



case study
Dublin Airport

architect
Capita Architecture

main contractor
PJ Hegarty



the light fantastic

Establishing their place as a leader in interior design finishes for iconic buildings, Gillespie recently assisted with the refurbishment of the departures area at Dublin Airport, one of Europe's busiest gateways, where a striking, futuristic sculptural ceiling incorporating Zerodec moulded lighting fixtures offers an impressive ambience to greet passengers as they check-in.

“As the single most important architectural feature, it was imperative that the lighting disks were produced to the highest standards... and that is exactly what we got.”

Mark Wolfe,
Director, Capita Architecture

At the heart of Ireland's thriving economy, Dublin Airport is now among the busiest in the world, handling up to 2 million passengers a month in peak season. Dublin Airport Authority is investing €2 billion in new facilities over the next decade to improve the passenger experience, starting with the redevelopment of an existing terminal building. A second runway and terminal building are also planned.

As part of the refurbishment programme for the present terminal building, a new check-in facility has been added at a cost of €15 million. Situated on the lower ground floor, the facility was the brainchild of architects Capita Architecture. With no natural light to utilise, Capita's design vision was centred on the creation of an inviting, enchanting environment with the main architectural interest deriving from the bold and imaginative use of lighting features.



With a reputation for achieving striking results with curves and forms for complex designs, Gillespie was approached to assist with the interior finishing for the project. Working closely with the architects and lead contractor PJ Hegarty, Gillespie modelled and fabricated 56 custom-made Zerodec laminated GRG moulded lighting discs, each measuring an impressive 3.5m across, which were transported to site and fitted to the departures lounge as part of a futuristic sculpted ceiling.

Design for air travel has often created iconic buildings and dramatic spaces. Gillespie was able to make a key contribution to the Dublin Airport project in creating the spectacular ceiling and lighting disks that were pivotal in achieving the architect's design vision, and demonstrating again how imaginative design and expert craftsmanship can combine to produce fully functional yet visually stunning results.

