

Appendix 4.5

Architectural Design Statement

4.5 Architectural Design Statement

A4.5 Indaver Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre

Wilson Architecture have many years of experience in the design of large building structures, from high-rise towers to large-scale industrial buildings. Each building brief and each location require a carefully thought-out solution in order to ensure efficient building operation and integration into the surrounding environment, be it an urban setting or a greenfield rural location.

The site for the proposed Indaver facility is adjacent to the Western shoreline of Cork Harbour and is defined by a ridge of ground that runs in an East-West direction along the Southern boundary of the site. This ridge line and its Northern escarpment forms a backdrop to the proposed development.

The design development was guided by the following key issues-

1. The required process and equipment layout.
 2. The constraints and opportunities of the site.
 3. The need to preserve views and sightlines from the adjacent historic Martello Tower.
 4. The scale of the buildings.
 5. The requirement to minimize the visual impact of the development when viewed from both near and distant vantage points.
-
1. 1 Several options were tested in relation to the process layout and equipment arrangements. In simple terms, it is a "straight line" process with waste material entering at one end and passing through a series of processes that are arranged in a linear form. A "right angle" process layout was examined and an "oblique angle" process layout was examined, however the shape of the site and the protected sightlines from the Martello Tower ruled out these options. They also created a more intrusive visual impact when viewed from the immediate vicinity. The adopted option was to design the main building as a linear structure that runs parallel to the sightlines from the Martello Tower and ensures that the views to the harbour are retained.
 2. The site is a linear shape on an east-west axis. It is bounded by a ridge line to the south, a public road to the north, the harbour shoreline to the east and an existing industrial facility to the west. The northern escarpment of the ridge is currently partially excavated and will require further excavation as part of the proposed development. It will provide a backdrop to the development when viewed from the north, and will screen most of the lower elements of the proposed development when viewed from the south. The shape of the site has ensured that large external laydown and circulation areas are kept to a minimum with the resulting benefit that external storage or externally located equipment is not provided for, which benefits the visual order of the facility. The adopted layout of the buildings and external functional areas makes best

use of the site, and allows for significant areas of landscaping along the boundaries.

3. The adjacent Martello Tower is a protected structure and is one of a series of intervisible defensive fortifications built around Cork Harbour. It was important to maintain the original sightlines from the structure towards the harbour. In order to achieve this Wilson Architecture projected these sightlines across the site, and positioned the buildings so that they will not encroach on this cone of vision. The northern sightline has in effect become the setting out line for the main process building.
4. The nature of the process requires very large pieces of equipment arranged in a linear fashion, resulting in a large scale external building envelope. In order to minimise the scale of the main process building Wilson Architecture we have closely followed the height profile of the internal equipment and the internal functional areas. This has resulted in the stepped form of the building. The other ancillary buildings in the development are of a smaller scale, and do not create a major visual impact. The design has endeavoured to avoid locating any external equipment, outside storage and laydown spaces etc in areas where they would be visible from outside the site boundary.
5. The Ringaskiddy area has seen a number of high quality developments in the last number of years, particularly the Maritime College and the Beaufort Building. These will be the signature buildings in the future campus planned for the area.

Wilson Architecture design approach to the Indaver facility has been mindful of the need to respect the improving visual quality of the area, and while the buildings are essentially large scale industrial structures we have incorporated features that will ameliorate their impact when viewed from the public roads and the wider harbour area. The architectural concept has firstly been to create a series of simple and well-proportioned structures with clean lines that reflect the internal operations of the facility. External protrusions, such as walkways, access ladders, louvers etc., have been minimised to enhance the simplicity of the architectural forms. These simple shapes have been further defined by using a palette of colours that will help breakdown the scale of the buildings and integrate the forms with the local landscape colours. Some of the facades have inward sloping surfaces which will add interest to the overall building form and also significantly reduce reflected "light bounce" from eastern and western sunlight. Wilson Architecture has opted for flat parapets for the same reason, as the use of sloping or curved roof profiles would increase light reflectance. This arrangement of irregular shapes and contrasting colours follows the principals of dazzle camouflage, which has been a traditional method to disguise the shapes of naval ships and blend them with their background colours. Wilson Architecture has successfully used this approach on several previous projects, and photographs are included to illustrate this. At the northern road boundary Wilson Architecture has positioned a 3m high curving louver type boundary wall which will visually link with the curved facade of the proposed administration building. This feature, combined with a quality landscape boundary treatment, will present a well designed front-of-house image, and adds a human scale to the overall development.

Relevant Projects



Blarney Business Park, Cork

This large industrial/commercial building is located in a prominent position visible from the heritage site of Blarney Castle. The building form was broken up by the use of contrasting coloured cladding panels, which helped integrate it with the adjacent landscape. The design was awarded the British Steel Colourcote prize for use of colour in a building.



Port of Cork, Crane Maintenance building.

This large maintenance building is located opposite Blackrock village. The use of simple forms and colours help to break down the height and scale of the building, and reduce its visual impact when viewed from across the river.



MSD Pharmaceutical Facility, Clonmel

This facility is situated in the scenic valley of the River Suir. The original facility had a colour scheme of blue and white cladding. Wilson Architecture were involved in a large expansion of the facility and formulated a colour scheme for the new and existing buildings that was based on colours naturally occurring in the local landscape. This significantly reduced the visual impact of the completed development.