

Drive Through Restaurant, Briarhill, Galway

This is a project for a drive through restaurant located off the M6 motorway on the eastern edge of Galway City. The parking lot of Briarhill Shopping Centre, The Clayton Hotel, Briarhill Business Park and the motorway surround the narrow site.

In addition to the restaurant, the building has a small shop at street level. The restaurant is on two levels; the kitchen, storage, staff rooms, and a small seating area are located on the ground floor. The first floor has most of the seating as well as a terrace and play area, which is designed as extension of the indoor spaces. Full height glazing wraps around this outdoor space, and protects from winds.

The floors, walls, columns, stairs and roof are constructed from concrete, which is left exposed in many areas. Externally, three materials are used, stone, concrete and glass. The local stone rubble walls are finished flush with the silicone-jointed glazing and the fare faced concrete columns and spandrel beams. The roof, which is overlooked from the shopping centre and hotel, is finished with a ballast of rounded washed limestone pebbles. Plant is located under the roof at first floor level.

As roads surround the building there is no real front of back to the site. Several design studies were made in deciding how the building might respond to its immediate environment. In the end a very simple form emerged. A solid stone base at street, anchored to the site, with a glazed first floor, like a stage above the traffic. Since the main entrances faced onto the car park small patios were designed to humanize the portals. This is a simple, robust and local architectural response, to ordinary, everyday building type.

design: 2008.

completion: 2010.

floor area: 590 m²

client: Liam Mulryan

architects: Paul Dillon Architects

project architects: Paul Dillon, Zsolt Zsuffa

architectural assistant: Brendan Horan

statics: O'Connor Sutton Cronin

landscapeing: ait urbanism + landscaping

electricity: Canney Associates

fire-engineering: Jeremy Gardner Associates

contractor: Purcell Construction Ltd.