



CooneyArchitects



MEATH GAA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Where architecture, community and landscape converge to create a home for Gaelic Games and the wider community

Nestled within the historic landscape of the Boyne Valley, the **Meath GAA Centre of Excellence** at Dunganny represents far more than a state-of-the-art sporting facility. Conceived by **Cooney Architects** and delivered by **Sammon Builders**, the 1,200m² development is a thoughtful expression of community, identity and place, qualities that earned the project a **Highly Commended recognition at the 2016 RIAI Awards**.

Completed in 2015, the brief was ambitious yet deeply rooted in the ethos of the Gaelic Athletic Association: to create a destination that would support sport, learning, administration and social interaction while reflecting the pride and heritage of County Meath. Rather than simply designing a clubhouse, the architects sought to create a civic space where community life could flourish.

At the heart of the design lies a carefully proportioned courtyard, a form that resonates strongly with Ireland's architectural heritage. Drawing inspiration from the enclosed farmyards of County Meath and the contemplative spaces of medieval monastic settlements, the courtyard becomes both the organisational focus of the building and a welcoming social space. It creates moments of shelter, interaction and orientation while reinforcing the relationship between architecture and landscape.

Materiality plays an equally important role in establishing the building's identity. The restrained palette of pigmented render references the agricultural vernacular of the surrounding countryside, echoing the weathered textures of traditional farm buildings without resorting to imitation. The result is a contemporary building that feels entirely at home

within its rural setting—modern in execution yet deeply respectful of the history and character of its location.

This careful balance between innovation and tradition extends to the building envelope. Working closely with Cooney Architects, **TEROCO Windows & Doors** delivered a bespoke glazing solution that became one of the defining architectural features of the project. The striking splayed glazing system, meticulously surveyed and detailed on site, provides crisp geometric lines that contrast elegantly with the rendered façades while enhancing the building's sculptural quality.

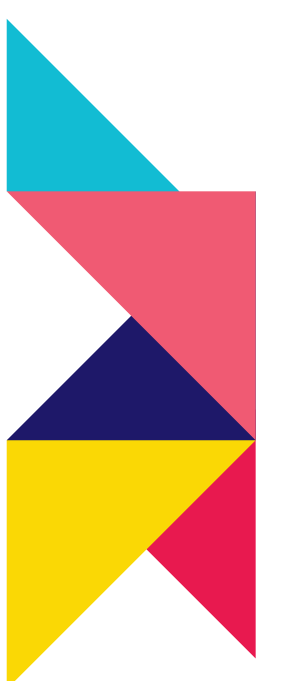
Utilising the **VELFAC System 200** thermally broken bi-modular glazing system, TEROCO achieved the slender sightlines and precision detailing required by the architectural vision. Externally, the glazing introduces a refined, contemporary character, while internally the aluminium-clad timber construction adds warmth and tactile quality to the principal spaces. Beyond aesthetics, the high-performance glazing contributes significantly to the building's energy efficiency, comfort and long-term durability.

Today, the Meath GAA Centre of Excellence continues to fulfil the aspirations of its original brief. Whether accommodating elite training, administrative functions or community gatherings, the building demonstrates how thoughtful architecture can strengthen social connections while responding sensitively to its environment. It stands as a benchmark for future sporting and community developments in Ireland—an enduring example of how architecture can celebrate local identity while creating spaces that will serve generations to come.



**Architecture
Awards
2016**

**Highly
Commended**



PROJECT DETAILS

Project:
Meath GAA Centre of Excellence

Location:
Dunganny, Co. Meath

Architect:
Cooney Architects

Main Contractor:
Sammon Builders

Glazing Contractor:
TEROCO Windows & Doors

Glazing System:
VELFAC V200i Thermally Broken
Bi-Modular System

Completion:
2015

Recognition:
Highly Commended RIAI Awards 2016



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TEROCO[®]
WINDOWS & DOORS

MEATH GAA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



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