

Press release · [August 20, 2018](#)

## GOETHE-INSTITUT IRLAND HEADQUARTERS AT 37 MERRION SQUARE TO RE-OPEN AFTER MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT

**After a major redevelopment and expansion, the Goethe-Institut Irland's Georgian Headquarters at 37 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 is confirmed to open to the public in September 2018.**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural network. The role of the Goethe-Institut in Ireland is to inform about Germany, provide German language classes and foster cultural exchange between Ireland and Germany.

From September, 37 Merrion Square will house all of the Goethe-Institut's staff and services, including Library and Information services, a small art gallery, expanded cultural/event spaces and a new café at garden level (operated by Camerino Bakery) in the refurbished Georgian House. A contemporary mews building will house the German Language Department and services for teachers of German.

Designed by Irish-German architecture practice Henschion Reuter Architects, commissioned by the German Foreign Office and managed by the German Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR), this substantial construction project has involved an extensive renovation and remodelling of the historic 1787 building as well as the development of an entirely new mews building and garden to the rear of the site, more than doubling the useable square footage from 738 m<sup>2</sup> to 1756 m<sup>2</sup>.

Speaking about the project, architect Martin Henschion said "*In addition to the stunning conservation and restoration work overseen by our colleagues Shaffrey Architects, the development of the entirely new mews building is an excellent re-imagining of the Georgian site. We have created a beautiful and fit-for-purpose new home and garden for all of the work that the Goethe-Institut do, and have been able to incorporate previously unfeasible contemporary features, such as wheelchair access through much of the original Georgian building and an A Building Energy Rating.*"

Thomas Lier, Director of the Goethe-Institut Irland, said, "*We are very pleased to be returning to Merrion Square and to present, to the Irish public, a very beautiful 'one-stop shop' for anyone interested in Germany, its language and its culture. We look forward to welcoming you through our doors in September and for many years to come.*"

**The Goethe-Institut at 37 Merrion Square will open on September 10 for language class enrolment. The re-opening will be formally celebrated with a five-day cultural programme in the building from September 20-23**, which includes a number of events on Culture Night 2018 (Friday September 21). Full programme details will be announced at the end of August on the Goethe-Institut's website: [www.goethe.de/irland](http://www.goethe.de/irland)

You can also find out more about the re-opening programme by following the Goethe-Institut Irland on Facebook & Twitter: [facebook.com/goetheinstitut.ireland](https://facebook.com/goetheinstitut.ireland) / [@GI\\_Ireland](https://twitter.com/GI_Ireland)

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## **EDITORS' NOTES**

### **About the Building Project**

The redevelopment of the Goethe-Institut's Irish HQ at 37 Merrion Square has seen the 1787 Georgian townhouse refurbished to its period glory and welcomes the creation of a new garden and contemporary mews building on the site. Building work commenced in 2016. The Goethe-Institut temporarily relocated all services to 62 Fitzwilliam Square in the interim. The refurbished historic building will contain the Goethe-Institut's Information and Library Service, a new café and expanded cultural/events space, while the contemporary mews building will house the German Language School and services for teachers of German.

### **About Henchion Reuter Architects**

Henchion und Reuter Architekten was established in Leipzig in 1994. In 1998 Henchion and Reuter Architects was established in Dublin. The practice has received numerous design excellence awards in recent years. Completed projects include private homes, hotels, bridges, community and sports centres.

[www.henchion-reuter.com/](http://www.henchion-reuter.com/)

### **About the Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural network with 159 institutes in 98 countries. The Goethe-Institut also has liaison offices in many countries in addition to alliances with local cultural societies, libraries and language learning centres. The role of the Goethe-Institut in Ireland is to inform about Germany, provide German language classes and foster cultural exchange between Ireland and Germany.

Find out more about the Goethe-Institut Irland at [www.goethe.de/irland](http://www.goethe.de/irland)

For the latest updates on Goethe-Institut events, follow the Goethe-Institut on Facebook & Twitter:  
[facebook.com/goetheinstitut.irland](https://facebook.com/goetheinstitut.irland) / [@GI\\_Irland](https://twitter.com/GI_Irland)

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