

# BUILDING A BUSINESS

150 YEARS OF THE SISK GROUP



# BUILDING A BUSINESS

150 YEARS OF THE SISK GROUP

Published on behalf of the SISK  
Group by Associated Editions Ltd.

The SISK Group, Wilton Works,  
Naas Road, Dublin 22, Ireland.  
www.siskgroup.com

Associated Editions Ltd,  
33 Melrose Ave, Dublin 3, Ireland.  
www.associatededitions.ie

ISBN 978-1-906429-09-6

Text ©2009 Emma Cullinan with  
additional text by Hal Sisk and Tom  
Costello. Edited by Madeleine Lyons.

#### **Sisk book committee & project team**

Declan Hughes (Project Manager)  
Kristina Beele (Photograph Research)  
Hal Sisk  
Richard Sisk  
Liam Nagle  
Tom Costello  
Bernie Kennedy

#### **List of contributors**

George Sisk  
Hal Sisk  
Kevin Kelly  
Pierce O'Shea  
Brian Keogh  
Liam Nagle  
Phil Meaney  
Donal Moulton  
Laura Howlan  
Melanie McHugh

Ciaran McDonald  
Jim Doyle  
Gerry Maguire  
Paul Carmody  
Tom Costello  
Andrzej Wejchert  
Bernard O'Connell  
Tommy O'Connell  
Richard Kiely  
Michael Barnwell  
Philip Howard  
Liam Walsh  
Dave Tracey  
Padraic White

Design and layout by Kevin Dunne,  
Vermillion Design  
Art Direction by Anne Brady,  
Vermillion Design  
Project Management by Éamonn  
Hurley, Associated Editions  
Printed and bound by  
Nicholson & Bass, Belfast

All rights reserved. No part of this  
publication may be reproduced or  
transmitted by any means, elec-  
tronic or mechanical, including  
photocopy, recording or any other  
information storage and retrieval  
system, without prior consent in  
writing from the SISK Group.

Image opposite: Construction at  
Aviva Stadium, Lansdowne Road.

#### **Photography credits**

Kyran O'Neill  
Peter Barrow  
Anne Brady  
A&D Wejchert Architects  
ABK Architects  
Gerry Flynn  
Cork City and County Archives  
Cork Public Museum  
Robert Ballagh  
Examiner Publications (Cork)  
Failte Ireland  
Honan Chapel UCC Cork  
Jacobs  
KMD architects  
Liam Lyons  
Stan Shields  
St. Vincent's Hospital  
Mount Carmel Hospital  
Paddy Cahill  
Irish Architectural Archive  
National Gallery of Ireland  
Emma Cullinan  
Ger Ryan

W.H. Byrne & Son Collection,  
Irish Architectural Archive  
National Library of Ireland  
RIBA London  
Denis Mortell  
Barry Mason  
William Cotter  
Ronan McCall  
OPW  
RKD Architects  
The Irish Times  
St Vincents Healthcare Group  
Scott Tallon Walker Architects  
Hal Sisk  
Central Bank of Ireland  
Hard Hat Photography Ltd

Every effort has been made by  
the SISK Group to acknowledge  
correct copyright of images where  
applicable. Any errors or omissions  
are unintentional.



# CONTENTS

Foreword	4
Family	6
Foundation	32
Growth	86
Overseas	116
Branching Out	140
Craftsmanship	162
Transformation	176
Conclusion	218

# FOREWORD

---

OUR COMPANY has evolved from a small family business, set up in Cork soon after the famine, to become the large diversified company that it is today. The business has grown and changed considerably since the early days and we now work with cutting edge technology in the building, healthcare and distribution sectors across the world, and yet, throughout our 150 years and right up to the present day, certain core values and structures have remained in place. It is these standards which, we think, have contributed to our longevity.

Ours is still an Irish-owned family business whose strength lies in its workforce and a good relationship with its clients. We are proud of the fact that many of our staff have spent their entire careers with the SISK Group and most of our key managers have been with us for many decades: Sisk is not just a family business but an extended-family business.

We are also proud of our long-standing relationships with many of our clients and partners. Such close bonds stem from our commitment to completing our work efficiently and to a consistently high standard.

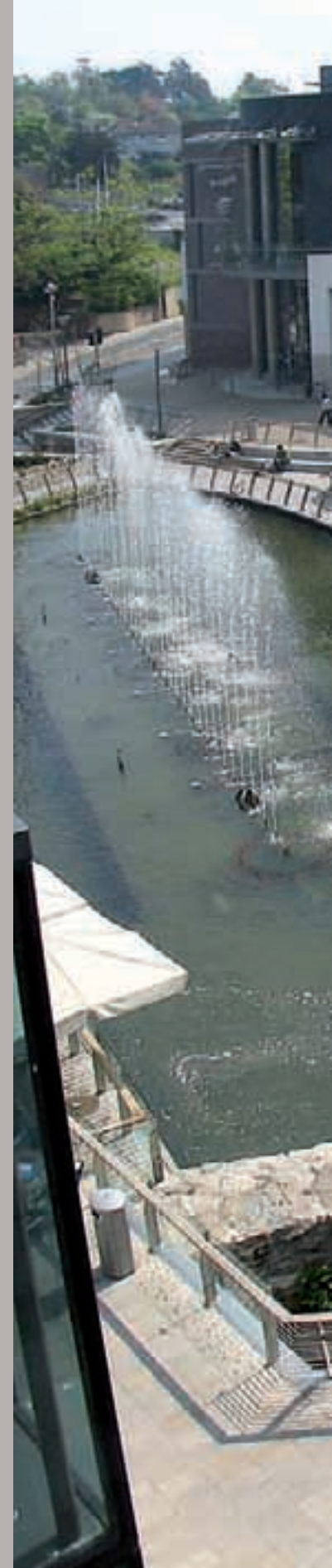
The building industry is known for the way in which it is affected by rises and falls in the economy and Sisk has adopted innovative strategies in order to ride the waves over our long existence. As a company we are continually evolving and we look forward to our next 150 years.



**George Sisk**

Chairman, Sicon Ltd, SISK Group

Dundrum Town Centre, Dublin.







HOUSE OF TRADE

HOUSE OF TRADE

MIDLAND