


Extension and refurbishment of tower block - Cork County, Ireland	
Keywords	Building refurbishment, improvements in energy performance
Pictures	
Objectives	<p>There were several aims of the Cork County Hall redevelopment project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a new relationship between the County Hall and the City; - Making a striking architectural composition of elements relating the new accommodation with the existing landmark building in a coherent arrangement; - Architecturally and environmentally upgrading the existing building in sympathy with its formal and aesthetic properties; - Reorganising the overall site layout to provide a new campus for the County Hall; - Providing a public building for the 21st Century.
Description	<p>Cork County Hall is a landmark building in Ireland and was the tallest building in Ireland when it was opened. The building houses the administrative headquarters for Cork County Council. It was originally a 16 storey tower block, completed in 1968. However, since then the building had begun to deteriorate, with the original textured surface of precast concrete tracery becoming severely eroded. The building was also very uncomfortable to work in because it had excessive solar heat gain. In addition, the building's entrance and surrounding environment was in need of a revamp.</p> <p>Therefore, it was decided that the building should be refurbished and extended. As part of this project, the original concrete façade was replaced with louvered glass cladding that is climate sensitive and provides natural ventilation for the building. As part of the project, an additional storey and a six-storey extension at ground level were added, as well as a new concourse. The project was completed in June 2006.</p>
Results / Achievements	<p>Benefits / Achievements from the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optimised climatic control and environmental stability to provide a more comfortable working environment - Improved energy efficiency for heating and cooling by controlling the façade elements so that the building is in unison with the climatic environment. It provides shading against the aggressive summer sun, collects solar gains and protects against aggressive wind conditions during winter - Natural ventilation of the offices and the removal of previous draughts - Moving components of active façade with a design life of twenty-five years - Panoramic views of the county and the city from the new facility. <p>In addition, the redevelopment has resulted in new public space and office accommodation. The addition of the concourse has created a dynamic entrance and gathering place for the public.</p>
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