



## ARTIST'S STUDIO

### ARCHITECTS

Lawrence and Lang

CLIENT: Private

QUANTITY SURVEYORS: Flynn-McNally-McNeil Partnership

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS: Shawes Associates

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS: M.J. Clark & Son Ltd

PROJECT MANAGER: Mark Laidlaw-Holmes

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNER: John

LOCATION: Dublin, Co. Dublin

### REPORT

by Lawrence and Lang Architects

This 19th-century stone outbuilding, 'lost' in area, sits within the gardens of a large detached house, included in South County Dublin's record of Protected Structures. Constructed in c1866, the main house is a substantial two-storey over garden level residence on a site of mature gardens. The house is of significant architectural merit and lies in a condition very close to that originally built. The outbuilding lies to the southeast of the residence and is partially sunk into a level change at the foot of the house, presenting a taller elevation to the rear garden than to the front.

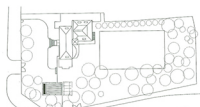
When viewed in the context of the main residence's front elevation, the studio is very modest and is screened by mature planting. Originally built as a noble-walled stable, substantial works were carried out in the mid-20th century, and it would appear that an original roof structure was

removed and replaced with a flat concrete roof. The effect of these works was to remove much of the original fabric of the building except the walls. In the case of this project, brief and condition combined to allow a little more flexibility in how the structure might be interpreted, and there was latitude for creative adaptation. As a freestanding structure, the outbuilding could be considered in the tradition of garden pavilions, a building to be experienced 'in the round'.

A clear ambition from the outset was to retain the walls – which were in good condition in spite of their varied appearance – in their present state so as to assert the outbuilding character of the structure. It was felt that any new openings should be kept to an absolute minimum. The existing concrete roof structure was clearly not original and, owing to its failures, its removal would

be preferable. In addition, this presented an opportunity for a new independent roof structure, which would compensate for the lack of daylight coming through existing wall opes.

The new roof structure, which entailed a new, clearly expressed band beam, marks a clear distinction between old and new. The band beam also acts as a coping, in a material that is sympathetic and, in time, will acquire a patina like the existing masonry fabric. The new roof has been envisaged as a timber-framed structure, profiled so as to provide a large north light on the rear elevation and a flat roof light over the mezzanine level. The roof sits as a clearly distinguishable intervention on the concrete band beam. Some small new opes were provided to give a connection with the garden outside, as well as to provide operable ventilation shutters.



Site plan

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These were formed with steel plate liners, which acted as lintel, jamb and sill. This achieved the necessary structural support with the minimum intervention in the granite wall structure. New windows were fitted and these were metal framed to match the existing window on the front elevation while internally lined with solid oak. Oak shutters enable the studio space to be blacked out if necessary.

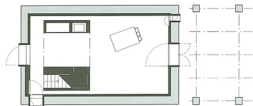
This strategy provided a clear reading of the new opes as contemporary interventions within an existing structure. Part of the design strategy centred on the creation of a freestanding 'gallery box'. This would read as a piece of furniture, and be clearly distinguishable from the external envelope of the building. The box has a small staircase leading to a mezzanine level containing a study. The gallery box is a timber slatwork structure, with painted plaster finish to the outer face, while the inner faces are all lined in oak panels, which match the new joinery items and the floor finish.



Cross section



Mezzanine plan



Ground floor plan



Elevation



1. The converted stone building fits within the garden of a large house (2). The large north light of the new roof structure is clearly visible through the glass partition (3). The new window is a simple, modern design, framed to match the existing

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