

## Fingal takes office aesthetics to new heights



**Dublin County Council was split into three separate authorities in 1994, the newly created Fingal County Council was keen to be at the heart of its area to help return community focus. So the decision was made to locate in Swords.**

Architect David O'Connor proposed that the building design should be decided by an open competition. The three aims: to maintain the dignity of the site, to convey an expression of openness and transparency and lastly, energy efficiency.

Bucholz McEvoy Architects were the overall winners and in association with Building Design Partnership Dublin, headed the project team. Colin Chestnut and Elaine Butler were responsible for interior design and décor.

All of the aims have been achieved, resulting in a highly impressive structure. The front of the building is a huge, curved glass wall



supported by an elegant bracing cable system that is said to be the largest of its kind in the world.

The 100,000 sq. ft. building is home to 400 county officials with the extensive office space being 90% open-plan, 6% cellular offices and 4% meeting rooms.

All of the aims have been achieved, resulting in a highly impressive structure

# Case study

arenson group limited

Manufacturers of office furniture



“V3 is a flexible and easily interchangeable range of office furniture and we are delighted that it was chosen for the new Fingal County Hall”

Like every element in the scheme, the selection of office furniture was very involved. The Council issued an official tender and received 18 responses. Using criteria of accessibility, durability, and cable management, this was reduced to a shortlist of four. Employees were taken from the existing offices in central Dublin to the new building where they tested the shortlisted desks, screens and storage units and were asked for their feedback.

The furniture was supplied by Dominex Furniture Systems International, represented by Eoghan Moran and Managing Director, Tom Martin, who stated: *“The results were evaluated and Arenson Group’s V3 range of systems furniture was voted the clear winner, V3’s strengths perfectly matched the criteria. V3 is a flexible and easily interchangeable range of office furniture and we are delighted that it was chosen for the new Fingal County Hall. We have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the project. It is a superb building.”*

Configured to be totally interchangeable the offices can easily cope with churn. With a European feel the emphasis is firmly on simple

design. The County architect was fully involved in the selection of the office furniture. It was decided that the colour scheme needed to be very simple; the light grey provides a calming and relaxing environment leaving the people to provide colour and the vibrancy. There are low-level aluminium screens that are the same height as the metal storage units, and all the door frames, panelling, desks and ceilings are oak. It is a classically simple working environment in contrast to the state of the art technology that has been installed.

Shay Barker, Freedom of Information Officer at Fingal County Hall and Peter Whelan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, were in charge of the project. Shay Barker commented: *“The most important result for us was that our staff would be satisfied because initially there was a mixed reaction to us having to move. We can however be confident in saying that the response, on completion of Fingal County Hall, has been overwhelmingly positive. We have an entirely bespoke building and the working environment and*

*facilities are exceptional and a vast improvement on our old offices. All the parties involved in the project have worked brilliantly together and been efficient in handling and dealing with every eventuality. Dominex has been fantastic and we are delighted with the office furniture. We are 100% confident that we have future-proofed the County Hall’s office furniture requirements for years to come, therefore making the installation of Arenson Group’s V3 range a highly cost-effective move.”*



Interested in improving your productivity?

Contact: Arenson Group t +44 (0)8701 600 771  
e enquiries@arenson.co.uk www.arenson.co.uk