The landscape strategy for Castleknock's new town square proposes to strengthen the landscape character of the historic built environment. The use of materials and finishes will reflect and enhance the existing building style. The new surface will define the new square by visually linking the space. An emphasis will be placed on order and uniformity through the coherent use of quality materials and street furniture. The resultant square will allow pedestrian movement to flow with ease, while creating a static space for seating and gathering at the village café.
Poppintree Park

The design of a 20-hectare award winning public open space – Poppintree Park. The site, in essence, was an open field, which served local recreational clubs in the main, but also offered potential owing to the tree line structure and requirements for local storm water attenuation. Difficulties were evident, as its location was between two existing communities of Finglas to the west and Poppintree/Ballymun to the east. Community involvement was critical to the development and workshops facilitated the design process and conflict resolution. Today the award-winning park offers respite not alone for the local communities to its east and west, but to an entire host of native species of conservation concern, as a result of the lake and wet grassland habitats created, which contributes greatly to biodiversity in the area. The number of users of the park has increased, as has the manner in which the park is used. A new habitat for leisure and play has been established through ecological approach.
Design idea

exploring visual clarity
matrix of modular blocks
vertical and horizontal planes
surfaces and edges

creating volumes = seat

Harbour Mill, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin
Tyrrelspass
tracing cultural patterns in contemporary design

The landscape surrounding the village of Tyrrelspass has been shaped by rural life. A pattern of ditches, hedgerows, pasture and harvested bog defines it. This pattern has emerged over time and tracing its evolution reveals the cultural processes that shaped it. The village of Tyrrelspass has an historic built core. Remnants of a twelfth-century Norman castle defend a case for the village’s origins, while significant developments in an eighteenth century settlement plan are preserved in the built crescent and village green. Garden plots consolidate the character of the built street before it loosens up and out to a wider and freer agriculturally influenced landscape of glacial heritage. The site is an open field with a sudden and significant level change to the east. The design is influenced in the most part by this level change and the new park looks outward from its prominent hilltop to views of a landscape that remind of the cultures that have sustained a rural environment. Visual and physical links are a key design component and method of linking past and present landscapes.

Visually the site links to the historic origins with views from that place onto the site and a new twenty first century landscape. Views from the prominent hilltop to the wider landscape remind of older cultural traditions. A new access opens physical links from the site to the historic core of the village.
Inchicore Health Centre
SHANGAN PARK, BALLYMUN, DUBLIN

Playground construction to completion

C. McDonald in association with BRL 2004
Seating details