

2002

Overall Winner & Building Category Award | The Millennium Wing of the National Gallery of Ireland



The Millennium Wing of the National Gallery opened last year to much public acclaim, and it is a magnificent housing for Irish Art in the 21st Century.

Much use is made throughout the building of reinforced and precast concrete. In particular, the stairs connecting the ground mezzanine to first floor level are one of the most prominent features of the building. The walls of the stairs were built on temporary support until the structure was completed, at which stage they were hung from the roof using steel plate. The precast concrete treads were then attached to the walls.

The other notable concrete features of the building are the main stairwells at the front of the building. The perimeter and spine walls are constructed in white concrete, with risers and landings formed in polished precast concrete units.

The attention to detail from design through to construction is meticulous.

Construction joint design, position of bolt holes, quality of shuttering, mix design and the construction process were expertly managed and co-ordinated.

The results achieved are striking and a tribute to all the parties involved from designers right through to those involved in pouring the concrete. It is wonderful to see such a fine example of concrete work forming such an important part of our cultural heritage.



Infrastructural Category Winner | The Taney Bridge Project

This bridge forms part of Line B of the new Light Rail System and will carry the Luas across the Taney Road Junction, one of Dublin's busiest road junctions.

The structure represents all that is best about Ireland's rapidly developing modern infrastructure - aesthetically pleasing, technologically advanced and creating a striking impact in the surrounding urban environment. The construction process was fascinating to watch for the many thousands of people who either live in the vicinity or pass by on a daily basis, and the professionalism with which it was carried out reflected very well on all the parties involved in the project and on the Construction Industry generally.



The bridge is an asymmetrical cable stayed bridge with a slim and elegantly curved deck, consisting of both in-situ and precast concrete units. The standard of finish achieved was excellent due to both careful detailing of the project by the design team and the attention and skill brought to bear by the contractor, and the overall result makes an extremely positive contribution to the local environment.

Elemental Category Winner | The Ibis Sanctuary, Dublin Zoo



Dublin Zoo have made vast strides in recent years through various developments in making the amenity a very pleasant and more natural habitat for the animals and birds. Concrete is not normally associated with a natural habitat for birds, which makes what has been achieved at the Ibis Sanctuary all the more commendable.

The Ibis is a critically endangered species found mostly living in mountains and cliff's in Turkey. Using photographs of their natural environment, the designers and contractors involved were asked to recreate a natural rock formation and succeeded admirably using a spray on cement render on reinforced steel.

The results will provide pleasure for all the public visiting the Zoo and we wish the authorities there every success in protecting this magnificent bird.

Sculpture Award: Jean Greene



Concrete is essentially a cast composite material. It can of course be readily machined into sculptural elements and can be carved by hand-tools but uncertainly. Shaping by moulding is more to its nature.

The winning entry this year, is such a moulded polished casting and, to a very high standard, exhibits the qualities of sculpture - imaginative and significant form, solid and void, weight and shadow, pattern and texture, assurance, conviction.

Our artist writes of it - "Sea Echo, is based on a shell, a habitat for sea creatures [note the social plural, not the hermit singular] both ends open so sound and light reflections play their parts."

Hence the lambent, luminous polish, refined concrete.

Our winner, for not the first time, is Jean Greene of Dublin.

Student Award | 'Investigation into Creep in Glass Fibre Reinforced Concrete Planks with Glass Fibre Reinforced Plastic Bars' - Paul Kiernan of Trinity College Dublin

The winning paper showed a good understanding of the subject but also presented the reader with an interesting & unambiguous assessment of :

The reasoning behind the project,
The methods used to research & test the subject,
and the conclusions from the work carried out.

The judges were impressed with the research programme which was very well thought out and extremely thorough in its application and they felt that the paper gave a good analysis of the subject