O’DONNELL + TUOMEY ARCHITECTS
for
CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
Campus Redevelopment
2. INTRODUCTION TO THE PRACTICE

Introduction

O’Donnell + Tuomey was established by Sheila O’Donnell and John Tuomey in 1988. We are based in an old school house in central Dublin which provides open plan studio space for drawing, model making, team work and discussion. In 2008 we opened a second office in Cork where we are working on projects for the University College Cork and a number of community projects. We have a total of 20 staff; 18 in Dublin and 2 in Cork.

We design high quality one-off buildings for a wide range of clients and building types. All of our buildings have received awards. Our workload in recent years has focused on Arts and Educational buildings, including university buildings, schools, theatres, cinemas, galleries, museums and libraries. Much of that work has been carried out within the curtilage of historic Protected Structures and sensitive landscapes.

Our clients include Universities, Arts organisations, Local Authorities, Schools and charity organisations. We have become expert at taking a brief, understanding the nature of a site and the needs of the users. We approach each project with a fresh and open mind. We thrive on the challenge of responding to the particular requirements of each new project. We are “specialists in non specialisation”.

High quality and imaginative architecture

We have an international reputation for architectural design quality, made evident by more than 50 awards and commendations at home and abroad, including two shortlistings for the RIBA Stirling Prize, two shortlistings for the RIBA Lubetkin Prize, and the RIAI Triennial Gold Medal (the highest award in Irish Architecture). We received the RIBA Award for Best Educational Building in Europe for Ranelagh Multidenominational National School. We have been awarded the Architectural Association of Ireland (AAI) Downes Medal 7 times. Monographs of our work have been published by Princeton Architectural Press in 2006 and Buffalo books in 2010. Both directors were elected as International Honorary Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 2010 in recognition of their contribution to International Architectural culture.

We provide a full architectural service from concept to detail design and construction, including hard landscape, interior design and fitted furniture. This service is provided through all stages of the contract from initial briefing to completion on site.

We have a strong team of well qualified, intelligent people. All of our architects are deeply committed to providing an excellent service to our clients in all areas of work from design to contract management.

It is our policy to maintain our workload at a level where both directors have a close involvement and design control of each building project. The quality of our team ensures that we offer an exceptional level of service to our clients, many of whom have come back to us for additional services, extensions and new buildings.
3. SPECIFIC SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Communication / coordination

We have experience in co-ordination with a variety of University client and management structures. This has extended from regular briefing sessions with building committees and project boards to balancing the sometimes conflicting needs of diverse users.

We are regularly involved in public presentations on behalf of our clients to conservation and residents groups, students, stakeholders and various associated interest groups.

We have a well established analysis and design method using sketches, rendered drawings, two and three dimensional computer modelling and physical models. Model making is a particular skill which we have developed in-house to allow us to fully explain design development to clients at all stages of jobs and is a standard part of our service.

Campus Planning / Masterplans

We have extensive experience in masterplanning and urban design including campus planning. Relevant experience includes:

- Design of UCC satellite campus (1995-1999) on the site of the former Good Shepherd Convent including design of buildings for Departments of Law, Music and Social Studies, public lecture theatre, performance space, restaurant and student housing (area 12,500 sq.m.)
- Temple Bar Framework Plan (completed 1996). This plan for a historic quarter of Dublin involved creation of two new public spaces, consolidation and amplification of routes and the design of three cultural buildings.
- Letterfrack Furniture College campus and buildings (completed Phase I 2001)
- Masterplan for Zuidpoort Delft, Netherlands (completed 2006)
- Trinity College Dublin Pearse Street Campus Development Plan (2002 - ongoing)
SPECIFIC SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

University Buildings

Through our work with the London School of Economics and Irish Universities we have become familiar with working with the different structures within institutions; we have worked with Buildings Offices on briefing and procedural matters, Governing Bodies on policy, budgets and formal approvals, and with professors/staff on detailed briefing, user feedback, etc.

This experience would help us to work effectively and cooperatively with Central European University from the outset.

Relevant University projects include:

- London School of Economics New Students' Centre (construction starts May 2011)
- Trinity College Dublin Pearse Street Development
- Trinity College Dublin Business School and Students’ Centre (design development)
- Trinity College Dublin Centre for Irish Art Research (completed 2008)
- Glucksman Gallery at University College Cork (completed 2005)
- CRID research laboratories, University College Dublin (completed 2004)
- Letterfrack Furniture College and community facilities, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (Phase1: 2001)

Refurbishments and Contemporary Buildings in Historic Context

We have been involved in many projects for contemporary buildings on sensitive sites in relation to Protected Structures and Landscapes. Relevant projects include:

- Photographers’ Gallery, London: extension and refurbishment project in historic context in London (on site)
- Leinster House (Irish parliament) press reception room: new auditorium inserted into existing space behind Protected Structures façades (2003)
- Irish Film Institute: conversion, subtractions and additions to listed buildings (completed 1992/2010 phase 2)

O’Donnell + Tuomey are RIAI accredited Conservation Architects.

Working on these projects has involved us in delicate and diplomatic negotiations with conservation interest groups.
4. DETAILS OF KEY PERSONNEL

SHEILA O’DONNELL  Director
B Arch MA RCA FRIAI RIBA, Hon FAIA born in Dublin 1953.

Sheila graduated from the School of Architecture University College Dublin in 1976 and worked in London for Spence and Webster, Colquhoun and Miller and Stirling Wilford Associates. Through her work for Stirling Wilford on the design and detailed development of the Tate’s Clore Gallery at Millbank, she gained valuable experience in design of specialist galleries, conservation workshops and public facilities.

She has a master’s degree in Environmental Design from the Royal College of Art in London. She has developed her expertise through her research and teaching role at the School of Architecture UCD.

She was a member of the Interim Board of the National Museum of Ireland with the specific task of advising on the appropriate strategy for the development of the Collins Barracks complex as a permanent home for the Museum. She has been an external examiner at Cambridge University, and the Architectural Association, London.

In 1988 she set up O’Donnell + Tuomey with John Tuomey and in 1994 was raised to the rank of Fellow by the RIAI in recognition of her contribution to Irish Architecture practice

She was a director of Group 91 Architects, who in 1991 won the urban design competition for the Architectural Framework for Temple Bar. Group 91 were urban design consultants to Temple Bar Properties 1992-97.

She was partner in charge for the Irish Film Centre, Blackwood Golf Centre, Ranelagh Multidenominational School, University College Cork Good Shepherd campus, Cherry Orchard School, Waterwin Schools in Netherlands, Timberyard social housing scheme in Dublin’s Liberties, St. Angela’s College, Knockmore housing and Barnardos childcare building, two buildings for Adamstown new town, school in Kilmallock and social housing projects in Cork.

She was a member of the RIBA Awards Group 2006-2010.

She has taken the RIAI block course in conservation, leading to accreditation in Conservation at Grade 3.

She is a member of Aosdána, the affiliation of creative artists in Ireland.

She was elected as Honorary Fellow of American Institute of Architects in 2010.

The use of watercolour studies of context and building form has characterised her recent work. She uses painting and drawing as an integral part of the process of making buildings and communication with clients. Her watercolour studies have been exhibited in the Royal Academy in London and the Royal Irish Academy.

Watercolour - Students Union, LSE
JOHN TUOMEY  
Director
M Arch FRIAI RIBA Hon FAIA, born in Tralee in 1954.

John graduated from the School of Architecture University College Dublin in 1976, gaining a master's degree in 2004. He worked in London for Stirling Wilford Associates 1976-1981. During his time with Stirling Wilford he worked on the design of the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart from design conception to construction. He was involved in detailed design of the gallery spaces and the lighting system, as well as gallery shop, restaurant and stores as well as developing the urban design aspects of the project.

He worked as an architect in the Office of Public Works from 1981 to 1987, where he was responsible for the design, and contract management for a Laboratory at Abbotstown and for a Courthouse in Smithfield, completed in 1987, which was part of an Urban Design project for the Smithfield area.

In 1988 he set up O’Donnell + Tuomey Architects with Sheila O’Donnell and in 1994 was raised to the rank of Fellow by the RIAI in recognition of his contribution to Irish Architecture practice. Since 1981 he has been teaching at the School of Architecture UCD, he has also been an external examiner at University of East London and the Architectural Association, London.

He was managing director of Group 91 Architects during the Temple Bar Development and played a key role in liaising with TBP, with Government agencies and with various interest groups. His role included overseeing contract management of building projects by other Group 91 architects as well as by O’Donnell + Tuomey.

He was partner in charge of several O’Donnell + Tuomey projects including: Glucksman Gallery UCC; National Photographic Archive Dublin; Gallery of Photography Dublin; Furniture College Letterfrack; Laboratory UCD; Trinity Research Centre; Leinster House Press Room; John Lewis Store Sheffield; Adamstown offices; Sean O’Casey Community Centre Dublin; An Gaeláras Irish Language Centre Derry. Currently he is involved in works on Trinity Pearse St Development Plan; Photographer’s Gallery London; Coleraine Museum and Library and Students’ Centre for London School of Economics and Lyric Theatre, Belfast.

He is author of *Architecture, Craft and Culture* published by Gandon Editions.

He is the first Professor of Architectural Design at University College Dublin.

He is a member of Aosdána, the affiliation of creative artists in Ireland.

He was elected as Honorary Fellow of American Institute of Architects in 2010.

His engagement continues beyond practice and teaching to a more civic role in the public awareness of architecture. He was president of the Architectural Association of Ireland in 1992-93 and in 1986 he initiated the AAI Awards for excellence in architectural design, attracting significant Arts Council sponsorship and encouraging a wider public recognition for the art of architecture. Building on these early experiences, direct and effective communication with community and user groups during design development is integral to his work method.

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![Concept Sketch, Lewis Glucksman Gallery](image-url)