

Lifford Strabane Riverside Regeneration

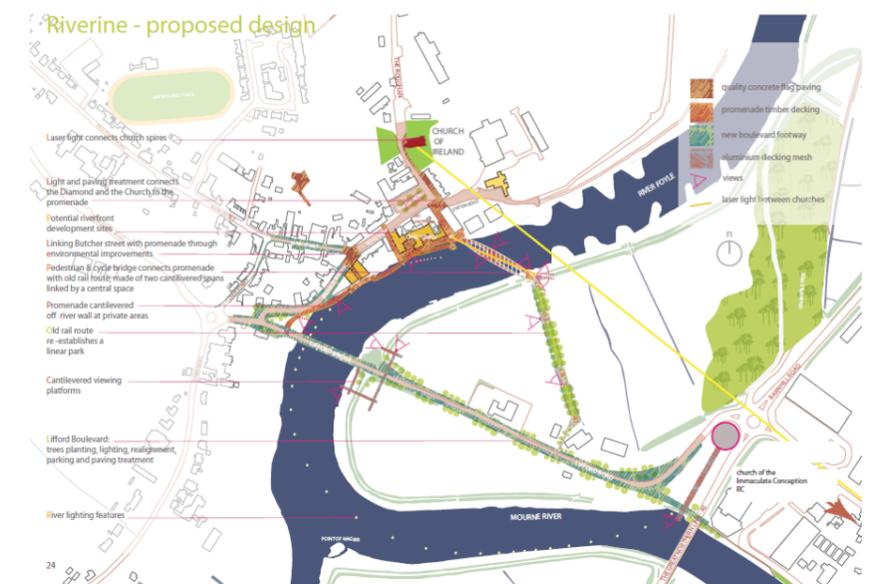
Client: Donegal County Council, Republic of Ireland

David Orr was Project Director for this landscape led regeneration (for Mouchel) for an area of land astride the River Foyle that forms the border between the small riverside town of Lifford in the Republic of Ireland and the town of Strabane in Northern Ireland on the other side. During the Troubles this cross river area, a mix of fields, recreation space and industrial land, formed a No Mans Land and was marked by a series of violent events and ongoing distrust between the two close communities. The river corridor is also a flood plain and the river, a Special Area for Conservation. As part of an EU Peace III project, Mouchel were appointed to produce a landscape that joined the two communities more meaningfully and provided a real sense of place.

With a mixed discipline team of landscape architects and Irish artist Seamus Nolan, together with civil and highway engineers we developed within a series of community workshops a framework for structuring the space and new links. The project incorporates a new riverfront promenade which also opens up new waterfront development sites, a new bridge link connecting the promenade with the alignment of a disused rail-line (now a linear park). Cantilevered walkways provide rest places and viewing points onto the river. An alignment of river lighting will enliven the nightscape of the two sister towns. This forms part of a ring of walkways that interlink to form a riverside park and allow for the new A6 route enhancement that has an option to run between the towns.

The new spaces and routes created make room for new memories and experiences. The River Regeneration Project is viewed as a vital part of the process of bringing together the two communities of Lifford and Strabane.

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