr Wing and the development of additional new classrooms in a roof level extension, which included a running track on the roof. Additional vertical circulation was also included. The Phase 2 new block contains the O'Reilly Theatre, which includes a 1,000 person auditorium, convertible to 500 seat fully featured theatre. It is built over a multi-level underground car park, and is topped by a playing pitch on the roof. The substructure for a future Arts Block and Science/Technology Wing was incorporated in the car park and foundations.

Phase 4 consisting of the Dargan-Moloney Science and Technology wing, was opened in September 2004.

The aggregate new build area is in excess of 8,000 m².

Challenges

These included, working within a tight city centre site; the phasing of work – (e.g. having to incorporate substructure for Phase 4 into Phase 2) and working on a live school site.

Innovative Solutions

The heavy steel truss roof to the auditorium spans 23m, and supports a roof-level playing pitch, with framing to support safety netting over the playing area.

The Theatre fitout included a steel suspension grid over the stage and a hydraulic orchestra pit floor.



Atrium in the College foyer



LeeMcCullough
Consulting Engineers

Project 3118: Education - New Build
Belvedere College, Dublin

Client: Belvedere College SJ

Architect: Murray O'Laoire Architects

Value: Completed phases €10m. (05)

LeeMcCullough: Gerry McCabe

Project scope:

- A) Development of master plan
- B) Phase 1: Refurbishment of Kerr Wing
- C) Phase 2: Theatre/car park/soccer pitch
- D) Phase 3: Minor works to Junior School
- E) Phase 4: Dargan-Moloney Science and Technology Wing.

Educational Development

At LeeMcCullough we have worked on some of the finest educational facilities in the country, combining our specialist knowledge of renovation and adaptation for new use with our long experience of engineering new, high quality accommodation and learning facilities.

To Educational projects we bring:

- Appreciation of the need for engineering facilitation of modern, creative, architectural design
- Recognition of the culture of change and development, which is an integral part of the educational environment today; and
- An understanding of the need for adaptability within structures to meet future changes in curricula and technology

For many years we at LeeMcCullough have utilized our accumulated knowledge and experience in the Education sector to contribute significantly to the projects for which we are commissioned.