





Front Cover Image

Marcon completed the fit-out of the interpretive exhibition at Seamus Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy. The new visitor centre showcases the life and work of the late poet.

It has been a busy period for Marcon's heritage team, having successfully handed over a range of high profile museums and exhibitions and being awarded a number of iconic projects.

This newsletter will give you an overview of these exciting schemes and how we are continuing to build our profile and reputation within the sector.

Our heritage team is consistently demonstrating its ability to operate the length & breadth of the UK and Ireland – from the sandy shores of Hastings on the south coast of England to beautiful Connemara on the rugged west coast of Ireland.

As we look forward over the coming months it will be “full steam ahead” as we embark on the fit-out of a new Railway Museum and complete the fit-out of Belfast's newest visitor attraction.

Enjoy the read!



Marcon Fit-Out completes the last chapter at Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

Marcon Fit-Out has finished the intricate fit-out of the new exhibition at Seamus Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy.

The new visitor centre showcases the life and work of the late poet Seamus Heaney bringing together an interactive exhibition using the latest audio visual technology, a 160-seater theatre and performance space, learning zones for children and adults as well as community space.

Marcon's heritage team used the specialist skills of its joinery workshop to create bespoke elements for the new building for Mid Ulster District Council. The new exhibition area is a fully immersive experience detailing the life of Seamus Heaney through the years. The new space consists of audio visual touch screens, interactives, graphics and

key artefacts belonging to the famous poet which are on display within stunning showcases.

Martin McErlean, Marcon Fit-Out, commented: "We really enjoyed playing an important role in the opening of Seamus Heaney HomePlace. This culturally significant project will be an important facility for local people and will be a driver to attract new visitors into the area.

Our heritage team was supported by our specialist joinery workshop which manufactured the many bespoke joinery items within HomePlace. This project further enhances our growing reputation within the museum and heritage sector. Marcon worked very closely with leading interpretive designers, Tandem, to deliver the new centre.

"For a project as unique as this we needed to create spaces that were strikingly different to represent the phases of Heaney's life so the demands on the fit-out were high with many firsts for us. Prototyping and experimenting were key to a successful on-site delivery and Marcon excelled."

Andrew Todd, Director, Tandem



“All Aboard!” as Marcon is awarded fit-out of new Railway Museum.

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland has appointed Marcon to carry out the fit-out works at its new Museum and Interpretive Centre in Whitehead. Marcon will put the finishing touches to the new £3m project which will transform the RPSI's base into a modern tourist attraction.

It will be “full steam ahead” for Marcon's heritage team which will be responsible for the manufacture and installation of all specialist joinery, display cases, integration of audio visual hardware, interactives and installation of graphics within the new museum space.

The new museum will open to the public in spring 2017.

Working closely with leading interpretive designers GBDM and Multimedia Team

CMC Associates, Marcon will transform the carriage workshop and locomotive sheds into a fully functioning museum.

Martin McErean, Contracts Manager, Marcon comments; “The RPSI do some amazing work, showcasing and restoring historically important locomotives and protecting our railway heritage for the next generation.

We are really excited to be working on this living museum that will tell the story of the development of the railways and the RPSI in an engaging way. Visitors of all ages will be able to watch from a viewing gallery as work is carried out on locomotives within the engineering workshops.

Securing this major museum contract further enhances our reputation as a leading fit-out provider within the UK and

Irish museum and heritage sector.”

Griff Boyle, Director, GBDM adds; “RPSI's new museum at Whitehead will be a unique insight into the lost age of steam train travel and its heavy engineering traditions. Across this expansive, transformed engineering site, visitors will be offered a mix of traditional museum, engineering workshops, immersive train experiences and interactivity. Add to that the ‘Museum on the Move’ steam train journeys run by RPSI on the main line to Portrush and elsewhere and you have a truly unique visitor facility. Marcon are the perfect specialist museum shopfitters to work alongside RPSI and GBDM to complete this complex project to the very high quality that is required.”





“Chocks away!” Marcon completes transformation of American Air Museum at IWM Duxford.

Marcon has completed a major contract at the American Air Museum at IWM Duxford, Cambridge, which is one of the renowned Imperial War Museums.

The American Air Museum houses a unique collection of American aircraft which is the largest collection on public display outside the United States.

The £3 million transformation of the American Air Museum opened to the public at the weekend and tells the story of Anglo-American collaboration in twentieth and twenty-first century conflict, as seen through the eyes of the people linked with the aircraft and objects on display. From Private to President, the American Air Museum tells the personal stories of 85 people whose lives have shaped or been shaped by their experiences of conflict. It focuses on the key role played by American air power, in

conflicts from 1918 to the present day, with dramatic displays of historic and contemporary aircraft.

Upon entering the American Air Museum, visitors will be greeted by the commanding sight of 18 aircraft, some suspended as if in flight. Here, visitors are introduced to the chronological themes of the exhibition - World Wars, Cold War and War in the Mountains and Deserts – through introductory films featuring some of the remarkable people they will encounter as they explore the museum.

Visitors will also be able to view 850 objects including equipment, uniforms, keepsakes and photographs. Many of these artefacts have never been seen by the public before.

Marcon completed all of the museum

network displays, graphics, interactive exhibits and coordinated the installation of the integrated audio visual hardware and display cases. The company's specialist joinery workshop manufactured free standing 'Narrative Islands' that contain graphic and digital interactives. The project also included the creation of three feature displays containing steel girders from the World Trade Centre, a section of the Berlin Wall and a 20ft long flag of the United States of America made from reinforced fibreglass.

Mark O'Connor, Director, Marcon, said "For Marcon to play such an integral role in the high profile redevelopment of the American Air Museum is hugely satisfying and a great achievement for the company. Our project team has thoroughly enjoyed working in partnership with IWM and Redman Design. This is a very significant project for us as

we continue to enhance our growing reputation within the museum and heritage sector".

Jenny Cousins, Project Leader for the American Air Museum at IWM Duxford adds: "Marcon worked with IWM and our exhibition designers Redman, to produce high-quality displays with a close attention to detail. It felt more like a partnership: I was able to relax and leave the installation team to get on with it, confident that they would make decisions for the good of the final visitor experience, rather than expediency."

“Oh, we do love to be beside the seaside!”

This summer Marcon played a key role in the restoration and reopening of the iconic Hastings Pier. The famous pier underwent two years of renovation works at a cost of £14.2million.

Closed for safety reasons in 2008 and virtually destroyed by fire in October 2010, a local action group raised the funds to rebuild the 140 year-old structure, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Pier's main attractions are the bar and restaurant in the newly renovated Pavilion building and "The Deck", a newly built two storey visitor centre with a roof terrace café, bistro restaurant,

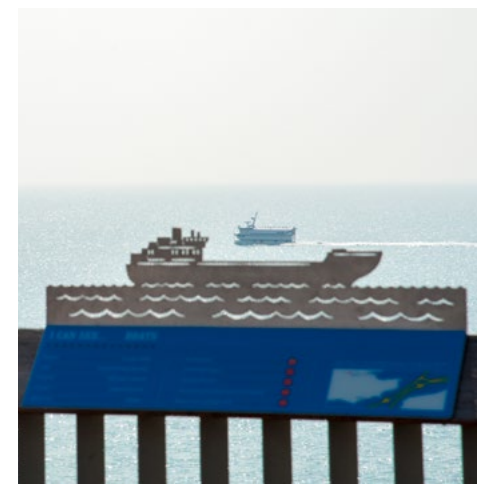
viewing platform and heritage rooms. The Memories Room allows visitors to explore the Pier's fascinating history by using a range of interactive multi-touch tables to discover pictures, postcards, photographs, posters and gig tickets from the past. The popular Birch Room is an educational hub hosting a wide range of workshops for children, families and the wider community, as well as exploring Hastings Pier's history with an audio visual exhibition.

Working closely with the Hastings Pier Charity and interpretive designers DESIGNMAP, Marcon was responsible for the manufacture and installation of all specialist joinery, coordination of audio visual hardware, perimeter graphics and wayfinding signage, installation of interpretive rails along the full length of the pier and the installation of a feature periscope that allows visitors to view under the pier. In addition, Marcon manufactured the mobile interactive units, research kiosks and interactive audio visual multi-touch tables within the Memories Room.

Alan Stewart, Business Development Manager at Marcon talks about the

company's involvement in the scheme; "This project was a first for the Marcon Heritage team. It's not every day that you get to work on an iconic landmark such as the 140 year old Hastings Pier. It was a joy to work so closely with Hastings Pier Charity and DESIGNMAP, to share their enthusiasm for the restoration of the pier and to help create an attraction that will be enjoyed by so many people for years to come.

Daniel Sutton, Managing Director at DESIGNMAP adds, "There were two key challenges for the design of the interpretation. For the exterior installations we needed to use materials and construction methods capable of withstanding the harsh marine environment. Whilst the interior exhibits had to be updatable and mobile, enabling the exhibition spaces to be reconfigured easily for events. Marcon were proactive throughout the design development process which greatly benefited the final installed scheme. In particular the interior 'mini-pier' mobile interpretation stations and exterior 'topsy-turvy periscope' have been a great success".





Marcon provides five star service to the 'Jewel in the Crown of County Down'.

Marcon has completed an exhibition fit-out at the Slieve Donard Resort and Spa, part of Hastings Hotels, Northern Ireland's premier hotel group. Nestling at the foot of the Mountains of Mourne, the hotel is one of the best preserved Victorian buildings in the province and is a retreat for the rich and the famous.

The hotel wanted to develop an interpretive exhibition to allow their guests to explore the hotel's origins, its people and surrounds. The new 'Museum Room' is an immersive experience that draws on the history of the iconic hotel.

The new exhibition was designed by award winning interpretive designers Tandem who created the vision for the space.

Marcon's heritage team was responsible for the manufacture and installation all specialist joinery, graphics, interactives, integration of display cases and the coordination of the audio visual hardware. The new 'Museum Room' tells the story of the famous hotel through memories, episodes, artefacts and archive footage and has proven to be extremely popular with guests.



Connemara Visitor Centre at Pearse's Cottage.

Marcon has been appointed to carry out the interpretive fit-out at a new purpose built visitor centre at Pearse's Cottage, Rosmuc, Co. Galway, a popular tourist attraction overlooking the breath-taking lakes and mountains of Connemara. The famous cottage was used by Padraig Pearse (1879-1916) leader of the 1916 Rising as a summer residence and summer school for his pupils from St Endas, in Dublin.

The new visitor centre will house exhibitions, meeting areas for education groups, an interactive audio visual space, a multipurpose area and a café.

Working with leading interpretive designers Bright 3D, Marcon complete the fit-out of the exhibition space utilising its in house specialist joinery workshop. Within the exhibition Marcon will carry out the manufacture and installation of bespoke joinery elements, display cases, interactives, audio visual and graphic installation.

The exhibition will be the main attraction within the centre and the audio visual elements combining with other display media to form the core of the venue's interpretive scheme.

The new centre aims to become a hub for celebrating Irish as a contemporary

living language and the Gaeltacht culture while highlighting the Connemara region's outstanding natural beauty. It will also provide expanded interpretation about Padraig Pearse. The Centre aims to meet the needs of the local community for social and learning opportunities the wider community.

The project is funded by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Office of Public Works, and Údarás na Gaeltachta

Marcon awarded fit-out of Belfast's newest visitor attraction.

Marcon has secured a major new contract with Belfast City Council and will be responsible for the fit-out of a new interactive exhibition within the iconic Belfast City Hall. Located in the East Wing of the historic building the visitor-led exhibition which opens in spring 2017 will become a major visitor attraction for both local people and tourists alike.

The exhibition will be spread over 18 rooms and will display the council's memorabilia collection and narrate the historical interpretation of the city in an engaging way. Great care has been taken to ensure that the new space is in keeping with the integrity of the building's design, history and architecture.

Marcon will work closely with local interpretive designers Redhead Exhibitions who have been working with Belfast City Council to bring their vision to reality. The design will allow visitors to interact with the rich cultural heritage of

Belfast and facilitate the effective and efficient flow of people throughout the space which includes the new exhibition, the official guided tour, the stained glass window collection and the memorial grounds.

The heritage team at Marcon will be responsible for the manufacture and installation of all specialist joinery and fitted furniture, feature display cases to house memorabilia and artefacts, luxury woven carpets, exhibition graphics, illuminated signage and the coordination of audio visual hardware within the new space. The contract also includes the fitting out of a new café. Mark O'Connor, Director, Marcon comments; "It is encouraging to see the continued investment in our local tourism market as we welcome record numbers of visitors to Northern Ireland. This particular project is another significant contract win for Marcon as we continue to enhance our reputation as a leading fit-

out partner for museums and exhibitions across the UK and Ireland. Our dedicated heritage team is really looking forward to starting work on Belfast's newest visitor attraction at Belfast City Hall."

Sarah Lyons, Director, Redhead adds; "This is an exciting new development for City Centre tourism and one that encourages increased access to City Hall for local people. We are delighted to be playing such a key role in the project and to provide the plans, layouts and designs that Marcon will now manufacture to."

Marcon has completed a number of high profile museum and exhibition projects across the UK and Ireland. Projects such as the new Seamus Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy, the American Air Museum at IWM Duxford, Cromford Mills in Derbyshire and "Europe's leading visitor attraction" – Titanic Belfast ®.





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