

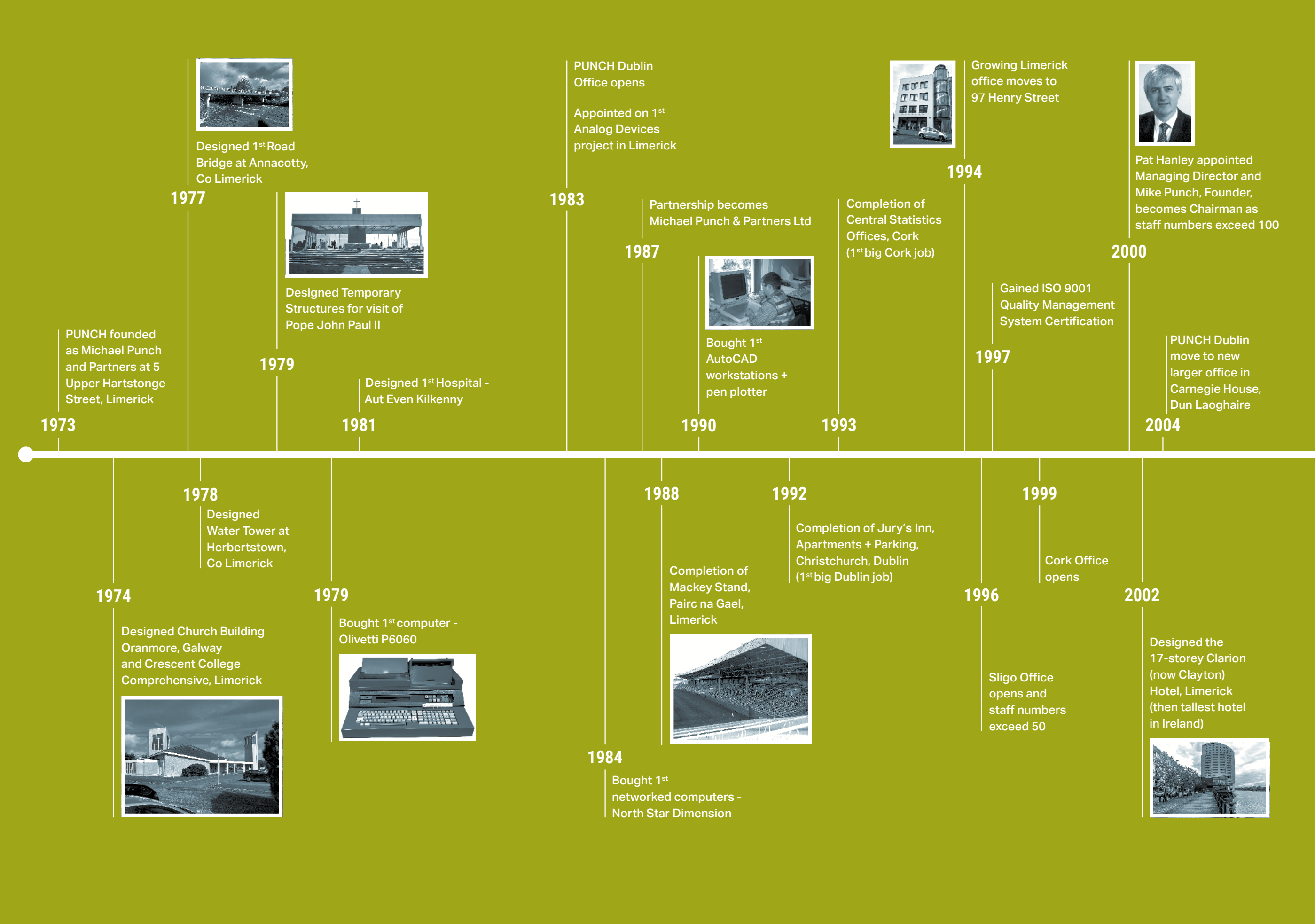


PUNCH
consulting engineers



**Celebrating
50 years**





PUNCH staff throughout the years Michael Punch + Joe Murphy + Kevin Clancy Pat Hanley + Anthony Neville + Antoinette O'Brien + Chris Little + Diarmuid McDonogh Ed Punch + Ena Bermingham + Ellen O'Mahony + Geraldine Neary + John Riordan Kieran Cleary + Mary O'Reilly + Kieran Fitzgerald + Nelson Odufuwa + Olatunji Oladejo Paraic Cullen + Pat Carmody + Pat McDonnell + Pat Mulcahy + Paul Cannon Peter O'Shaughnessy + Peter Ronan + Philip Ryan + Siobhan O'Carroll + Tom Cuddy Tom Moynihan + Tom O'Brien + Joan Quane + Tom Barret + Tom Hayes + Ger Neville Tom Cosgrove + John Horgan + Marian Trimble + Bill Hutch + Tom Tarpey + Joe McNamara Ray Madden + Deirdre Frost + John Daly + David Punch + Anne Sexton + Philip Hackett Brian O'Donoghue + Katherine Nunan + Noel Leonard + John Campion + Cathal Butler John Pollock + Ray Sexton + Seamus Kennedy + Betty Carmody + John O'Mara Anne Chawke + James Buckley + David Cooke + Joe Ryan Celia Dunne + Niall Quilligan Martin Heffernan + Eamon Molloy + David Condon + Mark Molloy + Michael D Punch Donough McCrann + Terry Sheehan + Pierce McGann + John G Collins + Ger Power Michael Hassett + Jim O'Keefe + Donal Murphy + Helen Quain + Morgan McDonogh Teresa Hogan + Evelyn Hannan + Mary Moloney + Michael O'Leary + Rory O'Callaghan Joe Nash + Pat O'Brien + Pat Carroll + Patrick O'Connell + Joseph O'Hara + Shane Flanagan Charlie Clancy + Suresh Babu + Abbie O'Sullivan + Kevin Keely + Grainne Murray Emmet Shire + Donal McCarthy + Ollie Burke + Cliona MacMahon + Betty O'Donnell Timothy Buckley + Jim Malone + Joe Cahill + John Sheehan + Brian Feeney Maurice Twomey + Valerie Cooke + Denis McNelis + Chris Grey + Sinead Keaney Mervyn Daly + Fred Hollywood + Noreen O'Neill + John Byrne + Declan Cahill + Tom Murphy Gerard Madigan + Anthony Hamilton + Patricia Keyes David Cairns + Cliona O'Connor Colm Callery + Vera Swan + Rosemary Ryan + Robert Tackaberry + Elaine O'Rourke Marie Moloney + Kara Walsh + Patricia Reidy + John O'Leary + Michael Ryan + Ronan Stokes Pauline McNamara + Killian Kelly + Leonard Brennan + Dermot Ryan + Julie Crossan Pauric Cunningham + David Flynn + Louise Hassett + Francis Fidgeon + John McCarthy Alan Grant + Fiona Mullally + Kevin Plunkett + Michael Quilligan + Brendan Boyce Sally Anne Hartigan + Anton O'Rourke + Michael O'Brien + Rebecca Kelly + Neil Cosgrove Ann Lahiff + John Bourke + Mary Punch + Paul McCarthy + Gregory Hayes + Alexis Clancy Ian Fitzgibbon + Donal Minnock + Sean Buckley + Anne-Marie Cullen + Elizabeth Fanning Kevin Mullery + Sinead Kennedy + Henry Reidy + Louise Dineen + Seamus Lynch Ben Noonan + Turlough Lynch + Kevin Roche + Sara Punch David Ducie + Eamonn Mac Auliffe Deirdre Fidgeon + Ann-Marie Nevin + Catherine Tunstall + Chris Wason + Margaret Byrne David Skene + Nicholas Heffernan + Jean Geary + Denis Connolly + Jane Shiels Thomas Mackey + Aidan Murnane + Liz Dargan + Liz Cotter (LMD site) + Sorcha Fogarty Eamonn O'Dowd + Paul Cullen + Eilish O'Reilly + Leo Connolly + P J Brett + Rebecca Punch Derek Ryan + Orla Reynolds + Deirdre Smith + Jane O'Neill + Cormac Allen + Noel Mulconroy Willie Keane + Elaine Moloney + John A Collins + Zita Pearce + Ronan Nedelec Richard McMahon + Martin Malone + Jeremy Lamb + Barbara King + Frank McInerney Caitriona Keaveney + Colm O'Sullivan + Sean McElwain + Keith Kinchella + Lorraine Martin Claire Jones + Peadar Clancy + Orla O'Connor + Ciaran Cronin + Declan White + Mary Faherty Kevin Stone + Barry McMahon + Marie McMahon + Declan Costello + Donncha O'Sullivan Sarah Sheehy + Catherine O'Brien + Liz McMahon + Tom Griffin + Anne Slattery Vicky Manuel + Niall Kealy + Rob Dalla Pria + Christine Schulze + Ciaran O'Neill

Zahia Kallouche + David Healy + Michael Gallagher + Dennis Mulcahy + Caroline Smyth
Gabrielle O’Meara + Noreen Layden + Joe Phelan + Breeda Carolan + Jim Doyle
John Piggott + John Mulqueen + Noel Cash + Jill Cregan + Sean O’Dwyer + Rebecca Coffey
John Paul Kinnane + Micheal Forde + Karol Clancy + Roy Capper + Shane Murray
Barry Symonds + Finbar Brody + Mark Noonan + Marco Ficca + Tina Moloney
Kieran Coleman + Daniel McCartan + Jack O’Regan + Ian Foley + Derek Unsworth
Shane Corcoran + Emir Stranjak + Colin Fidgeon + John Tuxworth + Cathal O’Connell
Conor Keane + Paul Millward + Philip Bayfield + John Slattery + Sherril Subrayan
Bernadette Janeczek + Michelle Fitzgerald + Shane McMillan + Milanka Novakovic
Michael McSweeney + Hugh McCarthy + Eoghan O’Ceallaigh + Deirdre Beirne + Mike Walker
John Ryan + Pat Caulfield + Tom O’Connell + Tony O’Connor + Tom O’Connor
Gavin Hardcastle + Catriona Hanly + Gemma Collins + Faye Hartigan + Jonathan Fealy
Sean Cronin + David McGuinness + Justin Norman + Ciaran Gallagher + Francis Preece
Sinead McEvoy + Miguel Hehir + Pat Fuller + Michael McNamara + Robert McLoughlin
Greg Thompson + Barto van der Merwe + Damien Linehan + Aisling O’Loughlin
Patricia Morey + John Roche + Orla Kelly + Allen Donovan + Lillian Roche + Connor Daly
Fiona Fleming + Stuart Hyde + Billy Murtagh + Warren Milward + Pat Ginty + Tim Murnane
Cheryl Delpont + Eileen Flanagan + Vince Scully + Philip Newell + Charl Magro
Oliver McNulty + Phyllis Cuffe + Stuart Summerfield + Kevin Walsh + Deborah Keane
Nicola Fitzgerald + Brian O’Brien + Niamh Chadwick + Eoghan Clifford + Muireann Prendergast
Kevin Doyle + Douglas Birdno + Marin Danciu + Simon Hatfield + Fionnuala McInerney
Paul O’Leary + Karen Brennan + Bryan Whelan + Fiona Dunne + Judith Murphy
Stephen Seymour + Aidan O’Connell + Michael Kelly + Frank Thorne + Conor Quirke
Shane O’Neill + Una Clancy + Rachel Coyle + Cobus Oosthuizen + Joseph Kelly
Gemma McHugh + Léan O’Connor + David Hanley + Margaret O’Leary + Edel Byrne
Daniel Flanagan + Kevin Ryan + Sinead Collins + Aidan Frawley + Ronan O’Halloran
Niall Lalor + Deborah Doyle + Barbara Forde + Katie Cosgrove + Mark McKenna + Rob Morris
Mark Hogan + Shane McIntyre + Peadar O hUiginn + Adrian O’Donovan + Victor Lopes
Henry Richardson + Cathal Rigney + Gillian Hamilton + Ron Harkness + Evelyn Seigland
Tracey Weir + Terence Ryan + David Murphy + Paul Keane + Richard Mannion
Hopewell Kawonza + Kevin Murphy + Niall Haverty + Eleanor Marren + Helen O’Leary
Owen Feighery + Niamh Cronin + Paul O’Sullivan + Conor O’Sullivan + Cian Murphy
Dave Bunting + Luka Hakutangwe + John Fitzgerald + Shane Gleeson + John Tarpey
Colm Clarken + Elaine Hanley + Donogh Coleman + Seamus Naughton + Ray Waldron
Craig Mulvagh + Peter Silke + Sandra Martin + John Looney + Carmel Hennessy
Sean Martin + Brigid Coffey + James Connolly + Patrick Calnan + Lisa MacDonnell
Eamonn Treacy + Aoife Mahony + Brian Crinion + Fionnuala de Frein + Mark Roberts
Derek Kiely + Paul Curran + D J Lucey + Frances Judge + Brian Sexton + Flavia Ardelean
Robert Power + Declan O’Connor + Niall McMahon + Mark O’Sullivan + Denise McMahon
David Madden + Brin Hingston + Ciaran Stafford + David O’Donovan + Liam Brennan
Kevin Dolan + Alan Owens + Neil Hollow + Pawel Gniazdowski + P J Mulcahy + Gina Lawlor
Louise Bannigan + Anna Murray + Joe Martin + Gary Brennan + Daniel Tinnelly
Kevin Whooley + David McSwiney + Ruth Hanley + Pdraig Browne + Evelyn O’Connell
Eamon Larkin + Jim RyanDavid Leahy + Robert White + Vesna Jaksic + Bernard Power
Patrick Quinlan + Richard Foote + Radoslaw Hersztek + Jiri Kucera + Liberty Bondamakara



**Celebrating
50 years**



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Left:
Adare Manor,
Limerick

Foreword

This book has been created to mark the occasion of 50 years in business for our company, PUNCH Consulting Engineers (1973 – 2023). This is a milestone that we are extremely proud of and in this book we attempt to capture the positive impacts the company has had on the lives of so many. These positive impacts can be seen in the development of the people who have worked for PUNCH as well as those who have benefitted from the many thousands of projects PUNCH has played a role in since 1973 (up to 20,000 projects). Hence, the focus of our book is simple: people and projects. We hope you enjoy it.

Tim Murnane
Managing Director, PUNCH Consulting Engineers

Background

PUNCH Consulting Engineers is proud to celebrate fifty years in business. Michael Punch and Partners (now PUNCH Consulting Engineers) was founded in Limerick on 1st November 1973 by legendary Irish Engineer, Michael Punch. A Limerick native, in his early career he travelled extensively through his work as a Structural Engineer to places such as Africa, United Kingdom and the United States. He returned to Ireland in 1964 with a motivation to provide high quality local engineering employment opportunities for Engineers in the mid-west so that, unlike him, they would not have to emigrate upon graduation. As the plans for his new company incubated, the Limerick Senior Hurling team’s All Ireland success in September 1973 provided the spark and courage that Mike needed to set up Michael Punch and Partners, ably supported by fellow founding partners, Joe Murphy and Kevin Clancy.

In its desire to create opportunities and legacies for engineering professionals locally in Limerick, PUNCH had an immediate compelling purpose – the holy grail of all modern enterprises who often search deeply for such a purpose. This founding purpose continues to drive and motivate the company’s leaders today and has led it to expand its footprint beyond Limerick to Dublin, Cork, Galway and Glasgow.

Following its formation PUNCH very quickly developed a strong reputation for producing excellent work, all delivered by highly talented and engaging professionals, who not only wanted to do great work, but to enjoy it and be proud of it. These qualities were greatly appreciated by clients plus fellow industry professionals and hence strong, trusting, professional relationships were developed, which led to continued repeat business. This philosophy informed our core values of Integrity, Collaboration, Strong Work Ethic and Enjoyment, and these remain to this day.

Early areas of work included schools, churches, colleges, warehouses, offices, supermarkets and bridges. The company also developed an expertise in the meat processing industry in its work with Shannon Meat Ltd and the Bacon Company of Ireland. International work followed through professional collaboration with UK firms, involving work on Nissan Sunderland for AGSE, offices in London for Murphy International, and a project for Kingspan in Vancouver, Canada. Our workforce and project reach grew steadily in the years that followed and the preservation of our founders’ belief in producing excellent work, delivered by engaging professionals, has ensured PUNCH’s status as one of Ireland’s premier Engineering Consultancies.

Founders

Michael Punch, Founding Partner

Michael J Punch, affectionately known as Mike to friends and colleagues, was born in 1931, and raised in Crecora, near Limerick City. Despite a lack of formal education in key subjects such as honours mathematics and the sciences, his determination and intelligence led him to study Civil Engineering at UCC in 1949, a path suggested by Dean Harry Murphy who had been impressed by his abilities at St Munchin's College where Mike had attended secondary school.

Following graduation in 1952, Mike embarked on a career in engineering, starting with his role as contractor Charlie MacDonnell's Contract Manager on the Cloughjordan Sewerage Scheme. One of his next jobs was the conversion of the old workhouse in Rathkeale to Shannon Meat factory. This early experience gave him invaluable insights into site management and the lives of construction crews.

In 1955, with limited job opportunities in Ireland, he emigrated to the Gold Coast, which would later become Ghana. There, he became the youngest ever District Engineer, responsible for hydrology in the Volta River basin. While there he married Geraldine Thornton, whom he had met while working in Rathkeale. They moved to Nigeria where Mike took up a senior position with Nigerian Railways.

In 1959 they moved to London and Mike joined Ove Arup and Partners and worked on the iconic Sydney Opera House alongside the renowned Irish engineer, Peter Rice. His innovative thinking and problem-solving skills stood out and he completed his IStructE exams while in London.

America beckoned so the family moved to New York in 1960 and Mike joined the prominent consultancy firm of Weiskopf & Pickworth. Very rapidly he made a profound impression in the firm as a structural designer of great flair, ability and pragmatism. Before long he was promoted as a Senior Designer and became one of the very few engineers who could ever claim to have their work featured in Time Magazine.

The family returned to Dublin in 1964. After three years as Senior Structural Engineer with consultants JB Barry, Mike returned to Limerick in 1967, where he worked with consultants Patrick J Sheahan & Partners, and steel fabricators Shannon Foundry. In 1973, along with colleagues Joe and Kevin, he established Michael Punch & Partners, which later became PUNCH Consulting Engineers.

The practice started small but grew steadily, fostering strong client relationships and expanding into various sectors including schools, colleges, factories, apartments, sports stadia and bridges. Several projects in the UK and one project in Canada showcased Mike's ability to lead and innovate. Such projects were important generators of work for the firm during recessionary times.

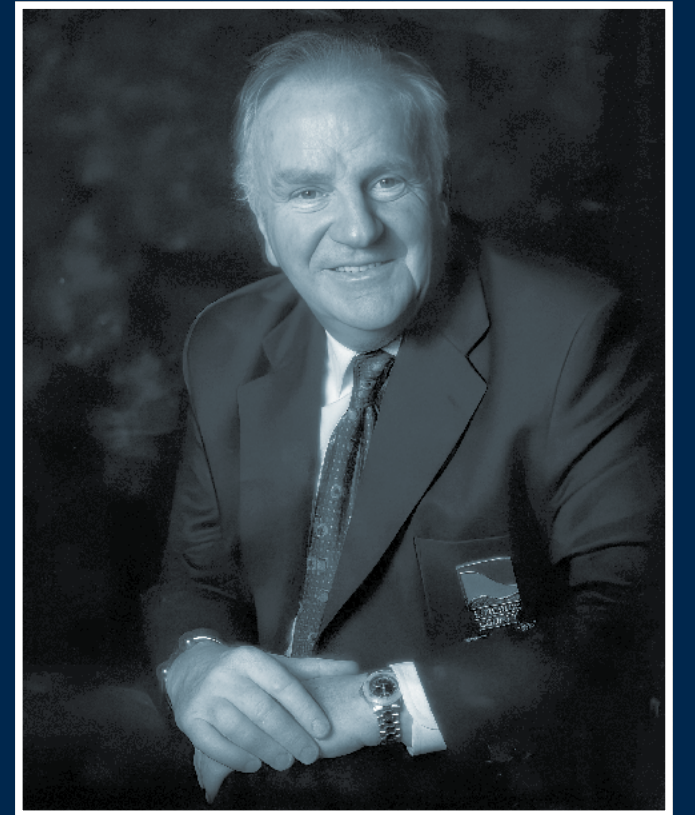
He was more than an engineer; he had a rare gift for balancing diagnosis, creativity and engineering mathematics. His approach often began with a sketch on the back of a napkin. He encouraged the early adoption of computer technology, including the purchase of the first computer in 1979, which set the firm apart from competitors.

Mike's legacy extends to numerous notable projects. He was particularly proud of projects such as Janesboro Church modernisation, Crescent College Comprehensive's roof structure, and the elegant arched footbridge at Adare Manor's 18th hole. Notably, PUNCH designed the altar structure for Pope John Paul II's visit to Limerick in 1979.

As a Fellow of multiple engineering organisations his commitment to the engineering profession was unwavering and he encouraged many PUNCH staff to follow in his footsteps and participate in the various institutions.

His impact extended beyond engineering. His commitment to job creation, even in the face of adversity, led to personal sacrifices and long hours on the road. He believed in treating colleagues, clients and contractors with respect and trust, cultivating strong professional relationships. He was a firm believer in the necessity to provide opportunities for young people and the training to help them develop their capabilities.

Mike's community involvement was extensive. He played a crucial role in establishing Milford Hospice and the Harvest Fair, a fundraiser for that institution. He served as Chairman of the Board of Shannon Development, Chairman of the Board of Management of Laurel Hill Secondary school, and was involved in various charitable and community organisations.



Mike semi-retired in 2005 and finally in 2009. In the intervening period he continued to grace the Limerick office with his presence and good humour. He was a man of kindness, integrity and generosity. He passed away in 2011 leaving an engineering legacy that will last long into the future.

He is remembered as our founder, an exceptional engineer, and a remarkable human being. His influence on people, projects and communities will continue to shape the world.

Kevin Clancy, Founding Partner

Kevin was one of the three founding partners of PUNCH Consulting Engineers in 1973. Kevin has acquired a quality and depth of experience in a career spanning over 50 years which very few engineers could match. In that time, he contributed to the complete range of building typologies, from National Monuments to nuclear power stations.

In April 2009 Kevin launched PUNCH Conservation as a specialist department within PUNCH Consulting Engineers. This department is now the market leader in Ireland in the area of conservation engineering of protected structures, frequently entrusted with the engineering contribution to the conservation of internationally significant national monuments.

Kevin is a member of the Advisory Committee on Sacred Art and Architecture to the Irish Episcopal Commission for Liturgy. He is active in a number of voluntary groups and contributes pro bono services to many social, sporting and community groups.



Joe Murphy, Founding Partner

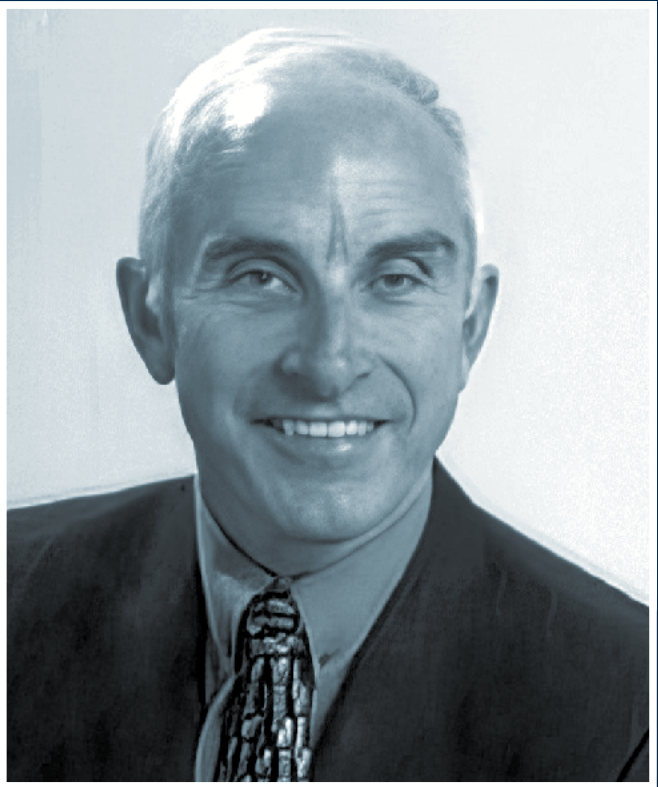
Born in Kerry, Joe moved to Cork at a young age. He graduated from UCC with a BE (Civil) in 1966 and his initial job as a graduate was at Gortdrom Mine near Limerick Junction. A year or two later he joined Patrick J Sheahan & Partners, Limerick, where he first met Mike Punch. Both moved to Shannon Foundry (steel fabricator offering design services) in 1970 where they were joined later by Kevin Clancy. All three left to establish Michael Punch & Partners on 1 November 1973.

In addition to his engineering, Joe also assumed responsibility for setting up administration and financial management systems for the new firm. He introduced unofficial flexitime long before it became common in that he and our long-term accountant, Cyril Downes, had a weekly ritual of vanishing for an extended squash lunch. There is no doubt the firm benefitted from much useful financial advice after those sessions.

One of the earliest jobs was Oranmore Church which was dedicated on 31 March 1974. The very first wedding in the new church was that of Joe and Mary in April. Joe had a keen interest in rugby and was our project director for all our earlier work at Thomond Park including the then “new” stand built in the late 80s and demolished in 2007.

In addition to general structural design, he specialised in civil engineering with a particular focus on marine work. His paper on Foynes Deep Water Jetty was awarded the Smith Testimonial in 2000 and the new harbour development at Cill Rónáin received the Engineers Ireland Project of the Year Award in 2012.

One of his other significant projects was the infrastructural development that created Plassey Technological Park, now home to major employers such as Edwards LifeSciences, Johnson & Johnson and Three Ireland. One of his later jobs was the Barack Obama Plaza in Moneygall.



Joe was recognised as Mr Positivity in the office, ever supportive, cheerful and willing to help. He trained many a young graduate and was a friend to all. Having been instrumental in establishing the mid-west branch of the Irish Concrete Society, Joe went on to become national Chairman of the Society in 1996 and 1997.

Notwithstanding being always busy, Joe made time for extra-curricular activities including terms as Chairman of the Board of Crescent College, member of the boards of Clongowes Wood College, and of Opera Ireland. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Milford Care Centre, the hospice facility with which the firm has been associated for 40+ years.

Joe retired as director of PUNCH in 2008 but continued as consultant until 2018 when he finally retired after a long and fulfilling career with the firm.



PUNCH projects

In our 50 years in business, we have worked on numerous projects that have helped shape our home country of Ireland, as well as internationally. Many have won awards and, most importantly, our projects have benefitted society for people to enjoy. A selection of this iconic work throughout the decades is shown on the following pages.

Left:
King John's Castle and Visitor Centre,
Limerick City, Limerick

1973–1983

The founding of Michael Punch and Partners in 1973 occurred a few short weeks after the Limerick Senior Hurling team won the All-Ireland. This was the decade when Ireland joined the EEC and consumerism was on the rise. High unemployment was no doubt the catalyst for continued emigration during this time. It was also a time of global economic turmoil with two oil crises. Pope John Paul II visited Ireland in 1979, the same year Margaret Thatcher came to power in Britain. Jack Lynch was Taoiseach and towards the end of the period Charlie Haughey and Garrett Fitzgerald alternated the top job. The beginning of the 1980s saw Ireland winning the Triple Crown in rugby for the first time in 33 years and Kerry reigned supreme in Gaelic games winning four All Irelands in a row.



Crescent College Comprehensive, Limerick

Mike Punch took great pride in the folded plate space frame roof at Crescent Comprehensive College Limerick, spanning a 22m diameter octagon. It was designed manually, well before CAD or calculators. Our fee for that design was IR£105.00.



Church of the Immaculate Conception, Oranmore, Galway

During the post-Vatican II era in Ireland, a wave of new churches emerged throughout the country. PUNCH played a significant role in the design of several of these churches, with one of our early projects being the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Oranmore, County Galway. A special note of pride lies in the fact that our Joe and Mary Murphy exchanged their vows there, marking the very first wedding ceremony held shortly after the church's consecration.



Mary Immaculate College Library, Limerick

The Mary Immaculate College Library in Limerick is a truly exceptional structure. Designed by architect John Quinn, it boasts a cast in situ reinforced concrete frame of exceptional quality. What sets it apart was the remarkable feat achieved during its construction: except for the foundations, all the concrete used was mixed on-site by the contractor, PJ Moroney of Tom Hayes Ltd. PUNCH has been a longstanding partner in the development of various buildings on the esteemed campus, and this collaboration continues to the present day.

Visitor Centre, Glenveagh National Park, Donegal

Glenveagh National Park is nestled in the heart of County Donegal and the visitor centre is seamlessly integrated into the breathtaking landscape. Designed by O'Neill Architects, this remarkable structure was an early pioneer in "green roof" design. Its living heather-covered roof artfully mirrors the surrounding scenery while maintaining a minimal visual footprint.



Crescent Shopping Centre, Limerick

The Crescent Shopping Centre in Limerick is also commemorating its 50th anniversary, and our journey with this iconic establishment began during its inception. Remarkably, our involvement dates to a time when the founding members were still associated with Shannon Foundry Ltd. Over the years, PUNCH has remained a steadfast provider of engineering services for the Crescent Shopping Centre.





Staff throughout the decades

Ger Neville, Technical Director

I am going to do what Mike Punch would always say and do: "keep it short & simple."

On Saturday the 17th of June 1978 I did a job interview with Mike Punch in Hartstonge Street, Limerick. The interview went as follows:

Shake of hands.

MP: Can you start on Monday?

GN: Yes.

MP: See you then.

End of Interview.

I'm still here forty-five happy years later, so be careful out there, it could happen to you.

It has been a long and happy journey, which is about to end. The best piece of advice I can give after all these years working here is, always keep a spare chair beside your desk; it is an open invitation for staff members to come for advice, it is all about trying to be a family and family is everything.

Micheál, go ndéana Dia trócaire ar do anam.



Pope John Paul II Altar, Limerick

In 1979, PUNCH was bestowed with the great honour of designing the altar structure for Pope John Paul II's visit to Limerick. The inclusion of Limerick in the Pope's itinerary was a last-minute addition, and it required a minor miracle to expedite the process. Steel that had originally been earmarked for one of our other projects was redirected in a race against time. Today, that very same steel is part of the roof structure in one of our schools in Newport, County Tipperary, serving as a lasting testament to our dedication and resourcefulness in fulfilling this extraordinary commission.



Milford Care Centre, Limerick

Milford Care Centre has a very special place in the hearts of the people of the Mid-West. Mike Punch played a pivotal role in its inception and initial growth, and later, he was a key member of the team that established the Harvest Fair, an annual fundraising tradition spanning nearly four decades. Beyond fundraising, we have been involved in all developments at Milford Care Centre, since a dedicated 20-bed Hospice was opened in 1983.



Our Lady Queen of Ireland Church, Rathcabban, Tipperary

Before the opening in 1984 of Rathcabban Church, the parish priest placed an advertisement in a magazine distributed among clergy asking for information on the whereabouts of the Clara Chalice which had been lost many years earlier. Miraculously, the advertisement was seen by a priest up the country who knew where the chalice was located. He promptly sent it to the church for the opening ceremony. The parish priest was delighted to receive the chalice but incredulous that such a valuable artefact was sent through the post wrapped only in newspaper!

Carlow Sugar Factory

The story of our partnership with the Carlow Sugar Factory began in 1976. Right from the outset, we fostered a robust and productive collaborative relationship with Irish Sugar, a partnership that endured until the factory's closure. Kevin Clancy took particular pride in our involvement on this site. One notable project during this long-lasting collaboration was the silo expansion programme initiated in the 1980s. This endeavour substantially augmented the sugar storage capacity from 50,000 tonnes to an impressive 75,000 tonnes. Following the expansion, these silos ranked as the largest of their kind anywhere in the world, a testament to the innovation and ambition of the time.



Annacotty Bridge, Limerick

Annacotty Bridge stands as a testament to the enduring quality of our early work. Led by Joe Murphy, our inaugural bridge project, a 4-span road and river bridge, was successfully completed in the mid-1970s. This bridge remains an integral part of the R445, the former N7 route connecting Limerick to Dublin. This has since been superseded by the M7, which now features several other bridges designed by PUNCH, such as those bypassing Nenagh, Roscrea, Portlaoise, Kildare and Newbridge, to name just a few.



Staff throughout the decades

Marie-Claire Daly, Technical Director

I chose a career in engineering as I wasn't gifted the patience for teaching, so I built schools. I wasn't gifted the stomach for medicine, so I built medical facilities and hospitals. My work with PUNCH gives me the opportunity to have a tangible societal impact.

During my time with PUNCH, I've contributed to the delivery of residential developments, mental health facilities, sports facilities, GAA pitches, parks, water and wastewater networks, renewable energy projects, and much more. PUNCH is a humble hero behind

much of the development taking place around Ireland, and I see my colleagues as the humble heroes behind PUNCH.

Working with PUNCH has had many positive impacts on my own life over the years, but none more so than receiving the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland's Future Leader Award in 2020, which was only made possible thanks to my colleagues in PUNCH.

1983–1993

This was the decade when Ireland's future began to change for the better. It started with Ford and Dunlop departing Cork with the result that Ireland as a traditional manufacturing base was effectively no more. However, in its place came financial services, spearheaded by the development of the IFSC in the Dublin Docklands. Also, we saw future IT giants such as Dell arrive on our shores and Ireland's self-confidence increased as the seeds for future prosperity were sown. We reached the quarter final of the World Cup in Italia 90, Bob Geldof raised millions for Africa through Live Aid, and we kept winning the Eurovision. No doubt Ireland as a nation was on the up!

Main Guard, Clonmel, Tipperary

The venerable Main Guard edifice in Clonmel, originally erected by James Butler, the inaugural Duke of Ormond, in 1675, had sadly deteriorated and fallen into disuse. This historic building served as a "Tholsel," functioning as an administrative centre for collecting tolls, duties, customs dues, and hosting civic gatherings. Following nearly a decade of meticulous restoration efforts, it was reopened to the public. The conservation works carried out by PUNCH earned the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland's prize for 'Best Practice in a Conservation Project'.



Cashel Community School, Tipperary

The surge in educational investments during the late eighties ushered in a wave of construction for both primary and secondary schools nationwide. Among the long list of completed schools by PUNCH, one notable example is Cashel Community College. Designed by joint architects Peter Doyle and Ronnie Faulkner, this award-winning structure was completed in the early nineties at a cost of IR£2.5 million.

Kill Avenue Fire Station, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Kill Avenue Fire Station in Dun Laoghaire was one of the first significant public projects undertaken by PUNCH in Dublin. As a testament to its exceptional design and functionality it received a Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland Award in 1990.





Staff throughout the decades

Niamh Cronin, Technical Director

As a young student unsure of what career I really wanted, my cousin told me about the Civil Engineering course he was going to apply for in UCC, that would offer the flexibility to branch out into different fields later in our careers. I reviewed the course content and applied too, did the course in UCC with him, survived, met wonderful friends and a husband! My cousin no longer works in Engineering, I do, but he was the best man at our wedding!

I was offered a role with PUNCH, then Michael Punch & Partners, and a master's course in business the same week. Half of me said, do the master's and don't pursue engineering, the other half said, try engineering and you can always do the course in a year or two. I fell into my Graduate role blind to what it would entail and 20 years later I am still in Engineering.

Engineering really can help shape the future and PUNCH wants to be a positive part of this. Being able to show my children projects that I worked on, explaining how they were delivered as part of a wide and diverse team, is important to me. The work is varied, challenging and the outputs are tangible. PUNCH gave me a fantastic foundation as a Graduate all the way through to Senior Engineer.

At an early point in my career, I was exposed to fantastic projects such as Beacon South Quarter and Tesco Donabate, some of the most challenging projects I have worked on. The lessons I learnt on these early projects gave me the confidence to explore an Engineering career in Australia and Singapore. It was genuinely a difficult decision to leave PUNCH at the time, but the experience I gained overseas was invaluable and a personal experience I will tell my grandchildren about hopefully.

Engineering and the foundation I received in PUNCH played a part in this huge personal experience for me. Civil Engineering is a passport to work anywhere. There were a lot of familiar faces throughout the company on my return which is a testament to the company, and it was great to return to work with them. PUNCH provides me with the flexibility to balance a career at a senior level with a young family of 4 girls. I'm glad I followed the boomerang they gifted me on my departure to be able to return and celebrate as part of the 50th year celebrations.



Mackey Stand and Limerick Gaelic Grounds Development

At the height of the recession in the early eighties and following a fire in the old Hogan Stand, Mike Punch managed to persuade the Limerick County Board to develop a 9000-seater stadium for the sporting people of Limerick to better enjoy their beloved hurling. The Mackey Stand, named after Mick Mackey, one of the game's best ever hurlers, was officially opened on Munster Hurling final day on 17th July 1988 when Tipperary beat Cork 2-19 to 1-13. Later the whole grounds were re-developed, and PUNCH is proud to have played a significant part in this famous sporting facility.



Kilkenny County Council Offices

The Kilkenny County Council Offices has a rich history, having originally served as Kilkenny College, with notable connections to Jonathan Swift, the Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The building was adapted for use as the council offices. Notably, an elegant Orangerie-style modern

two-storey extension was added to the structure. The architectural vision behind this transformation was realised by John Thompson and Partners, lending a unique blend of heritage and contemporary design to the space.



King John's Castle + Visitor Centre, Limerick

PUNCH Consulting Engineers has had a longstanding association with King John's Castle since the 1980s, a relationship that extended into the 21st century. During this period, a significant civic initiative took shape, leading to the creation of a modern visitor centre within the historic confines of the 13th century King John's Castle, nestled in the heart of Limerick's medieval core. This ambitious project had to navigate the challenge of preserving the wealth of buried artifacts and structures on the site which was resolved by the design of a clear-span, two-storey building that gracefully arched over the intact archaeological treasures.



Staff throughout the decades

**Ronan Stokes,
Director**

I joined PUNCH as a graduate engineer in 1994, working initially in Limerick and then Dublin. Following a stint in Australia I re-joined on my return to Ireland – I was happy to come back as I had always enjoyed working for PUNCH. I had always been given interesting projects, and I enjoyed working in an open and friendly environment. We set up the Galway office in 2015, and we have grown this office to deliver some very fine projects in the west of Ireland.

Through the mad times of the Celtic Tiger, to the bad times of the crash of 2008, through the subsequent recovery, and right through to

the present day, it has been a real rollercoaster, and I have had many challenges, disappointments and successes over this time. It has been a very interesting career. Over this time, I have seen many people come and go, and indeed many I still work with, but I have seen all these colleagues develop their skills in so many ways as engineers, technicians, and administrators. I am proud of what PUNCH has done for so many people and I hope that we are still making a difference in people's lives and remaining true to the spirit of the company that I joined as a graduate engineer.



Robert Schuman Building, University of Limerick

This was our first building in what is now the University of Limerick campus. Designed by A & D Wejchert Architects, this building exemplifies a client-centered approach, with a strong emphasis on low maintenance and a commitment to providing a light filled and inviting environment for both students and lecturers.

Central Statistics Office, Cork

The Central Statistics Office project holds a special place in our portfolio, representing one of our initial substantial ventures in Cork. This was completed on 1st August, 1993. Notably, it was a design and build project and, whereas we had used post-tensioning in bridge design, it was the first time we used post-tensioning in buildings. This marked a noteworthy milestone in our design innovations.



Adare Manor Footbridge, Limerick

Mike Punch took great pride in the design of the elegant arched footbridge approaching the 18th hole at Adare Manor where JP McManus has developed one of the finest 5-star resorts in Europe and where the eagerly anticipated 2027 Ryder Cup will be held. Limerick is fortunate to be the beneficiary of so many of JP’s inspirational projects including the Adare Manor redevelopment.



N18 Bridge, Bunratty By-pass, Clare

This road bridge spans the N18 at Junction 6, near Bunratty, County Clare. The bridge consists of a 3-span M beam deck with a central V-shaped pier. The central span between the tops of the V-shaped pier is 4.5m and formed from in situ reinforced concrete. The approach spans are 23m and consists of M6 precast beams. The bridge complements the landscape with the placement of abutments and gentle side slopes, resulting in an open and natural appearance. Construction was commenced by Jons Civil Engineering Company Limited in October 1990 and was completed in August 1991.

1993–2003

During this period the Celtic Tiger economy emerged and boomed in Ireland as companies such as Apple, Dell and Intel expanded their operations. Everyone rejoiced at the spectacle of Riverdance, and the mobile phone market took off. The Comet Hale-Bopp visited our solar system after 4,000 years and international space travel saw the Pathfinder space probe landing on Mars. Princess Diana died in a car accident in Paris. Sonia (O’Sullivan) was the greatest athlete on the planet. This decade ended with the Euro replacing the Irish Punt, Nelson Mandela attending the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics in Croke Park, and Dublin reaching new heights with the construction of the Spire. For many, it was a Golden Age of opportunity and affluence.

Celebrating 50 Years



Herbert Park Development Ballsbridge, Dublin

This project marked one of our initial large-scale undertakings in the heart of Dublin 4. It encompassed the Herbert Park Hotel, Embassy House offices, two sweeping apartment blocks, and the construction of a new bridge spanning the River Dodder.



Connolly Station upgrade, Dublin

CIE Group spearheaded a significant enhancement of Connolly Station, introducing a 4,000m² office complex above the concourse. This renovation featured a new ground-level entrance as well as escalators beneath the vaulted area of the existing concourse, leading to a revamped concourse area, inclusive of new retail facilities. John Pollock played a very significant role in this project and the PUNCH Dublin office was making its mark in the capital city.



*Staff throughout
the decades*

**Ross Steer,
Senior Engineer**

Born and raised in Glasgow, I graduated from the University of Strathclyde in 2012 with an MEng in Civil Engineering, where I then moved and worked in Aberdeen for 4 years, initially as a Graduate Engineer before becoming promoted to a Structural Engineer. This work involved primarily timber kit construction design and detailing, ranging from new dwellings to 4 storey residential flats. I then returned to Glasgow in 2016, joining PUNCH Consulting Engineers as a Project Engineer. Together with John Paul McCluskey, we have been working hard to grow the business and the PUNCH brand over here in Scotland and the UK. During this time, I have been promoted to Senior Engineer, working on a wide range of projects from new schools, care homes, commercial and retail units, residential developments, and primarily conservation repairs and alterations to a vast number of historic sandstone tenement properties, which Glasgow is famous for.

During my time at PUNCH, I have been privileged to experience such a range of projects, working alongside my colleagues here in Glasgow but also over in Ireland as part of the PUNCH team. My job allows for a good range of design work along with on-site construction stage experience which I believe is vital to being an all-round, well balanced Structural Engineer. I continue to enjoy this healthy balance of day-to-day variety in my work, and I am currently progressing with the help of PUNCH to become a Chartered Engineer with the ICE.



**Ballymun Regeneration,
Poppintree, Dublin**

Ballymun Regeneration is a flagship Dublin City Council urban regeneration initiative that redeveloped and revitalised the 1960s social housing project including the demolition of the famous 7 tower blocks. PUNCH was civil/structural engineers on design teams responsible for 400 + new homes integrated into the Poppintree district. One of these projects was the repurposing of the original Ballymun boilerhouse, with its iconic tower, creating an educational space and innovative learning experience demonstrating excellence in building reuse, low carbon construction and sustainable development.



**Leonardo Jury's Inn,
Christchurch, Dublin**

This early large-scale development in Dublin comprised a six-storey, 182-room hotel, a multi-level car park, three office buildings, and an apartment complex in the historic Christchurch neighbourhood. Located adjacent to Dublin City Council's offices at Wood Quay, its development in the heart of Viking Dublin was a very significant project for PUNCH at that time.



**Millennium Tower,
Charlotte Quay, Dublin**

Situated at Grand Canal Dock, this striking development featured the iconic 14-storey Millennium Tower, complete with a basement, alongside five and seven-storey apartment buildings with basement level parking. The PUNCH contribution to the Dublin skyline had well and truly been made with this project.



Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre + Access Bridge, Meath (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

The World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne is Ireland’s richest archaeological landscape and is situated within a bend in the River Boyne. Brú na Bóinne is famous for the spectacular prehistoric passage tombs of Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth which were built circa 3200BC. These ceremonial structures are among the most important Neolithic sites in the world and contain the largest collection of megalithic art in Western Europe. PUNCH was thrilled to design the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, including the footbridge over the River Boyne, as the starting point for all visits to Newgrange. The Visitor Centre exhibition is a fully interactive visitor experience exploring the Neolithic culture, landscape and monuments of Brú na Bóinne.



University Hospital Limerick

University Hospital Limerick has held a prominent position in PUNCH's history since the inception of the company. Our journey at the hospital campus in Dooradoyle began in the mid 70s with the construction of laboratories in prefabricated buildings located at the rear of the site. Throughout the years, we have continued to provide engineering services for a range of modifications and extensions at the hospital. The most significant developments occurred in the mid-1990s, when entirely new wings were constructed to accommodate vital facilities such as operating theatres, outpatient clinics, laboratories, and paediatric and physiotherapy units. Our involvement later extended to the design of the oncology and radiology departments.



Staff throughout the decades

Betty O Donnell (aka Betty Money), Financial Controller

In 1990 I joined PUNCH Consulting Engineers - a company that was truly ahead of its time in promoting gender equality. The early 90s was a challenging time in the job market; at that time many companies were predominantly hiring male employees and it was particularly difficult for married females to secure employment. Many of my friends were forced to move abroad in search of work. But I was one of the lucky ones because PUNCH believed in giving people a chance irrespective of their gender.

Within a week of starting work with PUNCH, I acquired the name Betty Money from Michael Punch and throughout the years, both inside and outside PUNCH, I was always known as Betty Money, to the extent that most people did not know my real surname.

Having trained originally with Pat Hanley, I worked closely with the founding members of PUNCH, Michael Punch, Joe Murphy, and Kevin Clancy in Pery Square, before moving to our current office at 97 Henry Street in Limerick. At that time, I worked on my own, so I gained valuable experience across all roles of finance. I now lead a team of 5 in a very busy accounting department.

Over the years, my journey of education and professional growth led me to become an ACCA qualified accountant. This was made possible by the support I received from PUNCH. Looking back, I see a mosaic of experiences, with lots of happy memories - I have celebrated successes, birthdays, family occasions, and milestones with my friends and colleagues. PUNCH has always felt like a second family – colleagues have become lifelong friends.

On a personal note, I am married to Jimmy with four fabulous children - Michael, Aoife, Ciara, and Orla, who have grown over the years alongside my career at PUNCH, witnessing the true PUNCH values of integrity, collaboration, strong work ethic, and enjoyment. My role in PUNCH hasn't just been about numbers – it has been about people and relationships. I look forward to this continuing for the years to come.



Clayton Hotel, Limerick

The Clayton Hotel, previously known as the Clarion, stands as a prominent high-rise structure, soaring to a height of 53m on the waterfront in Limerick city. It serves as a striking landmark that announces the entrance to Limerick from the West in a dramatic fashion. This 16-storey building, completed in 2002, is a testament to modern architecture, and its towering height of 53m positions it among the half dozen tallest buildings in all of Ireland. Director, Joe Ryan, was very proud of this building’s contribution to the Limerick skyline.



Limerick Racetrack

The development of the Limerick Racetrack marked a significant milestone in Irish racing history. In 1996, a 400-acre site situated 6km from Limerick city was acquired, and this was where the new Limerick Racetrack took shape. This initiative was particularly noteworthy as it had been over half a century since a racecourse had been constructed on a greenfield site in Ireland. The new racetrack opened its gates in 2001, replacing the historic Limerick Racecourse at Greenpark in Limerick City, which had been hosting races since the late 1880s. PUNCH Consulting Engineers has played a vital role in the development of Limerick Racecourse over the years. We took pride in sponsoring the initial Munster National Meeting, a highlight of the racing calendar at the racetrack, held on the opening Race Day in October 2001.



Limerick County Hall

Limerick City and County Council is a very valued client, and PUNCH was very proud to provide the engineering design services for its new purpose-built state-of-the-art offices completed in 2003. Designed by Bucholz McEvoy Architects, this low energy, naturally ventilated building uses the large surface area of a side atrium to create a stack effect which draws cooler air across exposed concrete soffits and helps to regulate the internal temperature. It was awarded the RIBA Regional Award 2004 for Public Buildings.



Staff throughout the decades

**Cian Murphy,
Director**

I joined PUNCH in September 2003 upon graduating from University College Cork. When joining I knew little about the company. I saw my initial graduate role as a stepping stone and an opportunity to gain some valuable experience before moving on to other things. Little did I know at that time that I would still be working and developing as both a person and an engineer 20 years later with the same company that I joined out of college. This is very much testament to the culture of the company and the great people that I have worked with along the way.

My initial years with PUNCH were spent working in the Limerick office on a wide mix of projects. Key projects in those early years that I cut my teeth with included Quayside Shopping Centre in Sligo, Westpark Business Campus in Shannon, Thomond Park Stadium, and various projects at IT Sligo. As my career further developed, I gained significant project management exposure and quickly realised the importance of teamwork and the breath of skillsets required outside of technical competencies to successfully deliver projects.

After 10 years working in the Limerick office, I moved to Cork in 2013 which, at the time, was a small office with just 4 employees. The main project that I worked on during my initial time in Cork was the New Cork Prison. Over time, the Cork office gradually increased its foothold in the Cork region and re-established a significant client base over the following years. We moved to a new larger office in 2022 and continue to grow our presence in the Cork region. Significant projects that we are currently working on include the Cork Docklands Framework Masterplan, Greenlane Social Housing Development in Blackpool for Cluid, and a significant residential development on the former St. Kevin’s Site in Shanakiel.

Overall, PUNCH has been a very significant part of my life so far. Like all companies there is constant transition however the culture of the company remains true to its values and long may this continue to be the case.



**Smithstown Footbridge over N19
to Shannon Airport**

The requirement for a footbridge to serve the Shannon Industrial Zone gave us the opportunity to provide a dramatic arched 'gateway' to Shannon International Airport. This impressive pedestrian footbridge (design led by Martin Heffernan) consists of a single span arch spanning the N19 at Shannon Airport. The arch is formed from a curved Circular Hollow Section from which a precast concrete walkway is suspended on steel hangers. The steel arch springs from reinforced concrete thrust blocks, which also function as supports for the approach ramps and stairs which run perpendicular to the main span. The deck of the bridge is approximately 50m in length and 2.5m wide. The footbridge was completed in 2003 as part of a larger project comprising two road bridges at the M18-N19 junction, forming the main access to Shannon Airport and another footbridge nearby at Tullyglass.

2003–2013

The welcome return of the trams (Luas) after 55 years helped to connect Dublin's busy city centre with some of its outer suburbs. The Irish economy went from great heights to deep lows. Our stock markets suffered their biggest ever one-day fall after a global market crisis in 2008. We needed to be bailed out by the EU-IMF to the tune of €67.5 billion. With the crushing downturn, emigration surged once again. It was good news for Irish sport, though, with the first Irish rugby Grand Slam in 61 years and Kilkenny hurlers won 4 in a row. Katie Taylor added to her World and European titles by winning a gold medal in boxing at the London 2012 Olympics. We also had a historic royal visit from Queen Elizabeth II and U.S. President Barack Obama had an audience of tens of thousands in Dublin.



St Mel's Cathedral, Longford

Following a major fire, the restoration of St Mel's Cathedral was the largest conservation project in Europe. The skill, care and expertise of PUNCH shone through in this project and the completed work was a masterpiece in Conservation Engineering. Kevin Clancy, Ger Neville and Kevin Mullery contributed hugely to the success of this project.



Thomond Park Rugby Stadium, Limerick

Thomond Park, located in the middle of the PUNCH heartland of Limerick, is one of our most iconic projects. Rugby is taken very seriously in Limerick, as any visit to watch Munster play in Thomond Park will confirm. We are very proud to have completed the structural design of the stadium, where the Munster team gives expression to the passion of the people of Munster. Tom Cosgrove's structural design prowess was seen at its best on this project.



Cork City Hall, Cork

Cork City Hall is an iconic building for all Cork people. The modern and complementary extension to it represented the beginning of a modern Cork and PUNCH was delighted to apply its Engineering skills in support of this powerful statement.



Cill Rónáin Harbour, Inis Mór, Galway

This continues to be a highly impactful project for the people of the Aran Islands and all those who visit the Islands. The development of the harbour breathed new life into the area and helped maintain the viability of the Islands as places to live, work and visit. This represents real Engineering at its best.



*Staff throughout
the decades*

**Kevin Mullery,
Director**

I've been with PUNCH for most of my career and over half my life since joining the Limerick office in 1996 as a young(ish) design engineer.

I spent a year working in Cork, primarily on site on the Jack Lynch Tunnel, prior to deciding that working in a warm office during winter would be a good career choice. Obviously the warm welcome my Cork accent received kept me in Limerick for the next 27 years, longer than I ever was in Cork!

What kept me in Limerick?

Depending on one's audience I would probably talk about the interesting and wide variety of projects in the healthcare, education, retail and office sectors in my time with PUNCH, with some incredible experiences in University Hospital Limerick, Adare Manor, Thomond Park, The Four Courts and St Mel's Cathedral all being interesting, challenging and rewarding engineering projects.

While true, the reality is I grew up in Limerick, spending the majority of my adult life here learning from incredible colleagues and mentors. When you can learn from the likes of Kevin Clancy, Ger Neville and Pat Hanley, life lessons as well as engineering ones, why wouldn't one try to improve and learn from such class people.

I'm hoping my role as mentor now does justice to the influence superb people have had on me.



Aras Chill Dara Naas, Kildare

A 9m long, 3-storey high Council Chamber "floating" in mid-air over the park without columns below was achieved to create uninterrupted views across the site. Throw in that the building has a dramatic "lean" and it is clear this was a special project. The award-winning design of the Kildare Civic Office building pushed the boundary of cutting-edge Structural Engineering and Architecture to achieve clean lines, transparency, visibility and uncompromised visual impact. This remains one of our most dramatic projects. PUNCH Director and now Professor of Civil Engineering at University of Limerick, Tom Cosgrove, took great pride in this project.



**Tesco Distribution Centre,
Donabate, Dublin**

The Tesco dry goods distribution centre at Donabate in County Dublin was at the time of its construction the largest building ever constructed in Ireland, with a building footprint of 68,125m². As part of the enabling works for the site, a cut and fill exercise was required that involved the movement of 200,000m³ of site material and resulted in areas of the site being filled by up to 6m. The project represented a new age in retail logistics.

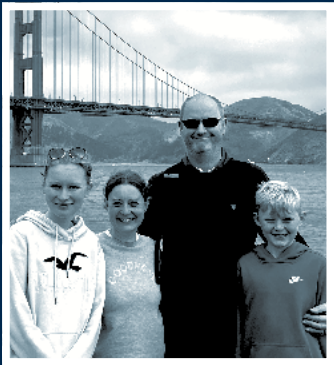


**Scotch Hall Drogheda,
Louth**

At the time this was one of the largest projects outside of Dublin. Located in the centre of Drogheda, on the shores of the historic River Boyne, the project included a shopping centre, a 4-star luxury hotel, offices, residential units and a car park. As well as a road bridge, the project also featured a footbridge over the River Boyne, which was spearheaded by our Bridge Director, Martin Heffernan.

Beacon South Quarter, Dublin

Beacon South Quarter is a mixed residential and retail development on a 5.2-hectare brownfield site in Sandyford. The scale of the project was such that our client engaged three main contractors to work on the site simultaneously: John Paul Construction, PJ Hegarty and Laing O'Rourke. At one point there were fifteen tower cranes on the site, almost 1,500 operatives, and an annual spend of €150m. With a value of €500m, it remains the largest project undertaken by PUNCH.



Staff throughout the decades

**Tim Murnane,
Managing Director**

I began my Engineering career in London and was happily working there when I went to an Irish jobs fair in Earls Court. I was told by recruitment agents in the know, that “my country needed me” and hence I answered the call! At the beginning of January 2001 one of those recruitment agents lined up six interviews for me in one day! The first was the most challenging and that was with PUNCH in Dun Laoghaire. I think I was offered jobs by all six firms. As I mulled over my options, I was told by a friend’s sister that she had a spare room in a house ten minutes’ walk from the PUNCH office. The stars appeared to be aligning and I chose to work for PUNCH.

Part of the stars’ alignment was that my gut told me PUNCH was a place I could do well in. I didn’t have the language or knowledge at the time to put words on what my gut was telling me, but I now know. I felt the company culture/values and those who conducted the interview seemed like nice authentic people. And in the quarter century since then, I have learned that working with nice authentic people, who share your values are the essential ingredients to having a happy life and a successful career.

My boss was fellow Cork man John Pollock and almost immediately I found that we thought similarly about things, both in relation to Engineering and people. This of course is the manifestation of having shared values. I got to work on some fantastic projects, from one of the early

developments in the Dublin South Docks, Gallery Quay to Wellpark (including G Hotel) in Galway and Beacon South Quarter in Sandyford. The latter project was the largest ever undertaken by PUNCH and had a value of €500m. At its peak, we had 15 tower cranes on site with an annual spend of close to €150m – the Celtic Tiger was roaring! I was 30 and the PUNCH lead on the job, reporting to John. This was both frightening and exhilarating for me! Subsequently I became a PUNCH Director and in 2017 moved to my current role as Managing Director.

When I reflect on the impact PUNCH has had on my career and life, it has been immense and overwhelmingly positive. PUNCH has given me the platform to grow as a person and a professional and I believe I have generally made the most of those opportunities. And now I see my primary duty is to provide all those who work for PUNCH with similar opportunities to grow.

Finally, my friend’s sister, with the spare room, is now my wife and as I look at our children and the wonderful family life we share, I thank my lucky stars for PUNCH and that I did not accept one of the other five job offers!



Park Place, Dublin

This was a major high profile Grade A office development in the heart of Dublin 2, developed by our longstanding client, The Clancourt Group. With a value of over €80m, the project set a new standard for office developments and was an early phase of multiple other similar office developments by Clancourt in that part of Dublin 2.



**Trinity College Long Room Hub
Humanities Building, Dublin**

Located on the corner of Fellows Square on the historic Trinity College Campus, the Trinity Long Room Hub project comprised the construction of a new 4-storey humanities research office building constructed directly over the single storey Edmund Burke Theatre. As the Edmund Burke Theatre is a protected structure the Structural Engineering required the best in modern design while leaning heavily on our Conservation Engineering expertise.



**University of Limerick
Graduate School
of Medicine**

The Graduate Medical School at the University of Limerick represented another key project in the development of this world class third-level university campus. A holistic approach was adopted in all aspects of the building design in order to satisfy the design brief and create a building worthy of its prestigious use. The result is a building which offers a world class learning environment for its occupants, while minimising its environmental footprint. It contains numerous laboratories, seminar rooms, a lecture theatre, a cafeteria and offices. We consider this to be a special building in PUNCH's home city.



M1 Motorway Bridges

This project included twenty-two structures, fourteen of which were in the Republic and eight in Northern Ireland. While the use of proprietary precast bridge systems was well established in the Republic, such systems were not acceptable in Northern Ireland at the time. This scheme pioneered the approval and first use of such systems in Northern Ireland leading to a very successful cross border project, led by our Bridge Director, Martin Heffernan.



Staff throughout the decades

**Pat Hanley,
Retired Managing Director**

After graduating from UCC in 1974 I spent a few months computer programming with IBM France in Paris. The experience reinforced my interest in Information Technology, something which has stayed with me throughout my career. While in Paris I received an unexpected letter from Mike Punch asking if I would be interested in joining the practice. His letter said the young firm had "tremendous potential in that we have nowhere else to go but up or out" and even though I knew nothing about him or the firm, the challenge appealed to me, so I joined Michael Punch & Partners on my return from Paris.

My first job was on preparation of a Preliminary Report for Croom Sewerage Scheme. This was followed by a varied workload including a part-time Resident Engineering role on Herbertstown Water Tower and structural design of jobs such as Spaight's Shopping Centre and L&N Superstore Tipperary. Later, I led our input on Wang Factory and Arthur's Quay Centre, both in Limerick.

In 1979 I championed the acquisition of our first computer, a rudimentary machine which had a one-line 32-character display and floppy disk storage capacity of a mere 256 Kb, a specification inconceivably limited by today's standards. It pre-dated the IBM PC so very little commercial software was available for it and I had to use the inbuilt BASIC language to create our own early applications.

Over the course of my 44 years with the firm, my professional journey underwent a gradual transformation, evolving from engineering to management. I took on multifaceted responsibilities spanning finance, legal matters, human resources, IT, and more. My progression led me through various engineering roles to partnership and directorship. Later, I served as Managing Director and Chairman.

As I reflect upon these 44 very fulfilling years, I am grateful for the privilege of having worked alongside exceptional colleagues. Our industry saw its share of ups and downs, the most challenging period we faced was the severe recession of 2007-08, during which we unfortunately lost many outstanding team members. Nevertheless, it is gratifying now to visit the office and encounter several familiar faces from the early days who remain dedicated to the firm. Moreover, witnessing the firm's recent growth, now boasting five offices compared to the modest single office I joined, is truly rewarding.

The future of the practice is secure in the capable hands of the next generation, and I wish them all continued success.

2013–2023

Throughout this decade the biopharma and technology sectors continued to grow in Ireland, the presence of both being hugely important to our economic resurgence. Companies like Amgen and Google were attracted by our high standard of education, specialised skillsets, and a competitive corporation tax environment. The Brexit Referendum took place and the UK voted to leave the EU. The latter half of this period saw school children worldwide campaigning for action on climate change. This was closely followed by the global pandemic, Covid-19, the onslaught of which significantly impacted international economies and societies. On a lighter note, the Irish women's football team qualified for the World Cup 2023 in Australia, and the Irish men's rugby team played in the World Cup 2023 in France. The Dubs won 6 in a row All Ireland Senior Football Championships. And on the 50th year of PUNCH the Limerick hurlers followed up their 1973 All Ireland triumph by winning 4 in a row in 2023.

Adare Manor, Limerick

Following this redevelopment project, is Adare Manor the finest leisure destination of its type in Ireland? Europe? The World? It is certainly a contender, and when one of the world's premier sporting events, golf's Ryder Cup, is hosted here in 2027, Adare Manor's place in national folklore will be forever enshrined. PUNCH is proud to have contributed to this story through our work there as Civil and Structural Engineers, both for this recent project and for many others over the past five decades.





Analog Devices, Limerick

The Analog Devices European Research & Development Centre Project (ADi ERDC) was constructed in 2013 to bring all R&D functions together under one roof. The building was constructed on a brownfield site at the front of the Raheen Industrial Estate creating a new flagship entrance to the ADi campus. The building was the first LEED Platinum office building in Ireland and includes 12,000m² of offices, laboratories and staff facilities. PUNCH has worked at the campus since 1983 when the ADi site consisted of a single industrial building. The campus now occupies 16 hectares and employs over 1,400 people. We are very proud to have played a part in this success story.



National Forensic Mental Health Service Hospital, Dublin

The National Forensic Mental Health Service Hospital is the most modern forensic mental health facility in Europe and a symbol of modern Ireland, reflecting the importance of caring for, and healing, the most vulnerable people in society. This 24,500m² facility maximised the therapeutic value of landscape and design within the constraints of a secure setting.



Staff throughout the decades

Betty Carmody,
Senior Engineer

In the summer of 1983, I hitched a lift to the Galway races, seeking some post-final-exam fun. The guy who gave me the lift said, “try Mike Punch, he’s good to graduates”. I followed this tip and found myself at the doorstep of Mike’s generosity amidst a turbulent economic recession, a period that saw many of my peers forced to seek opportunities abroad. Little did I know, this initial opportunity marked the inception of a nearly four-decade-long journey at PUNCH - a journey that would not only shape my professional trajectory but also become an integral part of my personal narrative.

Throughout the years, PUNCH has served as the ever-present backdrop against which the most significant moments of my life unfurled. I quite literally grew alongside PUNCH, both personally and professionally.

It was within the framework of PUNCH that I first crossed paths with my future husband. Our relationship blossomed during site visits, Building Regulations courses and huddled around design team tables. Together, we collaborated on the Mackey Stand, and much like our partnership, both the stadium and our marriage are still going strong.

My cherished family memories are forever intertwined with my career at PUNCH. The arrival of each of my children is forever linked to the projects I was engrossed

in at the time. I recall cautiously ascending a ladder at the Charlotte Quay Office development while pregnant with my eldest, Enda. I remember on a warm summer day in 1994, while pregnant with Killian, I had to pause for a nap during the journey back from Cashel School site meeting. And, upon returning from maternity leave after Colum, I project managed Kilkenny Ormond Hotel and Leisure centre which was the biggest job in the office back then at the end of the century. Aidan’s arrival is connected to PUNCH in my memory of bringing him along in his infancy to meet President Mary McAleese at the official opening of Dromin Athlacca Sheltered housing.

As I reflect upon my career and the journey of my life thus far, one guiding light has shone brightly along my path: the mentorship of Michael Punch. His remarkable engineering prowess, interwoven with his extraordinary humanity and humour, has indelibly shaped not only my engineering expertise but also my character. Mike’s mentorship has honed my engineering skills while enriching my personal development. His unwavering dedication to providing top-tier service to clients is a standard I have always aspired to uphold.

In an era when hitchhiking is deemed unthinkable and reckless, I can’t help but fondly look back and marvel at how a chance encounter led to such a profound impact on the course of my life.



International Rugby Experience, Limerick

The Architect referred to this building as a “Cathedral of Rugby in a City of Spires”. Such a beautiful description captures the essence of the building most eloquently. Winner of the prestigious 2023 RIAI Public Choice Award, the ambition for the International Rugby Experience project was to create a world class tourism and visitor experience to honour the worldwide game of rugby in the heart of Limerick. The result is a new cultural and civic institution that reinvigorates Limerick city centre, complements Limerick’s existing arts/heritage attractions, and forges links with Munster Rugby. We are very proud of this building which opened in our 50th year.

Gardens International, Limerick

The Gardens International Office Development was not merely a building, but an assembly of buildings, marrying the old with the new. Originally built in the 1800s, the General Post Office Building, Roche’s Hanging Garden and the Mercantile Building, were located in the heart of Limerick City. Only two of the original brick vaults of the Hanging Gardens remain, having been replaced in the early 20th century by a courtyard complex of red brick buildings to accommodate the expansion of the General Post Office. In 2007 the courtyard area buildings were demolished and a 5-storey concrete frame over a single storey basement was partially constructed. After remaining unfinished for a few years, its subsequent completion as part of the Limerick 2030 proposals brought new life to this part of the city. The Grade A office development was Limerick’s first city centre LEED Gold certified office scheme.



National Gallery, Dublin

The National Gallery of Ireland on Merrion Square is over 150 years old and houses the largest collection of fine art in the state. In order to bring the gallery up to the standards of a modern international gallery, a significant investment was made. The upgrades included a new energy centre, the refurbishment of the Dargan, Milltown and Beit Wings, the development of a New Wing, and a connection into the Millennium Wing. The result was a multi award winning project, including another prestigious RIAI public choice building of the year award in 2018.





Staff throughout the decades

**David Moore,
Technical Director**

I joined PUNCH in 2013 after spending six years working across the construction and consultancy industry in Ireland, Australia, and the UK. PUNCH was a company I had admired for some time and, given my connections to Limerick through my now wife Elaine, who is from Castlemahon, I looked at PUNCH as a place I'd like to work and a company that could meet my own ambitions.

After joining, I quickly found that PUNCH was a great place to work. I was surrounded by senior engineers such as Cian Murphy, Bryan Whelan, and Mark McKenna who to me were inspiring people. They had worked on major projects, had a vast knowledge of structural design, and were involved in delivering major projects across the region. This gave me the confidence that I could reach the calibre of engineer and person that they were.

In my early days, I was afforded the opportunity to take on a reasonable level of responsibility, due to my experience on site. This was a huge benefit in accelerating my progress through the company. One of my first projects as design engineer was the Analog Devices European R&D Centre in Raheen, Limerick, which was a major investment for one of PUNCH's most important clients. Every engineer has landmark projects where they are heavily involved and develop their technical skills; this project for me was a milestone in gaining confidence in my own design ability.

Aside from the professional role, I found a great group of friends at PUNCH. From tag-rugby to late nights in the pub, and in the office, I grew as a person throughout my first five years and driven on by working at what I loved with great people, my life flourished. I became friends with people younger and older, with different interests and different backgrounds, thanks to the company's sense of camaraderie and open friendly atmosphere across the office.

After reaching a number of significant personal and professional milestones including chartership, I was promoted to Technical Director in 2017. This really afforded me the opportunity to move into a different space and gain more experience in business development, staff development, and project management. My role now is both challenging and rewarding and offers me the flexibility to pursue sporting interests and see my family every day. Overall, my first 10 years at PUNCH has been a journey of professional development and personal fulfilment with many challenges, exactly what I signed up for at the start.



**Strathclyde Park Finishing Tower,
Glasgow**

Famous among water sports/rowing enthusiasts, the existing Strathclyde Park Finishing Tower structure, erected in 1986, is located on an island within Strathclyde Loch. This project involved the remodelling of 4 levels of enclosed accommodation and the construction of a top hung cantilevered steel framed glazing support system. The finished structure provides spectacular views along the length of the Loch and the rowing course. The facility is designed to provide 3 levels for the Jury and Timing Officials, timing equipment, data processing, photo-finish viewing and printing equipment to satisfy the new F.I.S.A. regulations. This was a very high-profile project for our Glasgow office.

Limerick Smarter Travel, Limerick

Limerick Smarter Travel Route 2 involved the provision of a new shared pedestrian walkway/cycleway between University of Limerick and Limerick city centre over a distance of almost 4km. This project was the flagship scheme of the Limerick Smarter Travel Project with a strategy to promote sustainable modes of transport across Limerick City and Environs. This is within a larger national strategy to promote the development of walking, running and cycling along high-quality designated routes nationwide.



Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin

The Sutherland School of Law Building in UCD was built within the university's landmark Gateway Development to provide a modern innovative space for teaching and learning. It is a striking building at the heart of the thriving campus in Belfield. The project also included the development of a new lake and a 1km section of roadway, which marked a new key development stage for the UCD campus.



Diving Bell, Dublin

The Diving Bell was used in the building of the Dublin Port quay walls from the Victorian era until the 1960s and was a remarkable feat of Irish engineering. It was delivered to Dublin Port in 1866, entered service in 1871, and was used in the building of the Port's quay walls until 1958. PUNCH was entrusted with the Engineering work to create an interactive visitor experience incorporating the Diving Bell. The project elevated the 13m tall, 90 tonne Diving Bell onto a two-metre-high steel structure, creating a ramped public access route underneath. A water feature was installed beneath the structure accompanied by a series of interpretative panels explaining the historical, social and engineering significance of the Diving Bell. The new exhibition is illuminated at night-time using energy efficient LED lighting.



John Paul II Library, NUI Maynooth, Kildare

The redevelopment of the John Paul II Library included a major extension to the existing library facility. The project included campuswide infrastructural upgrades to link the north and south campuses and was a major strategic enabler to future campus development. This award-winning project represented a further contribution by PUNCH to the development of the NUI Maynooth campus, where we have worked throughout our 50 years in business.



PUNCH reflections over the years

by Pat Hanley

Michael Punch & Partners was founded in 1973 by Mike Punch, Joe Murphy and Kevin Clancy. Working out of 5 Upper Hartstonge St, Limerick, I joined them within a year. When Mike 'interviewed' me (a casual chat rather than anything formal) he said, "We are starting at the bottom, so the only way is up".

The 70s were tough times in Ireland and work was scarce. Having had the experience of emigrating as a young engineer, Mike was a strong believer in job creation and providing opportunities for young people to stay and work at home. We all bought into his philosophy and the practice grew.

In those early years we were very much like a family. We even worked on Saturday mornings when it was my job to buy buns for all at the famous Dane's Bakery. Those mornings were open house for clients, architects, builders – in fact anybody who wanted to call in for a chat was welcome. Around lunchtime we all went off to play squash.

In a small office, we sat on stools and worked on old-fashioned drawing boards on benches. We had just two phone lines and shared one calculator between us. We were still using slide rules. We had no photocopier, no

Left:
St Mel's Cathedral,
Longford



*Staff throughout
the decades*

Liz Mahon, Receptionist

I'm Liz McMahon, married to Mike and we have three children, Niamh, Eoghan and Ciara. I joined Michael Punch & Partners (now PUNCH Consulting Engineers) in September of 1998 as the receptionist. My job interview was with Pat Hanley and Tom Cosgrove and I also met Michael Punch for the first time, a charismatic man with a huge personality.

One of my fondest memories of Mike was that during my first few weeks with PUNCH he took me to lunch and when we met his colleague, he introduced me as his daughter home from America; he had a wicked sense of humour, and he treated us all as his extended family. PUNCH is a premium service provider and that must be evident from the answering of the telephone through to the issuing of the design documentation to the completion of the work on site. I have been given great opportunities to expand my role within the company over the years.

I was hired as receptionist, and I am now actively involved in the day to day working of the accounts department having responsibility for accounts receivable and credit control. I am usually the first person visitors interact with when they arrive at the Limerick office, this is a role I have always enjoyed and seen as very important.

The thing I love most about working in PUNCH is that while the company has changed over the years we are still like family, and this was the ethos of the company that Mike instilled in us all. As receptionist I get to interact with almost everybody in the Company and I really enjoy that.

computers and the internet had yet to be invented. Telex and fax came and went at a later stage. Telephone calls were very expensive and when cheaper telex arrived, we had one parsimonious architect who used to send us a cheap one-line telex saying, "call me" so we had to pay for the expensive phone call as he was a significant source of work for us. Some of our earliest projects were drawn in feet and inches as some older clients were reluctant to move to metric units.

In those days there was no formal public procurement, so our workload was very much dependent on reputation, track record and relationships. Mike spent a lot of his time driving the length and breadth of the country knocking on doors and maintaining contact with clients, architects and builders. Our Saturday morning work sessions gave a relaxed opportunity for design reviews and workload planning.

Most of our early structures are still in use today. Our first bridge (led by Joe) was the four-span at Annacotty completed in the mid-70s and still in use on the main road from Dublin into Limerick. Our first tall water tower built at the same time continues to serve the people of Herbertstown, Co Limerick.

In the early days we worked on many churches; one of the first was the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Oranmore, consecrated on 31st March 1974. Fittingly, Joe and Mary's wedding was the first wedding to be celebrated there in April 1974. Today it is still in use just beside our Galway office. The building of new churches declined over the years and our more recent ecclesiastical work has been on much bigger churches such as St Mel's Cathedral in Longford (following a major fire) and more recently St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. Our heritage colleagues have been involved in both and again, more recently, on the dome at the Four Courts and on Dublin Castle.

In 1979 we had the honour of designing the altar structure in Limerick for the visit of Pope John Paul II. Limerick was a very late addition to his itinerary and some clever thinking

in the limited time available led to the diversion of steel already being fabricated for one of our other jobs. That steel is today holding up the roof of one of our schools in Newport, Co Tipperary.

Making a tenuous American political connection to our early church work, we designed new churches in Ballina Co Mayo and Doonbeg Co Clare, towns visited recently by Joe Biden and Donald Trump. And staying with US politics, we also worked on the Ronald Reagan centre at Ballyporeen Co Tipperary and the Barack Obama Plaza in Moneygall Co Offaly.

We have worked on education jobs, big and small all over Ireland. Mike took particular pride in the space frame roof at Crescent College Limerick, spanning 22m x 22m. He designed it without a calculator using only 7-figure log tables and his slide rule (or "slipstick" as it was called in his early days working in New York).

We have covered many sports. In addition to the recently completed International Rugby Experience building in Limerick, our rugby work has included everything done at Thomond Park over the past 50 years. We have also done a lot of work at Limerick Gaelic Grounds, the new racecourse at Patrickswell, and numerous golf clubs.

Our best golf course is at Adare Manor where JP McManus has developed one of the finest 5-star resorts in Europe. Mike took great pride in the design of the elegant arched footbridge approaching the 18th hole. Limerick is fortunate to be the beneficiary of so many of JP's inspirational projects.

In the early days we did an occasional foreign project. These included a London studio for Val Doonican and 2 churches in Africa for a missionary priest whom Mike had met in his early career in the Gold Coast. In the mid-80s we did a very large building in Vancouver, Canada, our one-and-only 6,000m² cowhouse, and that prompted us to buy our first fax machine.

When work was scarce in the mid-80s, led by Kevin, we did a lot of design for a UK steel fabricator in order to keep a few of our people busy. Some of the structures were bigger than anything we had done in Ireland. These included very large buildings for Nissan, British Aerospace and Mars.

Time has taken its toll on some of our technology clients. In the early 80s we did big buildings for Wang, Verbatim and Atari – all now gone. We were so eager to impress Wang that we bought 2 of their dedicated word-processors at a cost exceeding that of the annual salary for a few engineers. Wang built an 8-acre building in Castletroy and had plans to build another 24 acres – hence our eagerness to impress! Their technology didn't survive the arrival of word-processing software on the PC. In the 90s we designed a very large factory in Castletroy for Kodak but their APS film technology was overtaken by digital photography, so the factory was just started, site cleared and hardcored, and then abandoned.

We opened our Dublin office in 1983 which was led by John Pollock for the next 30 years. This was followed by Sligo in the mid-90s and Cork in 2000. The financial crash took its toll in 2007-08 but growth resumed with our Scottish office in 2014 followed by Galway in 2015.

Because we have been around for so long, many of our sites have been redeveloped two or three times. In Limerick these include Spaight's on Henry St (now the large Dunnes Stores block), Jury's Hotel (now the Strand Hotel & apartments) and, more recently, the Opera Centre, a large site on which we did many smaller projects over the years.

In the mid-80s we created a specialist bridge division which practiced as Molloy Pollock Punch. The late Eamon Molloy was a significant contributor to our bridge achievements. Born in 1921, he joined us in 1984 in the Dublin office and retired in 1995. He died in 2009 in his 88th year. He had been ably assisted by John Pollock/Martin Heffernan and together they were responsible for the design of numerous bridges throughout the country.

Since 1973, 900+ employees have worked for PUNCH. A few are with us for almost all that time; others spent a few years gaining experience and then moved on. Mike instilled a culture in the practice of giving people opportunities to develop and grow. He had no interest in personal wealth; once or twice a year he would ask me, "How are we doing for money?" and when I confirmed we were still solvent, he tuned out for another six months.

Mike Punch took great pride in what had been achieved under the PUNCH umbrella. He died in 2011 in his 80th year but I think he would have got a lot of satisfaction in what has been achieved by our alumni: these include many who have set up their own consultancies, contracting firms and development companies. We have produced a professor of civil engineering, a few architects, project managers, teachers and lecturers, and many public servants. And then we had a few who moved away from engineering altogether – these include a funeral undertaker, a poultry farmer, a management consultant, a priest (currently chaplain to the Irish community in Paris), an air traffic controller, a naval architect, a member of An Garda Síochána and a few solicitors and accountants. All contributed to our success.

We have had the pleasure of collaborating with many professional colleagues over the 50 years. A few even pre-date our formation - Thompson Architects and Quinn Architects are now in their third generation and we are working with the 2nd generation of the QS firm of Pat Molloy. A short story about Pat Molloy Senior (who was a noted fisherman) illustrates the gentlemanly approach to some work done in the 70s. We worked on a school together where the architect was not delivering. Senior wrote us a letter on Wednesday 14th July 1976 saying, "Dear Mike, those drawings I didn't receive from you last Monday morning were a great help. Thank you". Mike wrote back on Thursday saying, "Dear Pat, not for the want of trying. We now know why fish don't like you!".

Since my own retirement, I follow the progress of PUNCH with keen interest and am delighted with its ongoing success and growth. Long may it continue!



Staff throughout the decades

**Paul Casey,
Director**

Like many of my engineering colleagues, following the global financial crash, I eventually emigrated to progress my career in engineering. In my case, I worked in Sydney Australia for 4 years prior to joining PUNCH Consulting Engineers in February 2016 as a Senior Engineer.

Despite some initial trepidation at returning to Ireland – given career opportunities in Sydney and the weather (of course!) – I soon realised I had made an excellent choice in joining PUNCH. What really struck me was the quality of my new colleagues, both professionally and personally, and the shared culture long established within the company.

I quickly secured my Chartership with the encouragement and assistance of my colleagues, whilst also finding my feet within the Civils Team in Dublin. The variety of projects afforded me plenty of opportunities to develop from a technical, commercial and managerial perspective, with plenty of support provided by my PUNCH teammates.

I was promoted to Technical Director in 2017 and was delighted to take on further leadership responsibilities including business development, establishing strong relationships with a wide variety of repeat clients. It was also great to be a part of the continued success

of the Civils Team in creating a great track record of positive project outcomes, especially securing many planning grants for a wide variety of medium-large scale developments throughout the country.

My appointment as a Director in 2019 was a very proud milestone in my career. It has been a true honour being entrusted with such a leadership role at PUNCH. Since then, there have been plenty of challenges in terms of a global pandemic, Brexit, war in Europe and the associated economic volatility. The dedication and hard work of my fellow Board Members, the Senior Management Team and colleagues at all levels continues to impress and inspire me.

Coincident with all of this since returning to Ireland in 2016, I've been busy settling into a home with my wife, welcomed first our young son and then our daughter, and then experiencing all the joyous milestones that come with having a young family.

The common theme both personally and professionally in my time at PUNCH has been one of taking on a great responsibility and always trying to lead by example.

Irish Sugar Factory, Carlow

by Kevin Clancy

Our relationship with Carlow Factory began in 1976 – interestingly the 50th year of its existence. Marcus Sweeney (the same man who delivered the International Rugby Experience precast concrete and brick panels, which is an interesting story in its own right), a classmate and friend of mine, then working for Hanley Brothers Structural Steel Fabricators in Claregalway, asked me to design various structures for them that they were supplying to Irish Sugar.

From this beginning, we formed a direct consultancy relationship with Irish Sugar that lasted until its closure a few years ago. So, in that time, we were involved in so many unique projects that it's hard to remember them all. However, the most spectacular was probably the Sugar Silo Expansion Project.

It was proposed in the 1980s to expand the capacity of storage in Carlow by 50%. At the time they had two silos - 20,000 tonnes capacity 3m diameter and 30,000 tonnes capacity 45m diameter, each approximately 36m high – essentially steel tin cans, all built on monolithic reinforced concrete pile caps, with a grid of piles at approximately 1.5m centres. Conventional thinking would suggest that a new 25,000 tonnes capacity silo be constructed. After a rigorous study of the behaviour of

the pile cap during repeated filling, emptying and refilling over one campaign, including strain gauge studies of the tin cans, we came to the conclusion that if we lifted the tin cans by 12m, we could increase the capacity by 50% and save approximately IR£4m – an awful lot of money in those days.

In the case of the bigger of the two, this meant lifting 1,000+ tonnes of steel six times and adding 2m rings with each lift. Brave enough you might think. The really brave decision was to make the engineering judgement (based on thorough site investigation and structural analysis) that the existing pile caps and piles could safely take 50% additional load.

Irish Sugar in 1926 went from a greenfield site to taking in its first load of beet in 6 months – those were the days.

The evolution of the PUNCH logo





PUNCH the future

On the occasion of our 50th anniversary, the calibre of people working at PUNCH has never been higher. We continue to do great work and a flavour of current significant projects includes:

- + Project Opera, Limerick: Ireland’s largest active urban regeneration project outside Dublin
- + Cork Docklands Masterplan: Represents the largest urban regeneration project in Europe
- + Shanganagh Housing, Co Dublin: The largest public housing scheme in the State in recent years
- + Waterford North Quay Regeneration: Transformational project for the South East
- + Royal Dublin Society (RDS) Stadium Redevelopment: Key modernisation project in an Irish cultural centrepiece since 1731
- + Active Travel Limerick: Transformation of Limerick’s cycling and walking network
- + Rosslare Europort: Major Port Infrastructure upgrade to support the post Brexit trade boom
- + Analog Devices ERDC 2 Project: Latest research and development facility as part of a €630 million investment in the Limerick Campus

- + Data Centres Dublin - Data centre campus master-planned for the construction of a 25,000m² 32MW building and a separate 20,000m² 20MW building
- + Voltclub Solar Farms: Project set to deliver 20MW of solar farms capable of powering up to 4000 homes
- + Irish Embassy, Abuja, Nigeria: Significant public project on the African continent
- + Precast Concrete Design: PUNCH at the forefront of offsite/modern methods of construction

As a consequence of working on projects such as these, PUNCH is very positive and optimistic about the future. As times change, we are confident that the role of Engineers/ Consulting Engineers will remain as vital as ever to society and the wider world - this role being to harness the resources of nature for the betterment of humankind. We are confident that the skills, talent and passion we have at PUNCH will ensure that we remain at the forefront of this most noble of Engineering pursuits. Furthermore, we are rooted in our founders’ purpose as we continue to provide the best work and development opportunities for our people so that, like Michael Punch, they too can leave a legacy in the world over the next fifty years and beyond.

Left:
National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin

Staff events throughout the years











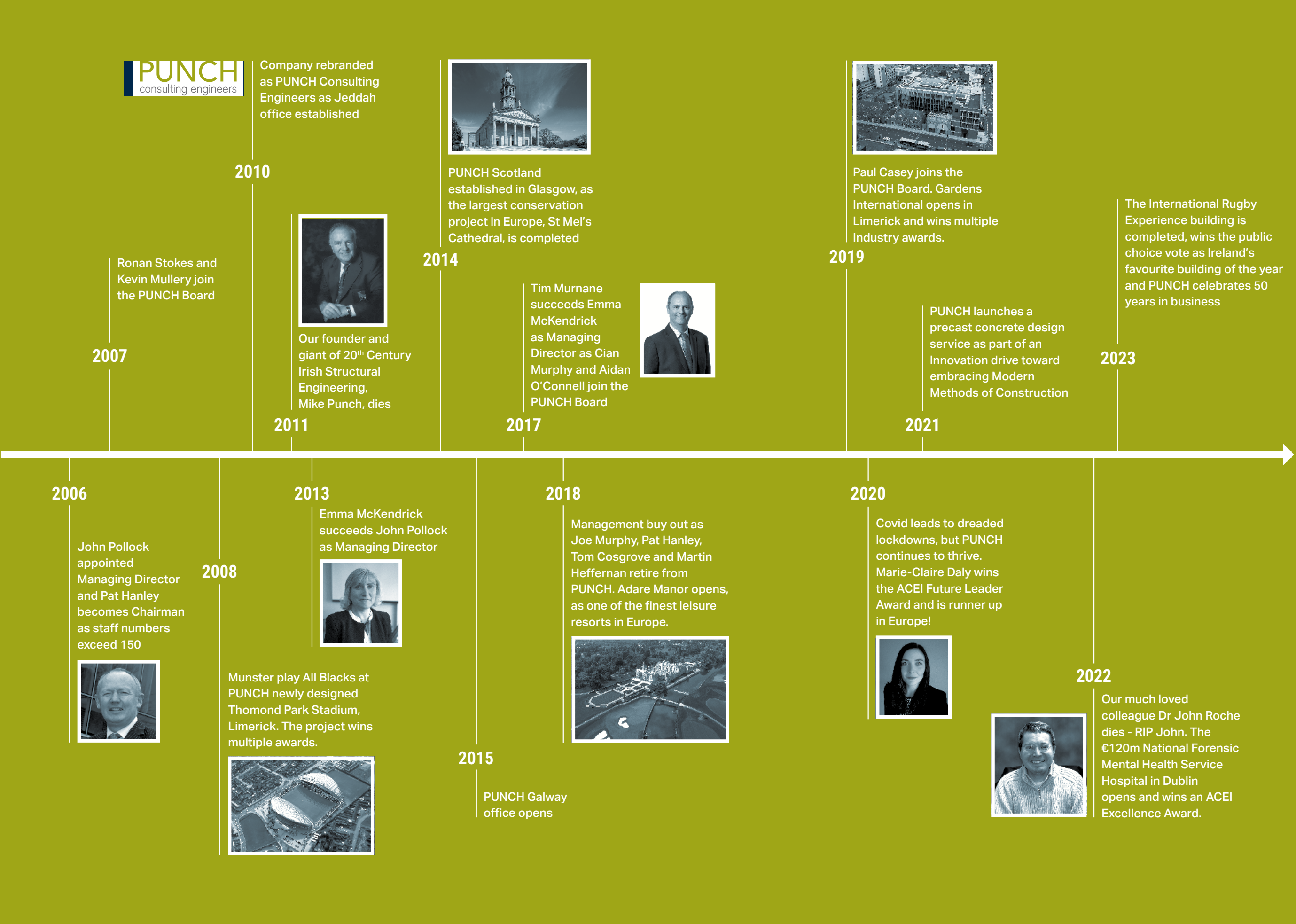
PUNCH book committee and project team:
Betty Carmody; Niamh Cronin; Niamh M. Cronin; Marie-Claire Daly; Pat Hanley;
Jennifer Hayes; David Moore; Tim Murnane; Paula Tully; Marek Zenisek,
plus all others who helped with data collection

punchconsulting.com

Design: Vermillion Design Consultants
Print: Impress Printing Works

Colm Sexton + Eva Daly + Michael Long + Emer Minihan + Michael O'Shea + Deirdre McDonnell
Alan McGowan + Steven Tarrant + Colin Mulvey + John Coady + Eoghan Kelly + Marcin Grabias
Noel Kenny + Annie Shortall + Paraic Ryan + Sharon Keith + Conor Quigley + Dan Donovan
Louise Elliott + Siobhan English + Orla Downes + David Owens + Peter Pollock + Judith Wright
Derek McMahon + Lydia Rooney + Liam Lonergan + Merisa Hooton + Keith McLoughlin
Stephen Hynes + Maria Savage + Damien Haddock + Joanne Whelton + Adrian Ryan
Sarah Curtin + Eoin Walsh + Radek Tschirch + Emma McKendrick + Brian O'Connell
Jacek Lacina + Ann Fogarty + Michail Maslennikov + Donal Gallery + Peter O'Sullivan
Paul Kelly + Alan Yu Kong Boon + Mateusz Antoniszyn + Siobhan Hartnett + Pawel Szczepaniak
Robyn Hollow + San Hung Poi + Gonugondula Venu Giridhar + Wai Chan Chiang + Julie Tiernan
Suzy Buckley + Robert Corrigan + Jody Cradock + Suzanne Sadlier + Barry Dalton
Claire Mullen + Grace Downes + Rachel Ryan + Brian Byrne + Clare Bridgeman + Larry Conran
Clive Buttimer + Ciaran Galvin + Eoin O'Riabhaigh + Tomasz Klimczak + Jacinta Donohoe
Mark Daly + Barbara Dickson + Elaine Dillon + Piotr Dynaburski + Petra Kocarkova
Conor Kelly + John Cantwell + Odette Doyle + David Ward + Gavin Donohue + Lye Chee Weng
Aravind Kesavan + Anna Matachowska + Lavina Conway + Ann McAuliffe + Jennifer Bergin
Kieran O'Reilly + Aimée Carmody + Sara Halpin + Bohuslav Sabo + Patrick Tuohy
Emma O'Connor + Tomás Canny + Nelson Chin + Sunil Godbole + David Tobin
Joseph O'Donoghue + Alan Pettit + Declan Gildea + Helen Kane + Joe McLean + Oisin Gibson
Paul Hyland + Laura Griseto + Danny Golden + John Lucey + Kieran O'Brien + Shane McCarthy
Cian O'Donnell + James Durkan + John Rushe + Lauraine O'Mahony + Andries van der Merwe
Michael Collins + Linda McCormack + Graeme Mulcahy + Thomas O'Neill + Ciara O'Shea
Stephen Buckley + Peter Herangi + Robert Flanagan + John Donovan + Aidan Quilligan
David O'Meara + Rodhan Haughton + David Callinan + Michael O'Donnell + Enda Carroll
Joseph McDonnell + Shane Daly + Megan Johnston + Shane Miley + David Hyland
David Clarke + Niall Logue + Brian Smith + Eoghan Tolan + Sarah Curran + Peter O'Neill
Jonathan Trayers + Frank Kelly + Padraig Butterly + Paul Dillon + David Fitzpatrick
Finbarr McCarthy + Shane Collison + Aoife O'Donnell + Niamh McMahon + Joe O'Brien
Niall Lynch + John Murnane + Kate Heffernan + Kate Gannon + John Purcell + Jack Houlihan
Ciarán Lewis + Jonathan Owens + Neil O'Brien + Ross Somers + David Greally
Brendan Twomey + Deirdre Ryan + Larry Beirne + Padraig Clery + Laura Cunningham
Daire Lynn + Simon Hennessy + David Shalloo + John Perrott + Pat Murphy + Declan Walsh
Alanna O'Brien + Aileen Prendergast + Patrick Dempsey + Brian Lynch + Seamus Keane
Stephen O'Loughlin + Sarah Ryan + Seamus O'Carroll + Alan Kelly + Aideen Maguire
Cornelia Foley + Seán Collins + Danny Kennedy + Niall McCarthy + Alan Cashman
David Moore + Eoin Whitmore + Robert Coughlan + Jason O'Rourke + David Toomey
Richard Gorey + Fiona Hassett + Colin Dorgan + Darren Monahan + Karol Piroška
Nathan Dancey + Tommy Hanley + Marie-Claire Daly + Mike Kelly + Connie Keller + David Butler
Susan Mullane + Patrick Tiernan + Ed Kingston + James Flanagan + Barry Looney
Dick McKendrick + Raymond Moore + Colm O'Brien + Jake Mulcahy + David O'Brien
Barry O'Reilly + Aidan Walsh + Grainne Jay + Bertie O'Leary + Fergus Keane + Conor Ryan
Paul Miller + Joffrey Mendras + Evan Brennan + Stephanie Monaghan + Kate Sayers
Roderick Cleary + Martina Ryan + Alex Racheru + Cormac Joy + Lauren O'Halleron
Luyu Wang + Tom Lecomte + Emily Wallace + Gerard Healy + Anna Jarosz + Eric Brennan
Peter Barry + Ciara O'Donnell + Brian O'Hanlon + Lorita Sanna + Tim Crowley

Begona Ollero Ortiz + Jorge Castrillo + Yang Zhang + Ciara Leahy + Baines Mavudzi Dominika Pawlak + Patrick Leyden + Filippo Mercando + Michael O'Connor Gregory McNamara + Brian Morrissey + Kevin Keogh + Michael O'Sullivan + Nora Roccaz Paul Casey + Ivan Branimir Skoric + Vedrana Katinic + Kevin Cosgrove + Conor Croxford John Paul Murray + Cora Kenrick + Ciaran O'Shea + Mark O'Toole + Leonardo Piazza Matteo Iannucci + Kevin Lee + Joshua Martin + Jacek Bedkowski + Kevin Deely Colin O'Sullivan + Abdulrahman Aburizaiza + Eva Brennan + Niall Madden + Fergal Timlin Emma Tarpey + Andela Markioli + Gabriela Krajinović + Rob Winkel + Eoin Hann Caoimhe Downing + Ulli Heinlein + Tracey O'Connell + Ray Owen + Triona Byrne Colm Clohessy + Garreth Cosgrove + Ben Donnelly + Jamie Riordan + Marie Thevenon Floraline Callens + Rebecca Ryan + Colum Fallon + Roseanne Dizon + James Berry Davide Bertoldi + Mark Richardson + Nick Jr Heffernan + Kevin O'Kelly + Liam Brady Isobel Andrews-McCarroll + Paul Bouilloux-Lafont + Pádraig Mulcahy + Miron Piwonski David Coughlan + Donnagh Murphy + Joseph Toher + Louis Fitzsimons + Stephenie Leamy Jack Fitzgerald + Mary Grealy + Erin Carr + Bryan Carroll + Steven Casey + Damien Egan Hazel Hourigan + Jamie Fennell + Kevin Mark Frank + Daphne Perysinaki + Hilary Galvin Kevin Murphy + Violeta Montoya + Ciara McMahon + Aidan Carroll + Pat Massey Orla O'Donnell + J T Myburgh + Eanna O'Foighil + Alan Boyle + Johnattan Pereira Da Silva Tadhg McEllistrem + Conor Tierney + Donal Moreton + Jason Woulfe + Cian Nolan Colm O'Rourke + Jack Cooke + Rahima Ahmed + Jennifer Hayes + Jakub Kowalczyk Seosamh O'Coileir + Tadhg Clarke + Luke Doherty + Vivienne Bwalya + Martin O'Connor Amy Horan + Kevin Crowley + Anthony Daly + Hayley Heyser + Robert Boyd + Barry Duffin Sean Keane + Rafael Costa Dionisio + Amy Baker + Amy Carroll + Matthew Daly Minogue Matthew Greene + Pdraig O'Callaghan + Drazen Trkulja + Karl Mullins + Mario Skoric Andrew McCarthy + Darragh Lehane + Diarmaid Meagher + Kevin O'Riordan + Jack O'Riordan David Goaley + Kevin D O'Riordan + Clare Shannon + Ralmar Roberts + Niamh M Cronin Shane Slattey + John McNamara + Darragh Corcoran + Shadaab Sayyed Krzysztof Jastrzebski + Jatin Monga + Stephen Maher + Marijana May + Ronja Schonfeld Sarangan Sakthivel + Eileen Bracken + Ruhaan Horn + Essam Elsayed + James Hanly Patrick Massey + Conor Taylor + Paula Tully + Amy Geary + Aoibhin Marren Alexandra Vaz Ferreira + David Carroll + Thomas Nash + Meabh Childs + Luciana Dun Marek Zenisek + Sowmiya Manoharan + Rachel Lee + Munyaradzi Bakasa + Jack Lawless Jason Griffin + Aine Ryan + Lisa McKnight + Peter Faherty + Ian Kelly + Pdraig Troy Adrian Onwuegbusi + Dhivakar Baskaran + Sinead Burtchaell + Karen Duddy + Liam Nulty Michael Moriarty + Niall O'Donoghue + Saoirse O'Connor + Conor Hourigan + Ben Geary John Bailey + Shingirai Ncube + James Cooper + Ala Gashash + Khathutshelo Manavhela Thamsanqa Langa + Mateo Gonzalez Arias + Dale Fitzgerald + Brian McNamara Alastair Henderson Petrie + David Robertson + Dennis Buckell + Gerard Carson Stephen Thomson + Kirstyn Miller + Kyle Brian McMurran + Nicholas Churchill + Donal Ryan Robert Edgar + Peter Boylan + Paul Blane + Jamie Lockhart + Ross Steer John-Paul McCluskey + James Devenay + Joshua Asimwe + Christopher McConnell Colin MacKenzie + David Bayley + Grzegorz Fert + Graham Allardice + James Squires Jennifer Rowland + Gokhan Caglar *PUNCH staff throughout the years*





PUNCH
consulting engineers

Celebrating 50 years