



Museum Development Plans

An outline of Phase one of the development plans for the Foynes Flying Boat Museum.

THE PAST

The Monteagle Arms Hotel was built in the 1860's and was the first shop and pub in the village of Foynes.

In 1939 The Irish Government acquired the building to use it as the Airport Terminal Building. Some statistics from the airport include;

1941–1945	48,000 passengers
1941–1943	2,000 flights through Foynes
1939–1943	150,876lbs of mail loaded
	197,318lbs of mail off loaded.

The airport made Foynes unique. In the 1930's/1940's what other small rural village in Europe had Boats, Trains and Planes—all means of transport at the same time.

When the Flying Boat Service finished, the building became a residential Irish Language School during the summer months, called Aras Ide.

It's next role was as the offices of Foynes Harbour Trustees and later The Foynes Port Company.

The Present

The Museum opened in 1989 and over 380,000 people have visited to date. Over 70% of visitors are from overseas. 4 staff employed.

The Foynes Flying Boat Museum is a unique visitor attraction. It is the only Aviation Museum in Ireland and the only dedicated flying boat Museum in the world.

In a short space of time the Museum has established itself as a very important Heritage product, receiving many awards over the years. It preserves for all time the aviation history of the Shannon Region and the part played by Ireland in the development of passenger travel. Expenditure to-date on the Museum is €920,000.

In 2001 the Museum Company purchased the building from Shannon Foynes Port Company. It is the intention of the Museum Company to continue to develop the premises and restore the many facilities that were here during the flying boat days including putting the Control Tower back in place.

The Future

The first phase of the development plans for the Museum will see a number of added and extended features which will triple the size of the existing museum. These developments include;

- New large reception area, furnished with Art Deco furniture.
- New toilets/rest rooms with dedicated disabled facilities.
- New extended cinema to 60 seats
- New Children's area.
- Interior of a Boeing B314 Flying Boat.
- Enhanced War Room display.
- Met/Radio display.
- Hall of Fame / Celebrities / Refugees
- New Shop/Coffee shop and Irish Coffee Centre.
- Internet cafe facilities for visitors.
- Roofing of courtyard.

Details of these developments can be seen overleaf

The New Developments

New large Reception area, furnished with Art Deco furniture. Offering Bureau de Change, Western Union Money Transfer and expanded tourist information facility.

New toilets/rest rooms with dedicated disabled facilities.

New cinema extended to 60 seats

New Children's area Featuring 3 mock up cockpits allowing usage of the B314 Flight Simulator package, giving a real sense of a pilot's experience.

Full scale interior cut-away model of the B314 including cabins, galley, dining room and cockpit. Visitors will be able to experience what it was like to travel across the North Atlantic during the 2nd. World War. The luxury of the accommodation with beds to sleep in, a 14 seater dining room serving the finest of food and cabins to relax, read or play chess in. This is an exciting exhibit, as no B314 Flying Boat exists in the world.

Enhanced War room display

Met/Radio display

Hall of Fame / Celebrities / Refugees

New Shop/Coffee shop and Irish Coffee Centre.

Greatly expanded facilities to increase capacity, enabling visitors to spend more time in the Museum. Incorporates dedicated Irish Coffee Centre. Internet cafe facilities for visitors.

Roofing of enclosed courtyard, which will allow the Museum to host temporary exhibitions, conferences, product launches, trade shows, entertainment events and other functions to be accommodated, to generate additional sources of income and extend the season. Such a venue does not exist presently in West Limerick.

How you can help

The new exciting developments for the museum will make it a unique and key visitor attraction and venue in the Mid-West. You can also be involved in this development by making a contribution to the development fund.

The Museum is a registered charity (charity number CHY10251). PAYE, companies & corporations and the self-assessed can all makes donations to the museum's development that are tax deductible.



For further information, contact;
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THE PAST

The Waiting Room



Some of the VIPs to pass through the Airport

The original Control Tower



1980's, prior to conversion to Museum



The Present



The current War Room Display



The current Reception area

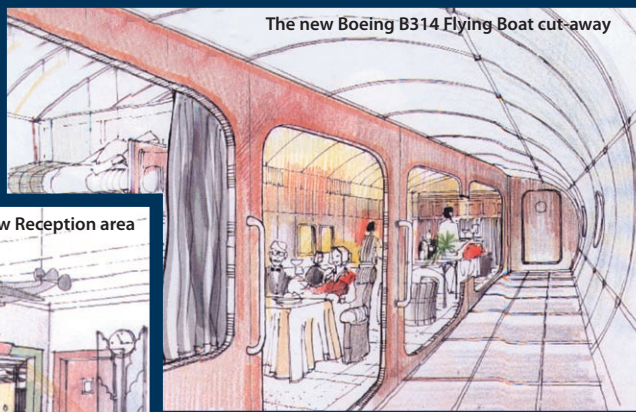


The current Cinema

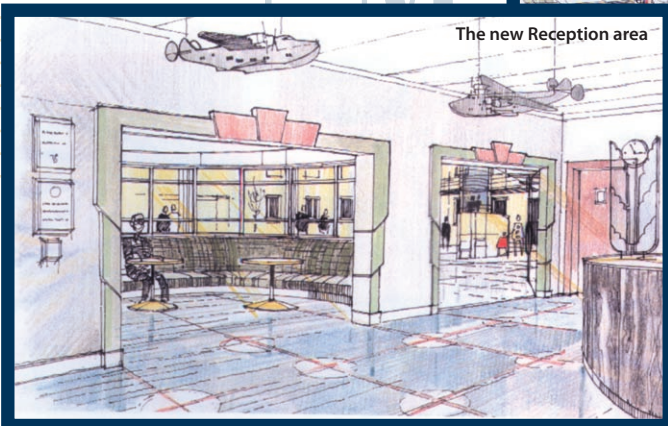


The current Main Display

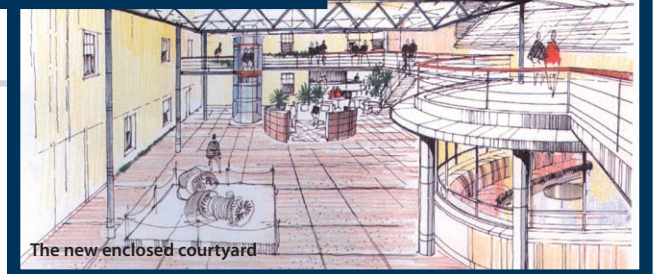
The Future



The new Boeing B314 Flying Boat cut-away



The new Reception area



The new enclosed courtyard