



DUNDRUM  
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**GILLESPIE**

**case study**

**Dundrum Town Centre**

**architect**

**Burke-Kennedy Doyle**

**interior design architect**

**Ferguson Wheeler**

**main contractor**

**John Sisk & Son**



# retail therapy

Located on the outskirts of Dublin, the 111,000m<sup>2</sup> Dundrum Town Centre demonstrates how sensitive architecture can preserve local heritage whilst breathing new life into the community. The development, which comprises a series of malls and atria on 4 levels with car parking for 3,600 cars, offers modern shopping and leisure facilities of the highest luxury.

The Dundrum Centre is situated at the very heart of Dundrum on a 400-year-old site. Given the historical nature of the site, sensitive design was required to integrate the scheme into the local environment, with the use of sympathetic materials for the exterior and a careful approach to features such as fenestration and signage.

The subtlety of the limestone exterior was a key driver in the specification of finishes to the mall interiors. The initial specification for the interiors package was technically demanding. The brief called for complex shapes, columns and curves with a variety of surfaces replicating natural stone or applied plaster finishes, designed to give a contemporary yet organic feel, providing a natural flow throughout the interior and car park areas.

architects Burke-Kennedy Doyle in re-engineering the design, and with lead contractor John Sisk & Son in delivering the completed project.

Gillespie's Zerodec, a prefabricated laminated glass reinforced gypsum cladding product, was used throughout the mall interiors. Highly versatile, the product excels in producing clean lines and integrity of form with a huge variety of surface finish possibilities. The GRP product used for the finishes in the car parking areas is a polyester resin based alternative to gypsum, suitable for exterior use. Rationalisation in the model and mould making process enabled Gillespie to provide cost effective solutions across the project while maintaining the highest standards of finish.

“Zerodec has proved its versatility in meeting very high specifications for the finishes at a considerable saving. Gillespie's flexibility and understanding of our requirements combined to deliver an end result of first class appearance.”

**Paul Graham,  
Ferguson Wheeler**

In just two weeks of being asked to review the specifications, Gillespie developed a new approach, redefining the original concepts. Through value engineering and specialist knowledge, Gillespie were able to demonstrate savings of one million euros, without compromising the client's requirement for a highly distinctive modern retail environment.

Throughout the consultation process, Gillespie worked closely with interior design architects Ferguson Wheeler and concept

“We are delighted to confirm the successful completion of the works on time, within the agreed maximum price and to an acceptable standard of quality...Despite the usual changes associated with retail projects, Gillespie maintained the originally agreed handover date. They have also been diligent in the execution of any issues raised.”

**Phillip Howard,  
Regional Director, John Sisk & Son**

