

DESIGN CONCEPT STATEMENT

PROPOSED LIBRARY AT KINGSCOURT, CO. CAVAN.

Kingscourt Public Enhancement Scheme



Architectural/3d Render of Front/Main Street Elevation of Proposed Library

Proposed Works – The Proposed Refurbishment, adaptation and extension of the former National Irish Bank building on Market Square as a new library and part-demolition of existing outbuilding; New rear stairwell and for universal accessibility and associated works at Main street and Market Square, Kingscourt.

Description And Appraisal of Existing National Irish Bank

Description

Facing Main Street the former bank building is an attached three-bay, two and a half storey building, originally built c.1780, with two-storey return to rear built at later time, the top storey conversion is also a later addition with dormer windows. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks to party wall and gable-end, cast-iron rainwater goods. Roughcast rendered walls to all elevations with smooth rendered plinth. Casement side hung timber sliding sash windows to ground, first floor with mixture of stone and concrete sills. Round-headed door opening / projecting porch with plastered surround with curved roof angled to the Main street with panelled door and plain fanlight. Stone steps, flagstone path, and cast-iron railings set stone plinth to street / market square boundary.

Appraisal

The Kingscourt branch of the National Irish Bank opened in the early 1900's in this prominent location on the market square in Kingscourt. The front facing Main Street is a well-proportioned building that is distinguished in the streetscape with Georgian townhouse feature. The building has been adapted to provide new entrance to corner which has removed its symmetry. Much of the building's original detailing has been removed due to the changes to bank which adds a curious sense of informality to a well-proportioned building. It contributes to the architectural variety of the streetscape, while the historic boundary railings to the boundary reinforce the urban character of the Market square and this part of the town.



Architectural/3d Render of Market Square Elevation of Proposed Library

Proposal

The former National Irish Bank building is a landmark building on the Market Square and Main Street of Kingscourt. It ceased operating as a bank a long number of years and has been vacant since and was acquired by the local authority with a view to creating a new modern community Library and meeting space for the Kingscourt Community. The new building will open onto the Civic/Public Market square and provide a vibrant community space in the centre of Kingscourt.

A new inviting modern entrance space will be constructed to attract people of the Market Square and Street into the building.

The main fabric of the building is to be retained and restored and new elements provide to meet the requirements of a modern library with ancillary accommodation contained in subtle areas mainly to the north of the building.

Where there is an open courtyard to the rear of the building we are proposing a covered atrium space which will flood light down into the building and will provide for universal accessibility, a Lift access all floors and an extension to the rear with escape stairs linking garden at the rear.

The ground floor will consist of entrance, information desk, reading/research and other public spaces which face and open onto the Market Square.

The First Floor consists of an Event space, Exhibition space, computer/IT areas, studio and study hub and the top floor is used mainly for storage/archive space.

The aim of the Community Library is to create a new Vibrant market square for the use of the whole community of Kingscourt. The new uses are entirely compatible with the building and it is hoped that in time the building will become a focal point in the town square providing a service that enhances its location.

Refurbishment works to the existing building include the upgrade of the thermal fabric of the building and the incorporation of new technologies creating visually impressive, bright and spacious contemporary spaces.

Objective of the Proposed Development:

In order to facilitate the future use of the building the proposed works are essential to the further deterioration of this important building within the Market Square and Main Street and fabric of Kingscourt. If the building remains unused the condition is such that unless urgent remedial works are carried out the building will sharply deteriorate with the risk been the building suffering from irreplaceable structural problems.

Therefore is vitally important and very appropriate to retain this building of architectural and technical significance and of regional importance in the town of Kingscourt.

Designing the works:

Careful consideration has been given to the proposed internal works and treatment of the building. The proposed works to the roofs, lead flashings/valleys, chimneys, rainwater goods, external walls, windows and ceilings designed as to restore the fabric of the original building.





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