

Conservation Section, Planning & Property Development Department
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8

An Rannóg Caomhantais, An Roinn Pleanála & Forbairt Maoine
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T. 01 222 3927 F. 01 222 2830

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To the Chairperson and Members of the South East Area Committee

Initiation of the Statutory Process for the Proposed Amendment of the Record of Protected Structures for 10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4 in accordance with Section 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)

Photograph of Structure:



Introduction:

It is proposed to initiate procedures under Section 55 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) to amend the record for 10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4 to include the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies School of Theoretical Physics, 1971 structure and historic boundaries.

Name and Address of Owner: Office of Public Works (OPW), Property Management Services, Head Office, Jonathan Swift Street, Trim, Co. Meath, C15 NX36.

Name of Applicants:

- Peter Cody, on behalf of DoCoMoMo Ireland (March 2010).

Summary of Applicant's Reasons for Seeking Addition:

- *DoCoMoMo Ireland submission March 2010:* Peter Cody's submission on behalf of DoCoMoMo Ireland sets out the historical context of the project, and outlines the significance of Stephenson & Gibney Associates' DIAS building under a number of headings. Cody describes the qualities defining the special character of the project in accordance with 5 of the criteria headings as set out in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities:
 - A generally agreed exemplar of good quality architectural design
 - The work of a known and distinguished architect, engineer, designer or craftsman
 - An exemplar of a building type, plan-form, style or styles of any period but also the harmonious interrelationship of differing styles within one structure
 - A structure which makes a positive contribution to its setting, such as a streetscape or group of structures in an urban area, or the landscape in a rural area.
 - A structure with an interior that is well designed, rich in decoration, complex or spatially pleasing.
- Cody describes the DIAS building as '*An assertive, confident, freestanding building that lends a fitting civic expression to the Institution it both houses and represents while remaining sympathetic to the surrounding domestic structures and overall setting.*'
- He highlights the considered choice of materials and construction methods, and the clever articulation of the various elements within the building.
'The language of the building arises from the clear expression of the logic of its construction and the material articulation of its constituent parts. The load-bearing, faceted, brick service tower plays against the reinforced concrete frame of the scholars' accommodation, while mediating with the neighbouring house.'
- The DIAS plan form, which is derived from the structural system, is held up as an exemplar.
'The building is an exemplar in both plan form, specifically its cruciform structural organisation with cantilevered corners and associated direct tectonic expression of "servant and served", one of the principle tenets of twentieth century modernism.'
- *DoCoMoMo Ireland submission December 2015:* In December 2015, Dublin City Council received a detailed submission from Shane O'Toole on behalf of DoCoMoMo Ireland for a number of 20th century buildings, including the DIAS submission written by Peter Cody. This submission was made under the Draft Development Plan process in 2015. The submission reference number is 3017.

Addition of Significant 20th Century Structures:

Policy CHC3 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 provides as follows: *To identify and protect exceptional buildings of the late twentieth century; to categorise, prioritise and, where appropriate, add to the RPS. Dublin City Council will produce guidelines and offer advice for protection and appropriate refurbishment.*

Site Location & Zoning Map:

The site is located on the east side of Burlington Road, Dublin 4.



10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4

The subject site is zoned Z2: *To protect and/or improve the amenities of residential conservation areas.*

Recent Planning History:

There are no planning permission applications pertaining to the 1971 structure at 10 Burlington Road.

There are a number of declarations and Section 5 applications relating to the adjoining protected nineteenth-century house at 10 Burlington Road:

Planning Ref	Description	Decision
A004/05	Declaration in relation to application to attach mobile telecommunications antennae	N/A
M0016/07	Declaration in relation to installation of wireless broadband	N/A
M0022/08	Declaration in relation to installation of antennae	N/A
M0046/08	Declaration in relation to installation of telecom equipment	N/A
0503/07	Section 5 application for the installation of antenna and transmission dishes	Granted exemption certificate

Summary Description:

The School of Theoretical Physics, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) was designed by Sam Stephenson of Stephenson Gibney & Associates, and completed in 1971. The building forms a six-storey annexe to the two-storey-over-basement nineteenth-century villa at 10 Burlington Road. The annexe is located in the garden of the existing villa, and is composed of a brick tower cluster, and an elevated brick and glass cube, both set at an angle to the existing villa. The towers house the circulation and ‘servant’ spaces, and the main block accommodates the ‘served’ spaces - reception, conference room, library and offices.

The towers are constructed in brick, and the structure of the main block is reinforced concrete. A recessed concrete bridge with glazed panels connects the tower and block at each level. The solidity of the vertical brick towers, with chamfered corner details, contrasts with the apparent lightness of the raised block. The upper ground floor to the main block is predominantly glazed, and recessed to the west (entrance) façade, which heightens this contrast.

The façades of the main block are made up of alternate horizontal bands of brick and glass, with a slim strip of the concrete frame visible below the brick cladding on each floor. Eight reinforced concrete columns support the upper floors and are set back from the building envelope. This frees up the corners creating seemingly transparent glazed bands, thus reducing the bulk of the raised block and creating the effect of 'floating' floor planes. The high-level recessed opening sections of the windows in each bay further emphasise this illusion. The external expression of the recessed structural columns allows the individual bays to be clearly defined. The library occupies the sunken podium, and the clerestory glazing creates a visual separation from the upper levels, contributing to the 'lightness' of the block above.

'It is a poised, mature work of architecture that combines up-to-the-minute influences from Louis I. Kahn's Richards Medical Research Building (Philadelphia, USA), with a nod towards contextualism, as the architects SGA also took cues from the neighbouring Victorian villas.' (More than Concrete Blocks, Volume II, 2018).

The raised entrance steps and sunken landscaped 'area' to the basement below, reference the adjoining nineteenth-century houses. These external steps and the columns to the entrance podium are expressed with a rough aggregate finish.

The reinforced concrete structural frame is exposed throughout the building, with smooth coffered concrete ceilings and exposed concrete columns to the rooms of the main block. Rooms are divided by glazed partitions and stud partitions.

Summary of Historical Background:

The DIAS is the second oldest institute for Advanced Studies in the world and was established by Taoiseach Eamon de Valera in 1940. The institute was originally located at 65 Merrion Square. In 1938, De Valera invited internationally-renowned Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger to Ireland to assist in the establishment of the institute. Schrödinger arrived in 1941, and was appointed first director of its School of Theoretical Physics. He was director of the school until his retirement in 1955, when he returned to Austria.

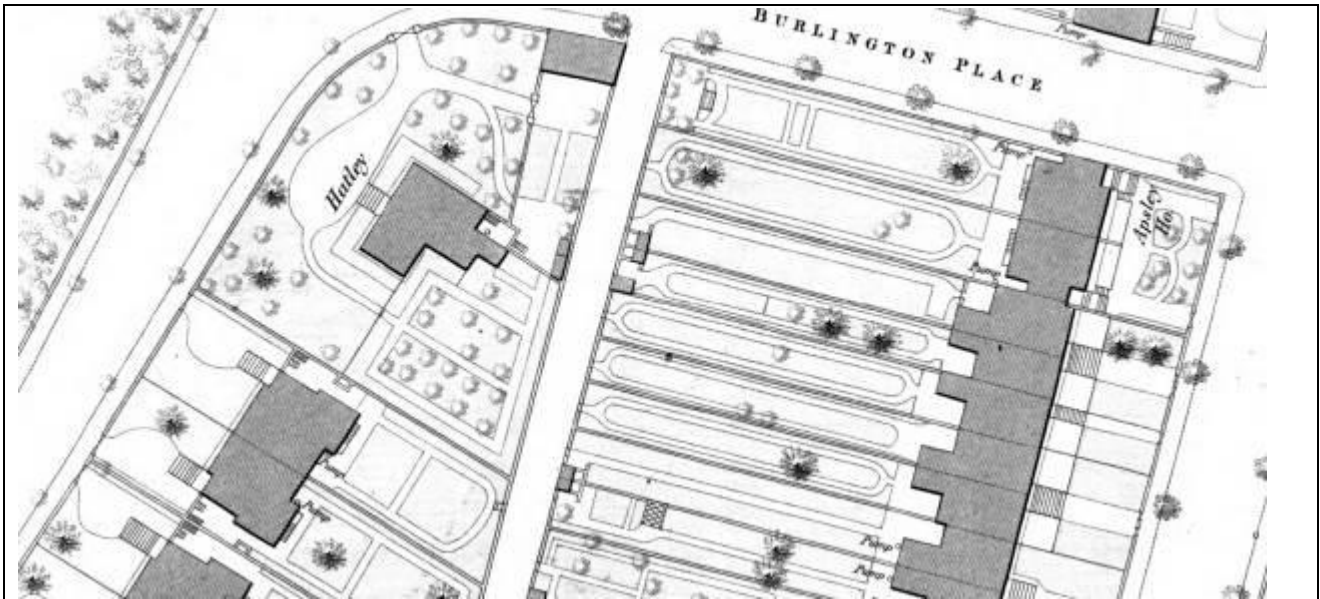
The DIAS began to expand, and encompassed three schools by the early 1960s – the School of Theoretical Physics, the School of Cosmic Physics and the School of Celtic Studies. At this point it was decided that a new building was required and the Office of Public Works (OPW) set about looking for a site.

Burlington Road, located between Upper Baggot Street and Upper Leeson Street, was laid out in the mid-nineteenth century. The street was composed of Victorian villas set within generous landscaped gardens. In 1963, the OPW acquired the site at 10 Burlington Road, which accommodated a nineteenth-century villa 'Hatley', and its attendant gardens. The corner site spans between Burlington Road, and Waterloo Lane to the east. The School of Celtic Studies was to occupy the nineteenth-century house, and a site to the north of the house was ear-marked for the School of Theoretical Physics.

Initial sketch designs for the building were prepared by the OPW in 1964, and in that same year Stephenson Gibney Associates were appointed as architects for the job.

Space on the site was restricted, and Stephenson Gibney Associates faced the challenge of providing the required accommodation in a manner that respected the scale and materiality of the

existing nineteenth-century streetscape. Tenders for construction were invited in 1969, and Stephenson Gibney Associates' scheme, a six-storey annexe to the north of the existing villa, was completed in 1971. The contract sum was reported by the engineer Donald Keogan to be £150,000 (More than Concrete Blocks, Volume II, 2018).



Burlington Road, 1876 OS map (The Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies is located in the gardens of 'Hatley', a mid-nineteenth century villa)

References:

- O'Toole, Shane, 'Institute of Advanced Studies, Burlington Road, Dublin 1969-1971' in Becker, Olley, Wang (Eds.) *20th-Century Architecture in Ireland* (Munich 1997)
- O'Beirne, Tomás, *A Guide to Modern Architecture in Dublin* (1978)
- Anon., 'Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies' in *The Brick Bulletin*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (November 1973)
- Anon., 'Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies' in Oibre, Bulletin of the Commissioners of Public Works, Vol. 10 (August 1973)
- Stephenson Gibney & Associates Collection, Folder H (64.36), L00072, Irish Architectural Archive
- Classified Ad, OPW Building Contract, Irish Times, 25 February 1969
- McDonald, Frank, 'A late accolade for Sam Stephenson', 08 October 1985
- Dunlop, Alan, 'Public acclaim for a modernist hero hides Ireland's confidence in its own urban design', Irish Times, 13 September 2001
- Anon., 'A bold and controversial architect who left his mark on Dublin', Irish Times, 11 November 2006
- Anon., 'Stephenson's legacy', Irish Times, 15 November 2006
- <http://archiseek.com/2010/1971-dublin-institute-for-advanced-studies-burlington-road-dublin/>

Significance/NIAH Rating:

The Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies (DIAS) is located in an area that has not yet been surveyed as part of the architectural inventory of Dublin City currently being undertaken by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

When evaluating the property using the NIAH criteria and rating system (International, National, Regional, Local and Record Only), it is found that the DIAS is worthy of a Regional rating.

Rationale for Regional rating:

The School of Theoretical Physics, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, is a well-proportioned and finely-crafted building, which introduces contemporary architectural expression to a historic street while responding to its nineteenth-century context. The composition of vertical and horizontal elements, the structural clarity, the attention to detail and quality of materials contribute to form a considered piece of architecture.

Assessment of Special Interest under the Planning and Development Act 2000:

The Categories of Special Interest are defined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, technical and social. When assessed under the above categories, it is found that the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies (DIAS) is of architectural, historical, cultural, and technical interest.

- ARCHITECTURAL:

- The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies was commended in the RIAI Triennial Gold Medal for 1971-73. The architects Stephenson Gibney Associates (SGA) drew inspiration from a number of contemporary projects, most notably Louis Kahn's Medical Research Building in Philadelphia. The building also references the nineteenth-century villas on Burlington Road, through its use of red brick, the sunken garden and stepped entrance.
- Scottish architect Alan Dunlop applauds the design and remarks on the probable architectural influences.

'Recently, I spotted a simple modernist building – the Institute of Advanced Studies, on Burlington Road, designed by Sam Stephenson ... it is both clear and concise in its architectural lineage and its influence can be traced back directly to Louis Kahn. The building also reminded me of Alvar Aalto's National Pensions Institute in the clarity of its structure and immaculate detail.' (Alan Dunlop, Irish Times, 2001).

- Cody also notes this reference to Kahn's work, and celebrates its expression of 'servant and served' spaces.
'The building is probably the finest expression in Ireland of the modernist principle of "servant and served space" espoused most authoritatively by Louis Kahn.' (DoCoMoMo Ireland application, 2010).
- Another possible reference is James Stirling's Leicester University Engineering Department (1963). As with the DIAS, the verticality of the brick towers, with chamfered corners and glazed links, contrasts with the horizontal elements of the scheme.
- In 1973, the Brick Bulletin, a supplement to Plan Magazine featured an article on SGA's building celebrating its composition and site treatment.
'Most attractively proportioned, the finished building looks extremely well with its balanced combination of vertical and horizontal elements in matching brickwork. Equally discerning care was evidently devoted to the development of the surrounding site areas.' (The Brick Bulletin, 1973).
- The detailing throughout the DIAS is finely crafted, most notably in the window design, the concrete structure and the brickwork. The continuous occupancy of the building by the School of Theoretical Physics has meant that the external envelope and the interiors have remained largely intact. The windows are intact and functioning. Original

furniture, fittings and lighting fixtures have survived in many of the rooms, as have some finishes.

- Sam Stephenson of SGA was the principal architect for the DIAS project. Stephenson (1933-2006) was a graduate of the College of Technology, Bolton Street (now TUD). He formed a private practice with Arthur Gibney in the early 1960s. Stephenson Gibney Associates were responsible for a number of prominent architectural projects in the city, many of which drew public controversy. These include the ESB Headquarters on Fitzwilliam Street (1965), the Central Bank & Plaza (1978) and the Civic Office towers in Wood Quay (1983). Sam Stephenson was awarded the RIAI Gold Medal 1977-1979 for the Currency Centre, Sandyford, Co. Dublin.

- Design team for the DIAS –
Architects: Stephenson Gibney Associates
Structural Engineer: Donald St John Keogan MAI
Quantity Surveyor: Vincent Drum FRICS
Mechanical Services Consultants: Lyons and Partners
Electrical Consultants: MacArdle, McSweeney and O'Malley
Main Contractors: M J Davis & Co Ltd.

- HISTORICAL:
 - The establishment of the DIAS in 1940 was historically significant in that it signified the introduction of science to the policy agenda in Ireland. The DIAS was established under the Institute of Advanced Studies Act (1940). At Taoiseach Eamon de Valera's invitation, renowned Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger (1887-1961) arrived in Ireland in 1941 to serve as founding director of the School of Theoretical Physics at the DIAS. Schrödinger is best known for his 1935 theory 'Schrödinger's Cat', which challenged the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics.

- CULTURAL:
 - The DIAS is the second oldest institute for Advanced Studies in the world and followed the precedent of the first Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, where Einstein was a Professor until his death in 1955.

 - The creation of the DIAS was intended to promote a liaison between the two Dublin universities – University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. The DIAS was to serve as a meeting place for researchers. The appointment of an eminent figure such as Schrödinger as director of the School of Theoretical Physics would have further endorsed this effort to formalise a connection between the universities.

 - The DIAS continues to promote advanced scholarship, and research links with universities throughout Ireland and internationally.

- TECHNICAL:
 - The DIAS is a naturally ventilated building. The design of the opening window sections in high-level recesses was devised to avoid draughts at desk level and reduce solar gain in the office spaces. This technical innovation has aesthetic merit in that it further delineates the recessed glazing and reinforces the visual separation of the horizontal brick bands.

Conclusion:

The Conservation Section has considered the applicants' reasons for seeking addition and concludes that the structure merits inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures. Having reviewed the site it is recommended that the description of RPS record 1025 be extended to include the 1971 structure (The School of Theoretical Physics) and the remaining historic boundaries.

The purpose of this report is to attain the approval of the South East Area Committee of Dublin City Council for the initiation of the statutory process for the proposed amendment of the Record of Protected Structures for RPS record 1025 to include the 1971 structure (The School of Theoretical Physics) and the remaining historic boundaries. This includes undertaking a statutory public consultation process in accordance with Section 55 of the Act. Following the statutory consultation process, a further report will be prepared taking any submissions and observations received into consideration, with a recommendation to the City Council to proceed or not with the proposed amendment.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the description of the RPS record for 10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4 be amended to 'Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, comprising 19th century house, 1971 structure and historic boundaries'.

The current entry in the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 reads:

RPS	Address	Description
1025	10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4	House

It is proposed to amend the description as follows:

RPS	Address	Description
1025	10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4	Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, comprising 19 th century house, 1971 structure and historic boundaries

Paraic Fallon
Senior Planner

Date: 29/10/2019

Extent of Protected Structure Status & Curtilage



10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4

Photographic Record



10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4, front (east) elevation.



10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4, north elevation



10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4, west elevation and rear boundary wall



10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4, entrance

Archival Photographic Record



Irish Architectural Archive, Ref: 73_21. Mounted photographs relating to Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 10, Burlington Road



Irish Architectural Archive, Ref: 73_21



Irish Architectural Archive, Ref: 73_21



Irish Architectural Archive, Ref: 73_21. Mounted photographs relating to Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 10, Burlington Road



Oibre, Volume 10, 1973