



ÉIRE
IRELAND

19
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Clár Comórtha
Céad Bliain
Centenary
Programme

S.O.S.

*Destruction of Four Courts
Constructors: J. & P. Good*

WITH the storms raging around us how that signal conjures up visions of hopelessness and despair. The destruction of beautiful castles and homes is disheartening but hope springs eternal in the human breast, and there is no reason to be despondent. Safer and more constitutional methods must triumph. Soon the sword and the gun will be displaced by the plough, the trowel and the plane, and once again we shall continue the March of Progression, surely and steadily going on from the commencement of TIME.

The Scientist, the Architect, the Engineer and the Builder are awaiting the moment to throw their united efforts into the service of reconstruction, and that time cannot be far distant.

In the new era we hope to continue to lead in the building, reconstruction and beautifying of our cities, so that they may become examples of architecture and building construction to the countries of the world.

As in the past, so in the future, we shall continue to serve the public with

ECONOMY, PROGRESS, EFFICIENCY.

J. & P. GOOD, LTD.,
Builders & Contractors,
DUBLIN.

Phone—499 Dublin.
Telegrams—"GOOD, DUBLIN."

*Henry Eason's
Builders: J. & P. Good*

J. & P. Good, Building Contractors, advertisement, 1923
Dublin Builders Trade Employer's Association Handbook, 1923, p. 5

Established in the 1890s, J. & P. Good was one of the largest and most successful building firms in Dublin by the outbreak of the First World War. Aside from rebuilding Easons and stabilising the ruins of the Four Courts, the firm also worked on the Custom House and rebuilt 55 O'Connell Street, Upper, from 1922.

52-59 O'Connell Street, Upper, proposed new buildings, W.H Byrne & Son, 1926
IAA W.H. Byrne Collection, 2006/142

Brick was tolerated on the infill buildings on the less damaged west side of O'Connell Street, Upper.



O'Connell Street, Upper, Gresham Hotel under construction, 1927

IAA McLoughlin & Harvey Collection, 2005/32.8/3

O'Connell Street, Upper: Rebuilding

The most that can be hoped for is that the Irish Government, if it finds the money for reconstruction, will require such co-ordination of design as will avoid the worst pitfalls of the 1916 reconstruction.

IRISH BUILDER, 19 MAY 1923, p. 365



O'Connell Street, Upper, 'Amended Sketch Design Frontage Co-ordination', City Architects Department, 1927

IAA W.H. Byrne Collection, 2006/142



16-19 O'Connell Street, Upper, front elevation of proposed Savoy Cinema, F.C. Mitchell, 1928
IAA PKS Collection, 77/1.5/9

The destruction wrought to O'Connell Street, Upper, in July 1922 was an entirely unwelcome financial burden for the new State, but the fledgling Government was at least able to draw on the experience of 1916 in framing its official reaction.

A compensation scheme was quickly established on similar

lines to that of 1916, and the Dublin Reconstruction (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1924, was passed. Based

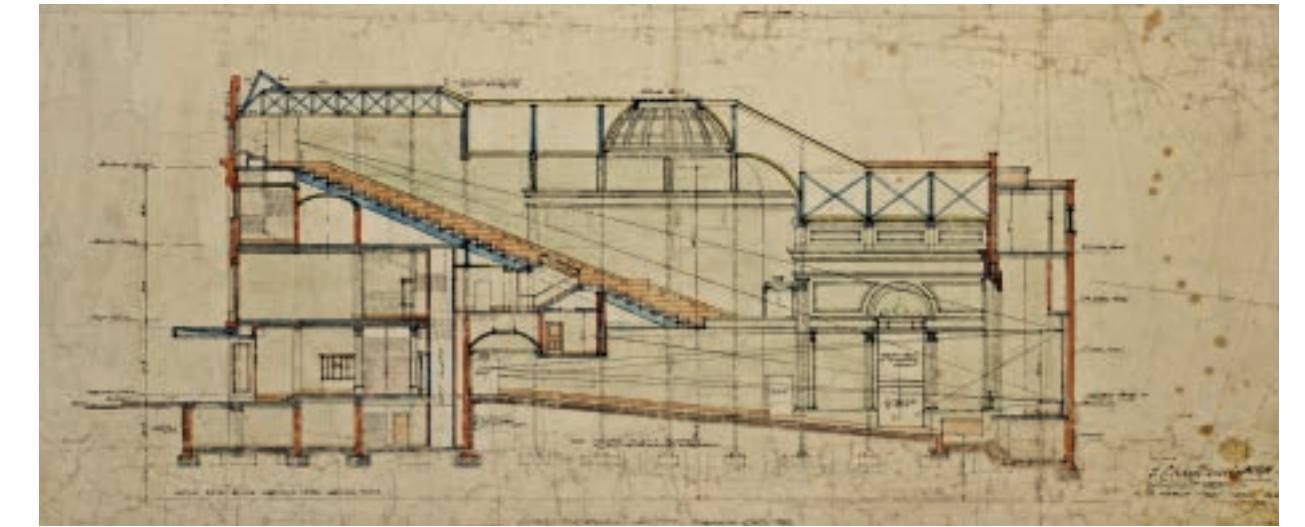


Savoy Cinema, steel frame under construction, September 1928

IAA Savoy Cinema Album, 85/57.6

was City Architect and therefore ideally placed to exploit the provision of both the 1916 and 1924 Acts.

The 'commanding palazzo blocks' of, in particular, the east side of O'Connell Street, Upper, are proof of O'Rourke's much more interventionist approach than his predecessor as City Architect, discernible in both the enforcement of a single parapet line and the demand that stone be used for building façades. The result is both more coherent and to some degree blander than the earlier rebuilding efforts in O'Connell Street, Lower.



Savoy Cinema, O'Connell Street, Upper, longitudinal section, F.C. Mitchell, 1928

IAA 2011/53

closely on the 1916 precedent, it provided the City Architect with powers to control rebuilding in the area affected by what was euphemistically referred to as 'certain disturbances' in 1922, to create new streets and to compulsorily purchase sites whose owners failed to rebuild in good time.

As early as 1917 the architect Horace T. O'Rourke had observed that the Reconstruction Act of 1916 'gives the Corporation control powerful enough to create and maintain a complete rhythmic balance of design for all new fronts in the destroyed area'. By 1922 O'Rourke



O'Connell Street, Upper, c.1930

IAA Photographic Collections, 12/29V26