A Portrait of the Library as an Office Block and an Asylum:

How Technological University Dublin converted, adapted and reused its buildings to create functional, efficient and modern libraries
TU Dublin Locations in 2020

North Side

South Side

Google Maps, 2020
TU Dublin Campuses now

Five Locations

&

Five Libraries
Grangegorman History

Photo credits: GDA, Irish Architectural Archive, RIA, TU Dublin
North House

Constructed 1854
Architect: Murray & Denny
Original Use: Male Ward of Richmond Lunatic Asylum
Academic Hub

O’Donnell + Tuomey – led design team
Heart of campus
Incorporates protected structure

Picture Plane, 2017
Integrating the North House

Existing Buildings and Demolition of Annex 9

Phase 1

Phase 2
Incorporating the existing North House building into a new, modern structure that will wrap around the historical site.
North House: Internal View

Enlarged Upping to create North South Route through the Market Place

New Openings to East Facade bring light and air into the ground floor

View of Learning Commons: Ground Floor North House East

First Floor Library Reception - North House East
Accommodation

Phase One 12,565 m²

Seminar rooms
Flexible classroom
Café on ground floor
Roof-top terrace
Special Collections: climate controlled storage & reading room
Building Occupants

Consolidation of multiple libraries

Academic Support Services

Learning Teaching & Assessment

People Development
A Space for the Community

Ground floor:
- Café
- Exhibition Space

Fourth floor:
- Event Space
- Roof-top terrace

O’Donnell + Tuomey Architects, 2017
Academic Hub – Under Construction
2020/21 Migrations to Grangegorman

East Quad

Central Quad
Interim Library- Park House

→ 1972: Built as a hotel!

→ 1970’s- 2017: Operated as an office block

→ 2020- present: 3.5 floors of library space
Migrate and merge 4 libraries and a Central Services Unit

Establish a new library

Consolidate 5 library teams

Provide a continuity of service

While merging three institutions and library services to form Ireland’s first technological university
The date is never the date
Be prepared to be flexible
Floor Loading

Steel supports to reinforce
Floor Loading

Steel supports covered by panelling
Ceiling Height

Reused shelving cut to fit
Library Security

Security panels on each floor
Fire Safety

Additional fire stairs
4,603 linear metres of print collections moved (150,000 items)

2,690 linear metres of shelving reused
Park House Today

Photo credits: Mahoney Architecture, TU Dublin
The interim testbed

- Move from small libraries to one large library & from single storey libraries to multi-floor library
- Move from small teams to one large team of 34 people
- Centralisation of functions
- New services
What we Learned…

• It’s never too early to start planning!
• Ensure library membership of the project team
• Ensure library involvement in tender specifications
• Develop good working relationships with everyone
• Adapt and re-use: spaces and plans
Making Progress

Sod-Turning Ceremony March 2022

Topping Out ceremony January 2024
Go raibh maith agaibh
Thank You

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