



**Client Name :**  
National University of Ireland,  
Galway  
Patrick Faherty  
Tel: 091 524411

**Architect:**  
Reddy Architects  
Brian O'Neill  
Tel: 01 4987000

**Quantity Surveyor:**  
David Langdon

**Duration:**  
January 2012 - March 2013

**Contract Value:**  
11m



## Arts, Humanities & Social Science Research Building

### Description

The works comprise the design and construction of a Humanities and Social Sciences Research Building abutting and integrating with the existing James Hardiman Library (Protected Structure) in the centre of the Southern Campus. The floor area of the building is approximately 5500 m<sup>2</sup>. The project included associated works to the existing Library and external podium, the re-routing of services and trees and landscaping works to the open areas to the West and South of the building. The project forms part of the NUI Galway Research Bundle of buildings, which was an ambitious plan to rapidly develop suitable accommodation and facilities to enhance research innovation at the University.

Demolition works were carried out to facilitate interfacing works between existing library and the new building. The building is joined to the existing building at podium level by a three storey atrium space which provides connections to the two buildings. Independent supports were installed to the protected structure, under the supervision of the Consultant Structural Engineer during the demolition works in order not to interfere with the fabric of this building.

Works included the construction of a four storey building that includes a semi basement archive and plant area. The works also included site preparation and infrastructure works, the diversion and re-routing of services, the provision of services and service connections, parking areas, paths and landscaping, waste rooms, the supply installation and commissioning of the equipment.



JJ Rhatigan & Company Project Overview



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The Structural Frame was a composite design with exposed insitu concrete beams and columns on which were laid precast slabs with a structural topping. Precast Wide slab was used for exposed areas and hollowcore for covered areas. The main cores, lift shafts and staircores, were formed in insitu concrete to stabilise the frame. Concrete with GGBS was used to give a lighter colour to the exposed concrete.

### Façade:

The facades of the building consisted of a mixture of glazing and natural stone cladding. Dura beige limestone was used as the main stone to all elevations with Chinese lina black basalt used at the lower levels and in the surrounding paved areas in order to provide a more robust and durable material at the lower levels and to create a distinct contrast between the chosen materials. Particular emphasises was placed on the thermal efficiency of the glazing systems and the envelope as a whole while allowing for maximum daylight penetration and views from the building with a minimum amount of solar gain. In order to achieve this the South and West elevations were provided with a two storey cavity wall glazing system with integrated ventilation and automated solar and glare control shades, the result being a highly efficient façade system which also greatly enhances the asthetics of the building as a whole.

The Atrium was formed in Structural Stell with links at each level.

Close coordination between JJR management and our design team was crucial at each stage of the design and build process. JJR as part of our management role constantly monitored the programme for current progress and produced various sub programmes as required to cover 1) Substructure, 2) Superstructure, 3) External Envelope Finishes including roof finishes, 4) Internal Finishes including detailed M&E installation 6) Detailed Commissioning Programme and 7) External finishes/Car Parks etc.

JJR managed the rogramme and ensure that the on site construction works were maintained on schedule, taking the required proactive action to maintain programme at all times. This also involved detailed weekly reviews of ongoing and upcoming procurement of both subcontractor packages and sepcialist materials orders and fabrication.