

LANDSCAPE

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION TO
AN BORD PLEANÁLA
FOR PERMISSION FOR
STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
(THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF IRELAND)**

ABP Reg. No. PL29N.PA0024

AND IN THE MATTER OF AN ORAL HEARING

**Statement of Evidence of Foley & Salles Landscape
Architects**

1. Qualifications and Experience

My name is Dermot Foley. I am a landscape architect and I hold the following qualifications:

BAgrSc - University College Dublin (1993)

BA (Landscape Architecture) - University of Greenwich (1995)

MLA (Masters of Landscape Architecture) - Edinburgh College of Art (1998)

I have been in practice since 1995, in the UK, Belgium and Ireland. I founded Dermot Foley Landscape Architects in 2001 and founded Foley & Salles Landscape Architects in 2008. My work has been recognized with numerous awards at national and European level. I am a Member of the Irish landscape Institute (MILI) which is the professional body in Ireland for landscape architects.

I am currently the manager of Foley & Salles Landscape Architects. In this role I am responsible for the design of landscape and open space. My experience includes the following relevant projects, which are sub-divided into three categories, for ease of reference and in relation to how the experience relates to specific components of the brief for landscape and open space for the Children's Hospital of Ireland.

1. Healthcare, Special Needs:

- The National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin
The completion of a detailed schedule of drawings for tender for the proposed National Rehabilitation Hospital, including specific external spaces to assist the rehabilitation of patients.
- Campus for the Catholic Institute for Deaf People, Dublin
The design and supervision of the construction of a new campus for the Catholic Institute for Deaf People, based on the Gallaudet Design Guidelines, including landscape and open space designed specifically for members of the deaf community.
- HSE Community Nursing Units, Dublin, Clonmel
The conceptual design for landscape and open space for a range of CNU's as part of the current HSE CNU Framework.
- Orwell Nursing Home, Dublin
The design and supervision of the construction of a new landscape on an established site for sheltered living and care of the elderly.
- San Remo Nursing Home, Dublin
The design and supervision of the construction of a new landscape on an established site for sheltered living and care of the elderly.
- Convent & Nursing Home, Ballinasloe

The design and supervision of planting on a new site at Portiuncula Hospital for sheltered living and care of the elderly.

2. Public Realm:

- Joyce's Court Pedestrian Street, Dublin
The design and supervision of the construction of a new high quality pedestrian link in Dublin's city centre. Constructed over podium.
- Public Square at Cork County Library
The design and supervision of the construction of a new public square at Cork County Library, as part of the overall Cork County Hall campus. Constructed over podium.
- Greystones Main Street and Transport Interchange, Wicklow
The design for construction of the new streetscape at Greystones Station as part of the Transport Interchange and Environmental Improvements scheme for the town centre.
- Finglas Community Centre, Dublin
The design and supervision of the construction of a series of public open spaces as part of the Dublin City Council Community Centre.
- Airfield House and Estate, Dundrum
Preparation of a comprehensive schedule of landscape and open space drawings for tender for the redevelopment of an urban farm, horticulture, arts and education centre.
- Adamstown Public Parks, Dublin
Preparation of a comprehensive schedule of landscape and open space drawings for tender for the development of two large public parks as part of the Adamstown SDZ.

3. Roof Gardens and Landscapes on Podiums:

- Mixed Use Development at Liffey Trust, Dublin
The design and supervision of the construction of a series of garden spaces from ground level to sixth floor level all constructed over podium.
- Mixed Use Development at Riverside, Dublin
The design and supervision of the construction of a series of a large courtyard garden and streetscape all constructed over podium.

2. Role in Proposed Development

I am directly responsible for the landscape and open space design for the project. My role in the proposed development includes the following:

- Contribute to the initial Site Masterplan, including appraisal of the site and context
- Develop landscape and open space scenarios with the design team
- Attend consultation with user groups
- Advise on location, orientation and quality of open space
- Carry out detailed photographic survey of landscape materials at Eccles Street and,
- Provide the detail design for landscape and external works.

3. Key Issues in relation to Landscape and Open Space

3.1. INTRODUCTION

The Landscape Report as well as the Landscape Drawings included in the planning application set out the proposals for the design of landscape and open space for the proposed Children's Hospital of Ireland.

The core objective is to design a series of external spaces or gardens, based on the clinical requirements of the Children's Hospital of Ireland, which will be used to assist the healing process, through the use of therapeutic techniques and the experience of an attractive physical environment.

Other objectives include the following:

- To create a high quality, diverse, robust, legible and usable suite of public and shared private open spaces.
- To provide a new entrance forecourt to the proposed hospital at Eccles Street in a contemporary fashion, compatible with the existing historic streetscape materials.
- To provide a range of landscape experience linked to the building uses in the form of a Therapy Park.

The technical requirements to achieve these objectives were developed with the design team. These include:

- the location, orientation, and access to open spaces in accordance with the specific needs of the users of each part of the building,
- the design of the roof slabs to accommodate sufficient soil depth and drainage,
- the selection of screens and balustrades to provide enclosure and protection from wind.

4. Submissions and Responses

The following persons made submissions or responses to the Board in relation to the issues of overall design quality as well as specific issues related to landscape and open space:

Dublin City Council
Blend Residents Association
Mountjoy Square Society/Mary Laheen Architects
Mac Eoin Architects
The Heritage Council

Given that certain of the persons who made submissions dealt with similar issues, I propose to deal with those issues in turn.

4.1. Issue – Overall Design Quality

Submission:

A number of submissions ¹ draw attention to the overall quality of the proposed landscape design.

Response:

A comprehensive and iterative design process was followed at all times and the proposals represent an excellent opportunity to contribute to the overall quality of the Children's Hospital of Ireland in the form of a Therapy Park and the improvement of the physical environment of Eccles Street. The design methodology included in my presentation to the oral hearing, outlines the steps taken to ensure the high quality of landscape and open space proposals.

4.2. Issue – Design of the entrance forecourt, public realm and Eccles Street

The following submissions are taken from the Dublin City Council Submission and include the relevant page numbers of the Dublin City Council document where appropriate.

Submission:

The incorporation of the open space opposite the Old Mater building as Public Open Space (p. 24)

Response:

¹ Submission dated 13th September, received from Mountjoy Square Society/Mary Laheen Architects, submission dated 12th September 2011, received from Mac Eoin Architects, Submission dated 13th September, received from Blend Residents Association and submission dated 13th September, received from The Heritage Council.

Whilst it is accepted that this would make an attractive proposal, the space in question does not lie within the control of the applicant, and therefore its incorporation in the landscape and open space strategy is currently outside the scope of the proposed development.

Submission:

Pedestrian Connections - Shared with Service Route (p.24)

Response:

An external route connects Eccles Street to North Circular Road to the east of the site along the side of the Mater Private Hospital. This footpath is already designed and permitted by the current adult hospital development.

Submission:

Pedestrian Connections - Between Old Mater and new Children's Hospital (p.24)

Response:

The proposed landscape works shall be carried out while the link corridor remains so that when it is removed the route can be opened with minimal additional work.

Submission:

Treatment of Vehicular Bays Should be Consistent (p.24)

Response:

Drawing Hs.02_202 has been revised in response to this item, to ensure that the vehicular bays are consistent and a copy of the revised drawing is enclosed as part of the overall submission to An Bord Pleanála.

Submission:

Widening of the South Footpath on Eccles Street (p.24)

Response:

The proposal allows for the maximum path widths on the street in the overall context of traffic and pedestrian movement. The footpath on the south side of the street is proposed to be restored as existing.

Submission:

Discrepancy between drawings Hs.02_201 and Hs.02_202 (p.25)

Response:

Drawing Hs.02_201 has been revised to reflect the information shown on drawing Hs.02_202 and a copy of the revised drawing is enclosed as part of the overall submission to An Bord Pleanála.

Submission:

Materials not specified on the drawings (p.25)

Response:

Materials are specified on the detail drawing Hs.02_207, and include, re-instated historic lamp standards, re-instated historic Leinster Granite paving and kerbs, new granite paving to match existing paving, illuminated benches and planting.

Submission:

More description and Analysis of the Site and its Relationship to the City's Landscape (p. 35)

Response:

The EIS includes a range of information on the receiving environment in terms of urban landscape, views up and down Eccles Street and other streets and designated or protected landscapes in the vicinity. Please refer to Chapter 14 and appendices of the EIS for a description of the historic urban landscape. Please refer to Chapter 6 and appendices of the EIS for a description of protected landscapes within the wider context. In addition, Section 4.2 of the Site Masterplan, outlines the general landscape and urban context within which the proposed development is considered and includes a description of possible reinforcement of landscape character areas, permeability, linkage, provision of public, semi-public and semi-private open space.

Submission:

Additional 3D Sketches and Sections of Eccles Street Proposals

Response:

Additional sections have been included in this document to further illustrate the proposals for Eccles Street. Further 3-dimensional images have been developed by the design team to illustrate the proposals and are enclosed as part of the overall submission to An Bord Pleanála.

4.3. Issue – Design of the Therapy Park

The following submissions are taken from the Dublin City Council Submission and include the relevant page numbers of the Dublin City Council document where appropriate.

Submission

Overshadowing (p.27)

Response:

There is one north-facing Therapy Park terrace space which will be affected by shade, but the majority of Therapy Park spaces are south, south-west or west facing, with no overshadowing.

Submission:

Microclimatic Effects – Wind (p.27)

Response:

There are three types of elements incorporated in the landscape proposals in order to achieve an appropriate micro-climate at Therapy Park levels. These are tall glazed balustrades, pergolas/screens, and tree planting in large planters. These elements have been designed-in to the landscape proposals for the Therapy Park in order to direct wind up and over the spaces and to disrupt wind blowing across the spaces. Having reviewed the landscape proposals for the Therapy Park, we are satisfied that these elements are sufficient in their own right to create the micro-climate necessary for the use and enjoyment of all the spaces in the Therapy Park, for patients, visitors and staff alike.

The proposals were originally tested without the inclusion of these elements, glazed balustrades, pergolas/screens, and tree planting. However the proposals were subsequently tested with the elements included. The tests indicate that the landscape elements are capable of providing the required microclimate for the comfortable use of the Therapy Park.

Submission:

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (p.39)

Response:

All of the roof level spaces are designed to allow permeable paving. The roof gardens can be used to attenuate and slow down the rate of flow into the drainage system.

Submission:

Dimensions of Planters (p.36)

Response:

There is a wide range of planters from individual pots to shared planters up to 80 sqm in area. A robust specification for planting has been adopted, which includes species that can adapt to a wide range of conditions. The proposed tree species are capable of adapting to the conditions which will exist at Therapy Park levels. A maintenance and methodology plan, to ensure the long-term success of the planting will be developed with the hospital management team.

Submission:

Lighting Strategy (p.36)

Response:

The proposed external decorative lighting at Therapy Park levels is proposed as low-level lighting and does not affect calculations in relation to light at neighbouring properties. The Therapy Park lighting is intended to be turned off when the Therapy Park is not in use in order to facilitate the 'Lights-Out Strategy' as indicated in Chapter 6 of the EIS.

Submission:

Light and Shade for all Proposed Gardens During the Day (p.36)

Response:

The Therapy Park is substantially south, southwest and west facing. One area, adjacent to the Hospital School is north facing, but the School also has south facing open spaces.

Submission:

Habitat Replacement and Ensuring Biodiversity (p.36)

Response:

The proposed planting is comprised of a mix of native and exotic species, for biodiversity and decorative purposes. A large meadow habitat, in excess of 1,000 sqm is proposed at level 5. Nesting for swift and swallow species is facilitated within the proposal, subject to infection control, and liaison between a competent ecologist and hospital management.

Submission:

Opportunities for Habitat Education (p.36)

Response:

The proposed Therapy Park is designed to allow, in various locations, for educational opportunities in terms of horticultural therapy and introduction to habitat and ecology.

Submission:

Management Plan (p.36)

Response:

A comprehensive management plan will be developed with the hospital management team during the detail design stage. The current proposal is based on the principles described in this presentation which facilitate management of the spaces.

The following submissions are taken from the Blend Residents Association Submission and include the relevant page numbers of the Blend Residents Association document where appropriate.

Submission:

Open Space – Wind (p.38)

Response:

There are three types of elements incorporated in the landscape proposals in order to achieve an appropriate micro-climate at Therapy Park levels. These are tall glazed balustrades, pergolas/screens, and tree planting in large planters. These elements have been designed-in to the landscape proposals for the Therapy Park in order to

direct wind up and over the spaces and to disrupt wind blowing across the spaces. Having reviewed the landscape proposals for the Therapy Park, we are satisfied that these elements are sufficient in their own right to create the micro-climate necessary for the use and enjoyment of all the spaces in the Therapy Park, for patients, visitors and staff alike.

The proposals were originally tested without the inclusion of these elements, glazed balustrades, pergolas/screens, and tree planting. However the proposals were subsequently tested with the elements included. The tests indicate that the landscape elements are capable of providing the required microclimate for the comfortable use of the Therapy Park.

Submission:

Open Space – Maintenance (p.39)

Response:

A maintenance and methodology plan will be developed with the hospital management team as part of the detail design for the hospital. Maintenance contractors will be subject to the conditions of the Waste Management Plan – refer to Appendix 12A of the EIS.

Submission:

Open Space - Viability of 'Mature' Trees (p.39)

Response:

There is a wide range of planters from individual pots to shared planters up to 80 sqm in area. The required depth of 900mm of growing substrate is accommodated for larger trees. A robust specification for planting has been adopted, which includes species that can adapt to a wide range of conditions. The proposed tree species are capable of adapting to the conditions which will exist at Therapy Park levels. A maintenance and methodology plan, to ensure the long-term success of the planting will be developed with the hospital management team.

4.4. Issue – Other Aspects of Landscape and Open Space

The following submissions are taken from the Dublin City Council Submission and include the relevant page numbers of the Dublin City Council document where appropriate.

Submission:

Nesting for Swifts and Swallows (p.42)

Response:

Subject to infection control, and liaison between a competent ecologist and hospital management, it is proposed that nesting boxes will be installed in agreed areas.

Submission:

Nesting for Herring Gulls (p.42)

Response:

No specific measures are proposed as conflict may potentially arise if nesting of these birds is specifically encouraged on a hygiene-sensitive area such as a hospital. Instead it is suggested that herring gull numbers on the overall Mater campus be monitored for five years to determine whether the number of nests remain stable, decline or increase.

Submission:

Effect of External Lighting on Nesting Birds (p.42)

Response:

The Therapy Park lighting is intended be turned off when the Therapy Park is not in use in order to facilitate the 'Lights-Out Strategy' as indicated in Chapter 6 of the EIS. It is proposed to direct the lighting away from trees or areas where birds are likely to be nesting.

Submission:

Mitigation in Relation to Loss of Existing Trees (p.42)

Response:

In the context of the overall design brief it is not possible to retain existing trees. Conditions have been maximised for the long-term success of proposed trees. Substantial root zones are allowed for at Therapy Park level and in all other areas.

5. Conclusion

Throughout the design process the landscape and open space requirements of the Children's Hospital of Ireland have formed an integrated component of the overall development strategy. The proposals have evolved in consultation with user groups, medical staff, Dublin City Council and the design team, such that they positively address all aspects of the design brief.

The proposals for landscape and open space are consistent with the clinical and therapeutic requirements of the proposed hospital and offer a high quality external environment. They include specialised garden spaces on a scale not seen before in hospital design in Ireland. They provide the opportunity for new pedestrian linkage within the overall area. They include the renovation and partial restoration of a substantial portion of the Eccles Street public realm as well as a new, high quality entrance forecourt to the proposed hospital.