



**GILLESPIE**

**case study**  
ILAC Centre

**architect**  
Benoy

**main contractor**  
G&T Crampton



# retail renovation

Located in the historic centre of Dublin, the ILAC Centre opened in 1980 as Ireland's first covered shopping centre. Some twenty five years later however, the ILAC was in desperate need of a facelift. A comprehensive refurbishment included the reshaping of the malls to incorporate double height shop facades, with fresh interior soft finishes and architectural lighting features crafted in Gillespie's Zerodec laminated GRG adding vibrancy and a modern feel to the centre.

The design vision for the centre was realised through the extensive use of Gillespie's patented Zerodec laminated GRG. This demonstrates the versatility of the product in creating shape and form for ceilings, columns and bulkheads, as well as achieving the fine detailing for complex artistic features.

In a sweeping transformation the malls in the ILAC were reconfigured, extending the single storey shop fronts by the addition of double height facades. To accentuate this height and to bring character and ambience to the centre, the upper levels featured a series of murals formed in Zerodec GRG, showing a variety of stylised images in relief. The composition was enhanced by coloured uplighting, with occasional superimposed etched glass panels picking out details of the design.

Zerodec laminated GRG acoustic ceiling panels with lighting rafts and hanging lighting features brought further architectural interest to the interior, and added to the sense of ambient light and spaciousness. Bespoke pilasters and bulkheads with inset lighting features were clad in Armourcast, Gillespie's GRG product with a natural stone finish, to achieve colour and texture on a cost effective basis. The refurbishment resulted in a dramatic transformation for the ILAC centre.

The centre was redesigned by architects Benoy, with G&T Crampton as main contractors. Having successfully completed previous projects with both parties, and with extensive experience in the retail sector, Gillespie were ideally placed to deliver the high quality interior finishes required by the stylish visual designs.

The project was not without its challenges. As a thriving retail centre, it was critical to ILAC tenants and the shopping public that the refurbishment took place with the minimum of disruption to normal trading. With wide experience in delivering retail projects, Gillespie worked in close collaboration with Benoy and G&T Crampton to coordinate works so that the centre could continue trading safely throughout the refurbishment programme, with installation teams frequently working out of hours, or on crash decking during the trading day to ensure timely completion.

“During the course of the project, we were very happy with the quality of workmanship displayed by Gillespie's installation crew, and the technical expertise and design input required to complete what was a very challenging element of works...Gillespie were highly cooperative and professional to work with and the end result is a testament to their commitment and attention to detail”

**John Atkinson,**  
Senior Project Manager, G&T Crampton

