

Government Policy on Architecture 2009 – 2015

Towards a Sustainable Future:
Delivering Quality within the Built Environment



Cornhshool, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to publish the *Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015, Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering quality within the Built Environment* which provides the appropriate framework for the implementation of architectural policy over the next 7 years.

The quality of our built environment profoundly affects the quality of our everyday lives. This understanding is one of the key drivers behind the design and continual regeneration of our built environment and is the reason that so few people are passive when it comes to holding and expressing a view on whether that quality is being addressed or neglected in their immediate, local, national or even in the international environment.

Over the past decade or so, architecture in Ireland has enjoyed a remarkable period of achievement. Public interest in good design has grown, as has the quality of buildings produced. A substantial body of well-designed work: urban design, housing, public buildings, schools, leisure and commercial buildings has been put in place across the country.

However, conceiving, designing and delivering sustainable architecture in our environment presents a significant challenge to this generation. This is a challenge that requires a fundamental re-appraisal of the role of architecture and urban design, integrating their cultural and environmental responsibilities to combat the effects of climate change. In rising to the environmental challenges facing our country there is a need, through research on the built environment, to make informed choices on how we use our existing places, buildings, landscapes and natural resources.

In this context, the Government through this Policy on architecture and the built environment seeks to promote awareness and understanding of the contribution of good design to the daily life and well being of society as a whole. High quality design, whether in the details of the buildings we work in, or in the spaces and places that we share socially, should not be viewed as a luxury, achievable on a one-off basis. The realisation of good architecture is fundamentally about much more than individual buildings. It must also concern itself with the realisation of an acceptable human environment for all.

The architecture of the past was the result of creative and often adventurous collaboration between client and designer, pushing forward the frontiers of what was possible. The architecture we choose to build now is the "heritage of the future". It is an expression of the cultural, aesthetic and social values of our world, and a statement of the challenges and expectations we seek to address in shaping a sustainable built environment for the future. It is important that the State continues its patronage and appreciation of, and commitment to, the cultural and artistic value of architecture by supporting educational and awareness initiatives that develop public engagement with the built environment.

I recognise the social and cultural importance of architecture in society and undertake to build on the sound foundation of Action on Architecture 2002-2005 with an enhanced and expanded framework as outlined in this new Policy.

The Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 addresses issues that have arisen in the years since the publication of the first policy on architecture by placing more emphasis on sustainable development of the environment and urban design, continuing to encourage and support high quality modern architecture, incorporating architectural heritage in a holistic, integrated manner and developing actions which respond to and promote awareness in these areas. This Policy in tandem with the Government's policy "Building Ireland's Smart Economy: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal" sets out a number of priorities and actions that the Government will be taking in the short and medium term. Key elements include investment in research and development, a focus on co-ordinated "forward planning" and investment in renewable energy together with the promotion of the green enterprise sector and the creation of jobs.

The Policy is structured around 15 key statements and contains 45 actions to be implemented over its lifetime, primarily, by a range of Government Departments and State Agencies. My Department will take the lead role in the implementation of more than half of the actions along with co-ordination of the implementation of all 45 actions.

The Policy recognises the place of architecture in society as an expression of cultural, aesthetic and social values, both past and present, and the challenges and expectations of the future in shaping a sustainable high quality environment. We can all learn to embrace and indeed love architecture and still preserve the diversity of our own personal tastes and empathies. This will only serve to deepen and enrich the great debate on the places and spaces that lend to shaping our lives.

The Policy detailed in this document has benefited immeasurably from the great energy, personality and inputs of the members of the Steering Group I appointed in 2007 and I am grateful for their service. In particular I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Loughlin Kealy (Chair) for the dedication he has shown in orchestrating the formation of the Policy over the last 2 years - time very well spent. My thanks also to those that participated in the three focus groups established by the Steering Group, their enthusiasm and knowledge helped greatly in informing the breadth of the Policy. Finally, I would like to thank those that attended public meetings or forwarded web based submissions in relation to the formulation of the Policy.

I look forward to seeing the outcome of implementation of all 45 actions and to the continued development of national policy on architecture.

**John Gormley TD,
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government**

October, 2009



Executive Summary

The publication of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 is the result of a consultative and drafting process which began in the Autumn of 2007. The process included the establishment of a Steering Committee and three reporting focus groups which concentrated on three general themes:

- Promoting Awareness, Education And Research;
- Promoting Quality in the Built Environment;
- Promoting Sustainability.

Context

The context arises from the government policy statement on architecture of May 1997, which followed the publication in 1996 of *Developing a Government Policy on Architecture: a proposed framework and discussion of ideas*¹. The present document follows on from the publication of *Action on Architecture 2002-2005*², and more recent guidance documents on planning and the environment. Other recent factors include the establishment of the Irish Architecture Foundation in 2005 and the registration of the title of 'architect' under the provisions of the *Building Control Act 2007*³. Cognisance is also taken of the Government decision in 2004 in relation to its construction procurement reform initiative which includes (i) the Award of Public and Publicly Funded Construction Contracts (ii) on a Competitive Fixed Price Basis and (iii) the Award of Service Contracts to Construction Consultants on a Competitive Fixed Price Basis.

The Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 contains forty-five actions and is divided into six sections: Introduction; Strategy for Architecture: the Need for Evidence and Research Capacity; Leading by Example; Architecture and the Wider Environment; Developing the Demand for Quality; and Implementation and Review. The Policy will complement the Government's reform policy on public sector construction procurement, which is aimed at obtaining greater cost certainty at tender stage, better value for money and more efficient delivery of projects. The Policy recognises the place of architecture in society as an expression of cultural, aesthetic, and social values, both past and present, and the challenges and expectations of the future in shaping a sustainable quality environment. It also recognises Government's policy on design and build and the importance it plays as a standard procedure in the procurement of public works. Its publication comes at a time of increased public interest in these issues and its recommendations include the implementation of actions by a number of government departments, including the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Education and Science, the Office of Public Works, the Heritage Council, the Arts Council, local authorities and other agencies.

The implementation programme of the Policy will be carried out on the basis of prioritisation of the actions. Recognising that such priorities will be subject to further inbuilt processes and reviews, the timeframe for delivery of individual actions should be seen in the context of the overall timeframe of the Policy, while recognising that many actions will have a lifetime that extends beyond 2015.

Delivering on objectives

In developing a 'Strategy for Architecture', the needs of environmental research at a number of levels have been recognised; actions include the establishment of a Built Environment Research Committee, establishment of a materials research facility and research into existing and future supports for educational schemes such as the Architects in Schools initiative.

The actions under 'Leading by Example' highlight the role of the State with regard to the overall implementation of the Policy: in promoting architectural quality by developing procurement and contracting policies for state funded projects, including the achievement of exemplary and sustainable practice; in further establishing in-house architectural services in the local authorities; in evaluating whole-life costing of buildings; and in encouraging the participation of practices of all scales in procurement processes. Actions under this section also reflect the role of the State as a custodian of older and historic buildings; promoting best practice in sustainable use and maintenance of its own building stock, including documentation and publication; and evaluating the experience with regard to existing supports for the wider architectural heritage.

In extending the focus of the Policy to the wider environment, local authorities will be asked to introduce a range of measures concerning sustainability issues and the adaptive reuse of its own existing building stock. The importance of “place-making” has become ever more apparent as society demands a more holistic approach to development that includes the promotion of sustainable communities and urban design-based criteria to development settlement patterns. It is also proposed that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with the Building Regulations Advisory Body and relevant professional institutes with regards to the application of the Building Regulations to older traditionally built buildings; and will more generally liaise with these institutes in promoting best practice in planning for architectural quality and urban design.

In ‘Developing the Demand for Quality’, the Policy envisages a range of actions promoting public awareness of architectural quality and architectural heritage. Such promotion will take place at a number of levels, from schools and third level institutions to informing and engaging the general public through promotion by government and cultural institutions nationally and locally, in liaison with local authorities. Such promotion would include exhibitions and events including supports to the Irish Architecture Foundation and other bodies.

Under the heading of ‘Implementation and Review’, responsibility for the co-ordination of policy implementation will be assigned by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and annual progress reports will be submitted to the Minister. Actions under this heading include the establishment of a forum to oversee certain actions with regard to quality and sustainability in state-funded procurement and the monitoring of policy developments at EU level; the establishment of a planning authorities’ historic buildings committee; co-ordinating the exchange of web-based information on architecture and architectural heritage; and liaison with the City and County Managers Association to establish how actions can be implemented at local authority level and to establish a local authority built environment forum.

Acronyms and abbreviated references are listed in Appendix (ii).







1.1 Background: Architecture and Society

The architecture of a people is a living expression of its culture and an integral part of its identity, as well as being a response to the requirement for shelter. Societies are defined and recognised by the things they make and the things they do. Most enduringly, they make the buildings and places that accommodate the public and private lives of their citizens. Beyond the practical needs for shelter, the accommodation of functional requirements and the achievement of comfort, people of all societies have demonstrated that their buildings express the highest beliefs and aspirations of their culture - an expression of the human spirit. Insofar as they succeed, their buildings become a form of public art. Among the arts, architecture is unique in being the setting for the life of society so that a high quality environment is an essential measure of civil society. This factor remains constant even as circumstances change over time.

Advancement of the art of architecture is a responsibility the Government shares with various sectors of society: the design and building professions, financial institutions, the building industry, the clients who commission buildings and the community itself.

The architecture of the past which lifts our spirits, and upon which we now place such value, was the result of creative and often adventurous collaboration between client and designer, pushing forward the frontiers of what was possible in their day. The architecture we choose to build now is the architectural heritage of the future.

As well as being the expression of cultural, aesthetic, and social values, the making of architecture is a matter of meeting social and economic needs and of exploiting technological potentials. At this time, architecture and the shaping of the wider environment face deep challenges in confronting issues of sustainability – these are challenges that require a fundamental re-appraisal of the role of architecture and urban design in integrating their cultural and environmental responsibilities and a willingness to confront the inherited practices and technologies of the past.

1.2 Government Policy Statement on Architecture

In recognition of the importance of architecture within Irish society and culture, the Irish Government established a Policy on Architecture. The process began in the early 1990s, resulting in the publication of the document, *Developing a Government Policy on Architecture: a proposed framework and discussion of ideas*¹ in 1996. In May 1997 the Government adopted the following policy statement in relation to architecture:

In pursuing its Policy on Architecture, the Government will:

- 1 promote high standards of design and construction in building works for which it is responsible and support the pursuit of high standards of building**
- 2 develop an organisational framework that facilitates the application of knowledge and skill concerning the built environment**
- 3 ensure that the architectural heritage is conserved and maintained to a high standard**
- 4 foster the demand for high quality architecture in the community as a whole**
- 5 promote the concept of sustainable development**
- 6 encourage innovation in architecture.**

Following that statement, the Government launched a process of investigation and discussion to determine what actions it could take and support to give effect to that statement. That process resulted in the publication of *Action on Architecture 2002-2005*².



1.3 Action on Architecture 2002-2005

The aim of Government Policy on Architecture as set out in *Action on Architecture 2002-2005*² was to place architecture higher on the political and cultural agenda and in so doing to remove impediments to the achievement of a sustainable built environment of good quality. It was recognised that a Government Policy on Architecture could not, by itself, deliver good architecture, but that it could:

- recognise the social, environmental and cultural importance of architecture in society;
- promote the concept of sustainability in design, construction, operation, maintenance and improvement of buildings;
- promote improvement in the quality of the built environment, by fostering conditions conducive to the production of good architecture and the protection of the architectural heritage, and by stimulating improved practice in both the public and private sectors;
- set an example for the community at large by the quality of what the State builds, and the care it displays towards the buildings it inherits;
- promote high standards of environmental provision in local government, semi-State and private sectors through legislation, regulation and financial measures as appropriate;
- help to create and sustain an ethos that values quality in buildings through education and encouragement.

Architecture in Ireland has achieved a greater prominence in society; it has emerged from the shadows to take its place among the arts as an expression of our culture. It has become a regular topic in various media. Substantial progress has been achieved in key areas of public policy. A more comprehensive and effective mechanism for the protection of the architectural heritage has been established through the placing of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage on a statutory basis and the introduction of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999 (as consolidated in the Planning and Development Act 2000) with the associated programme of grant-aid and financial support for the provision of conservation expertise. Registration of the title of “architect”, has now been achieved (Building Control Act 2007)³, and the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland has been designated as the registration body and the competent authority in the State as regards architects.

Action11 of *Action on Architecture* supported the idea of a virtual Architecture Centre, whose function it would be to promote public interest and awareness of architecture using the internet to host debates and exhibitions and forge links to architecture websites in Ireland and overseas. The intention of this Action was realised through the formation of the Irish Architecture Foundation, which was convened with participation from the Architectural Association of Ireland, the Arts Council, Dublin City Council, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Irish Architectural Archive, the Office of Public Works and the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland.

1.4 The Need to Update the Policy Actions

As mentioned above, the groundwork for architecture policy, as given effect in *Action on Architecture 2002-2005*², was laid down in the previous decade. Since that time there have been major changes in legislation affecting the built environment, in how buildings are procured and in architectural practice in this country.

Most significantly, there has been a physical transformation of the built environment: the physical manifestation of urbanisation and its associated infrastructure has created new challenges for the planning and design professions and for the construction industry. The importance of place-making has become ever more apparent as society demands a more holistic approach to development. There has been a qualitative and quantitative increase in the provision of guidance to local authorities by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and by the Heritage Council to public bodies and the private sector. There is still more to be done, both in setting out what is required for good quality in the built environment and in ensuring that those standards set are met to a greater degree than at present.

Over the same time period, architecture in this country has enjoyed a period of achievement, unprecedented both in terms of improvement in the quality of buildings produced and in terms of the public interest in the field. There is now a more substantial body of well-designed work: public buildings; schools, housing, and commercial buildings. Irish architecture has achieved prominence and critical appreciation in the international arena. The art and craft of Irish architecture has taken its place on the world stage, spearheaded by the quality of buildings designed by Irish practices and relevant public bodies in other countries, and that of the contribution of Irish architects to international exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale and the Lisbon Triennale. Part of the challenge is to identify how best to build on these achievements – to tackle persistent obstacles that stand in the way of talent, creativity and good practice.

While public interest has undoubtedly increased, public expectations have increased also, and there is a concern that public satisfaction with the quality of the built environment is far lower than ought to be the case.

Most significantly, a new series of policy actions is required because the context for environmental provision has been altered in a profound way. It is clear that the process of climate change will bring new challenges in the production of new buildings and the adaptation of the existing building stock. Economic, environmental, and social sustainability need to be defined and demonstrated through our procedures and our products, and the built environment, which is such a significant factor in how we address our ecological responsibilities, must have a priority that reflects its position.

The State has a key role as building promoter, client and property owner and employs a variety of procurement methods in fulfilment of this role and the requirements of the Department of Finance under the *Capital Works Management Framework 2007*⁴. It is understood that design should be used not only as a tool to achieve user requirements and fitness for purpose but also to achieve aesthetically pleasing solutions for society as a whole. Taking into account the criteria of functionality and value for money, the goal should always be the promotion of a high quality built environment.



1.5 Policy Actions 2009-2015: Outline

In 2007, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government initiated a process designed to review the effect of policy actions on architecture and to establish a renewed programme of action that would take into account the changed circumstances of the time. The Minister established a Steering Committee to prepare recommendations on policy actions, and three Focus Groups to brief the Steering Committee. The Focus Groups concentrated on three general themes: Quality in the Built Environment; Sustainability; and Awareness, Education and Research. Membership of the Steering Committee and the Focus Groups was drawn from across the professions, public service, statutory bodies, non-governmental organisations, specialist organisations and academia as well as the specialist media. Following the reports of the Focus Groups, the Steering Committee also engaged in public consultation, holding a series of public meetings in seven locations throughout the country. The consultation process was called *Conversations about Architecture and the Built Environment* and it identified a series of consistent views expressed by participants across the various venues. The facilitators summarised the key issues and made a number of recommendations in a report presented to the Steering Committee.

Among a number of recurrent themes, the three most commonly expressed views related to issues around planning and the built environment, education and awareness, and a desire for strong leadership from Government in promoting a high quality, sustainable environment. A significant number of participants commented on their experience when interacting with the planning system and expressed the desire that design quality should be given greater weight in the planning process. It was apparent during the *Conversations* that many feel disempowered in their ability to impact on the built environment. Those who participated warmly welcomed the *Conversations about Architecture and the Built Environment*. It was suggested that existing agencies need to be further resourced to design and deliver a range of conversational and educational processes as part of an ongoing process of public discussion about architecture and our shared environment.





In considering the new policy initiative there was a general consensus that a long-term vision was required and that addressing concerns around awareness, quality and sustainability should be planned for in that context. A range of initiatives, which were considered desirable in creating and sustaining a high quality built environment, was put forward by those attending. Among the most commonly raised proposals was the further consideration of city and county architects to be appointed in each county acting: as champions for architectural quality; strengthening processes at local government level to better co-ordinate design and planning processes; including architects at all stages of the planning process; incentivising good quality; fostering sustainable design; and encouraging greater public participation in all stages of the planning process.

Drawing on the inputs from the Focus Groups and the consultation process, the Steering Committee prepared a draft statement of policy actions for consideration by Government Departments and other relevant bodies.

To advance its policy objectives on architecture, the Government has adopted specific proposals for action in the period 2009 to 2015, while acknowledging that the objectives in this statement are also being pursued through Government actions already taken in a wide range of other areas. For example, significant steps have been taken in the context of implementing the National Sustainable Development Strategy⁵ with the inclusion of sustainable development objectives in the new consolidated Planning and Development legislation and the establishment of Comhar - Sustainable Development Council.



It is also an objective of this Policy that the creation of healthy and vibrant environments is pursued in terms of sustainable settlement patterns and urban design place-making and with particular reference to the review undertaken by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland in the Publication *Health Impacts of the Built Environment* ¹¹.

The objectives set out in the Government's policy statement on architecture span many areas of responsibility, are long term and have no single resolution. The development and implementation of architecture policy is both a short-term and a long-term project. In the context of action already being taken, Government has selected to advance its objectives for architecture further over the next seven years with emphasis on four central themes:

- establishing a robust evidence base for architecture policy and building research capacity in the area;
- leading by example in procuring high quality buildings, setting new standards of excellence in building performance and architectural quality;
- promoting the production of a sustainable built environment through greater integration of architectural input in the planning process;
- promoting awareness and understanding and the demand for high quality in architecture.

The Policy actions 2009-2015 continue to advance the six principles set out in May 1997. In deciding how these should be given expression in 2009, the approach of the Government is structured around 15 key statements, listed below. These statements set the context for 45 Actions to be taken over that period, involving Government Departments, public authorities and other state-funded bodies.



This Policy on Architecture is being brought forward during a challenging period in the public finances. Therefore, the implementation of the 45 actions contained in the Policy must take place within the context of Government policy on public expenditure and staff numbers and further policy directives as set out by the Department of Finance. The review and annual implementation programme provide an opportunity to prioritise the implementation of the actions of the Policy and to oversee the development/management of the costs involved. In addition, this review and annual implementation programme may identify: cost savings for the State over the lifetime of the Policy in terms of increased efficiencies in sustainable planning and construction; procurement mechanisms in environmental, engineering and architectural projects being undertaken by the State; and in other potential areas such as energy efficiency in older buildings in State ownership and enhanced management of land resources through developed urban design criteria. Any such analysis or consideration of increased efficiencies within such a review will be carried out in tandem with those Departments responsible for each area noted.

The Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 complements and supports the Government's wider economic recovery strategy in areas such as planning, procurement, research, green enterprise and the development of efficient and sustainable technologies for the built environment. Throughout the Policy, there are many actions, both general and specific, that may have economic benefits for architecture, urban design and the various industries/professions directly related to the Policy and the built environment. It is an objective of this Policy to support initiatives on job creation, enterprise and specific programmes developed by Enterprise Ireland under the aegis of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, in relation to architecture and business development both in Ireland and abroad. There is also a focus on making the most efficient and effective use of scarce resources in areas such as buildings being designed as potential energy generating environments, historic buildings contributing to a reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions, preventive maintenance for buildings in State ownership and adaptive re-use of existing buildings.



The Key Statements of the Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 are:

In order to strengthen the evidence base for architecture and built environment policy, the Government will actively promote research into the designed environment and will seek to optimise the alignment of existing research funding sources with the need to develop capacities and to deliver reliable information on factors that impinge on strategic decisions;

The Government recognises that the availability of architectural expertise at the appropriate levels in the public service is a key requirement in the delivery of a quality built environment to the citizens of the State;

Environmental imperatives which extend to every aspect of design and architectural quality are also measured by building performance over time. The Government will play a key role in setting standards and in ensuring that best practice is followed in the delivery of the designed built environment;

The Government is committed to ensuring the architectural quality of all buildings procured through state funding and to enhancing the importance of both architectural quality and the achievement of value for money as central objectives;

The Government recognises the importance of fostering architectural creativity and innovation and recognises the key role in certain circumstances of architectural design competitions in delivering architectural quality and value for money in the built environment;

The State is committed to the highest standards in the protection, conservation and maintenance of the built heritage and landscapes in its care and to promoting the adoption of these standards towards the historic built environment;

The Government recognises the need to accelerate access to continuing education and training with regard to sustainable and high quality built environment provision and the protection of architectural heritage;

Creation of sustainable communities and the maintenance of existing communities involves integrating urban and landscape design, urban and building conservation and architectural quality criteria at every level in the planning process and effective co-ordination of hard and soft infrastructure provision in developing areas. High quality “place-making” must also recognise the importance of locational criteria in the promotion of a sustainable built environment;

An objective with regard to the production of a sustainable built environment is that the value of the existing built environment as a resource for the future is recognised and exploited. Subject to protecting its cultural value, continuing use of the existing building stock should be an important objective in both public and privately led development;

The Government will enter into active collaboration with professional bodies, statutory agencies and institutions to establish a comprehensive approach to promoting awareness of the value of good architecture and environmental design and in fostering the demand for quality balanced with the need for value for money;

The Government recognises that appreciation of the cultural and artistic value of architecture has an important role in supporting educational and awareness initiatives that develop public engagement with the built environment;

The Government takes the view that environmental education should continue to form part of curricula across the spectrum of institutions and specialist subjects. Initiatives to encourage cross-campus engagement with students and staff through exhibitions, lectures and debates will further the development of a wider understanding of architecture and the built urban and rural environment. Schools of Architecture are a potential resource in this regard;

The Government recognises the educational value of building projects and seeks to exploit this potential in projects for which it is responsible and to encourage agencies procuring buildings to do so wherever possible;

The Implementation Programme for the Policy on Architecture will set specific goals and timeframes for Actions in the Policy and for providing feedback on progress;

The production and management of a sustainable high quality built environment will be advanced by integrating architectural design and planning frameworks.





2.1 Background

A new policy on architecture aimed at achieving quality within the built environment must be evidence-based. Policy actions need to be based on understanding the nature of the challenges to be faced, the success or otherwise of previous interventions and information about current initiatives. Despite its prominence in our society and economy, investment in built environment research is low in comparison with other EU member states or the United States. In a changing environment, it may not be considered wise to depend on precedent or on data derived from other countries.

The need for strategic planning makes it necessary to take a holistic view of research on the built environment. The issue is not just about funding technology or materials research. Research encompasses examining concepts, developing, using and testing them in the Irish context, driving innovation and developing world class performance. We need to develop our understanding of the complex phenomena of urban growth and the transformation of the countryside, in the context of climate and economic change, emerging technologies, and the changing demands and expectations of the public. Detailed analysis of building performance will deliver essential feedback to all involved in building procurement. It is also necessary to draw upon the many disciplines relevant to environmental intervention in order to underpin strategic decisions affecting the built environment: sociology; anthropology; archaeology; history; economics; and environmental, building and materials sciences, in a way that facilitates design decision-making. Applied research must be synthesised to lead more directly towards change and practical improvements. In short, there is need to develop research in the field of architecture.

It is the Government's intention to create a new knowledge-based decision-making environment with regard to architecture policy and that this Policy is integrated with other central Government policy directives.



2.2 Developing Research Structure and Capacity

There is need for a strategic shift that sees substantial concentration of research effort devoted to built environment issues to match that focused on the natural environment. The greater part of Ireland's population is comprised of urban dwellers, and research indicates that the trend towards increasing urbanisation will continue. A focus on the quality of the built environment must take into account the range of settlement patterns in the state. Research on the impacts of the designed environment on the quality of life in Ireland, and on the effectiveness of methods used in the creation and maintenance of the built environment, is needed. Robust decisions on all areas of intervention, including those related to quality, require research that increases our understanding of the human responses to the environment, the visual fabric of our environment and the impact of the growing significance of visual culture. We need research not only into technological aspects of built environment provision, but also into aspects of our systems of governance, such as planning and building control.

In order to strengthen the evidence base for architecture and built environment policy, the Government will actively promote research into the designed environment and will seek to optimise the alignment of existing research funding sources with the need to develop capacities and to deliver reliable information on factors that impinge on strategic decisions.

The objective of Government policy in this area is to ensure that State bodies establish a research agenda relevant to their remit.

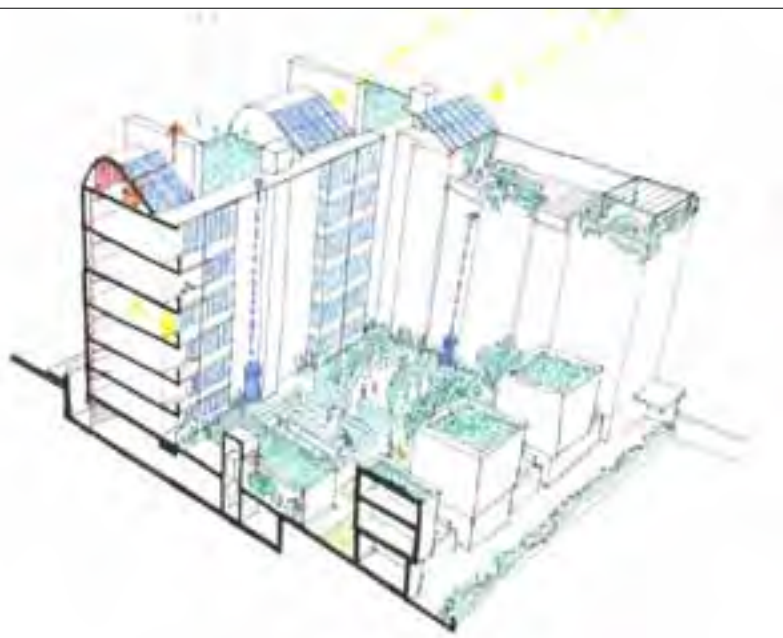
European industry has established the European Construction Technology Platform²² with the support of the European Commission and the participation of many of the EU's most important manufacturers and contractors as well as representatives of owners, designers, regulators, educators and financiers. The Platform has developed research strategies that strongly influence the direction and content of EC research. National Platforms mirroring the European Platform have emerged in most member states.

- Action 1**
- In order to develop a robust framework for an evidence-based policy on architecture into the future the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will convene a built environment research committee and initiate discussions with relevant parties to guide the Department in formulating a research strategy for architecture and the built environment. In order to assist with the formulation of the strategy the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will:**
- i. convene a research colloquium in collaboration with the Office of Public Works and other relevant parties to examine the issue of research funding as applied to the built environment;**
 - ii. commission a research scoping study to identify the range and priorities for architectural research to support the Policy on Architecture. The study should include identification of the bodies that have funded research in architecture and potential sponsors of architectural research. The study should associate the research priorities with specific funding programmes, identify where adjustments may be required and include a gap analysis leading to the identification of a number of definition studies in areas of significance to the Policy. The study should set out the research strategy required to support the Policy on Architecture and recommend appropriate management and funding mechanisms; and**
 - iii. commission a research study into aspects of the Irish climate that specifically impact on requirements for building performance to be then incorporated into the regulatory framework.**

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will oversee the implementation of the research strategy and undertake where appropriate the definition studies identified in the research scoping study. The definition studies will identify the most urgent research tasks and information requirements.

The research scoping study will pay particular attention to the following: the criteria for exemplars of best practice with regard to sustainable “place-making”; building energy performance and whole life-cycle costing; environmental performance of building forms and typologies in high-density design and construction; the potential for all forms of construction systems to deliver higher sustainability standards, and factors affecting the social sustainability of settlements. This scoping study will take account of the range of research currently being undertaken in other European countries.

Action 2 The Office of Public Works will undertake materials research to support State practice and technical advice in the area of building conservation, maintenance, and repair.



2.3 Research in Architecture

The discipline of architecture may be seen as an element of the interaction between the physical, environmental, cultural, social, and economic aspects of society. Within this interaction, the process and delivery of architectural design plays a pivotal role, a role that should be reflected in evidence-based research studies. The architectural research undertaken in such studies should be comprehensive, drawing upon the broader methodologies of other related disciplines.

Action 3 In order to strengthen the evidence base for policy, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will co-ordinate post-occupancy evaluation studies of buildings procured through direct State funding and publish the outcomes. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works will establish within their procurement provisions mechanisms for data gathering and analysis on schemes procured through public funding and Public Private Partnership.

2.4 Research Partnerships

Along with establishing the research agenda and appropriate funding mechanisms, the focus of Government will be to build on existing research collaborations in architecture and identify additional potential partners. It is essential that architecture schools become both centres of research and leaders of design-led thinking on the built environment. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Office of Public Works, the Department of Education and Science, and other bodies such as Sustainable Energy Ireland, the Arts Council and the Heritage Council will invite proposals in relation to research themes/programmes and information requirements.

Action 4 The Office of Public Works, in collaboration with academic institutions and other state-supported educational institutions, will identify areas where there is need for new design insight and will sponsor design research initiatives in partnership with the construction and development sectors, and disseminate the outcomes.

Action 5 The Arts Council, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Science, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and other relevant parties, will establish a working group to carry out the following:

- i. collate and assess the experience of existing schemes aimed at developing appreciation and awareness of the built environment, and of other related schemes initiated under this Policy, in order to ensure the optimum use of resources in support of the Policy and to provide operational feedback and intellectual continuity into the future;**
- ii. sponsor a research project to consider national and international models of special interest collaboration with schools, in order to advance the aims of the Policy;**
- iii. identify partners that can offer sustainable, funded support mechanisms for schemes involving architects working with teachers and pupils in schools.**

Any recommendations or outcomes following establishment of such a working group referred to above, must have regard both to their resource implications for the Arts Council, and also to the fact that the budgetary resources likely to be available over the lifetime of this policy to the Minister for Education and Science for development of services in the education sector may be allocated to fund existing policy commitments.







3.1 Background

The State plays a major role in the procurement of the built environment and the protection of the architectural heritage through its own actions, whether by central government and its agencies or through the public authorities. In seeking to improve the quality of the built environment, the Government considers it important that greater weight is placed on architectural quality in the context of value for money. Architectural quality means that the building is fit for its intended use or function, yet flexible in the face of unknown future demands, is durable in terms of its design and construction, respects and enhances its environment and is aesthetically of high quality. Architectural quality is also defined by how the building answers the profound challenges of environmental sustainability and climate change.

In meeting these challenges, the Government will support innovation in architecture and urban design, encouraging Departments and public authorities responsible for building procurement to be open to new initiatives in these areas.



3.2 Matching Architectural Expertise to Built Environment Challenges

The experience of recent years has demonstrated, both through projects executed in this country and through the success of Irish architects in competitions and completed projects overseas, that there is an abundance of design ability, knowledge, and experience available. One of the roles of Government in leading by example is to ensure that these qualities are brought to bear in the most effective way. In-house architectural expertise available to relevant public authorities or consolidated at a regional or city/county level is an essential prerequisite in the achievement of a good quality built environment. While the primary aim is to ensure that public authorities are adequately resourced in this regard, the requirement for design expertise is recognised across the spectrum, including in organisations involved in the provision of housing or urban renewal.

The Government recognises that the availability of architectural expertise at the appropriate levels in the public service is a key requirement in the delivery of a quality built environment to the citizens of the State.

A key element in the implementation of the Policy will be the effective use of existing expertise within the public service at every level. Currently the most senior architectural appointment in the public service is that of the Principal Architect in the Office of Public Works. The existing duties and responsibilities of that architect include advising the President (An tUachtaráin), the Government and the Commissioners of Public Works on all matters that come within the scope of the professions of architecture and other disciplines concerned with the built environment and built heritage; advising on architectural issues including National Monuments and all Government Departments and Offices; and advising on Government Architectural Policy and representing the Office of Public Works at the European Forum for Architectural Policies. The Principal Architect also advises on matters of art as they pertain to architecture and the built environment, liaises with the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and all other professional institutes, associations and societies as required and supervises the team of architectural examiners that advise on determinations under Section 482 of the Finance Act 1997, as well as on the selection of projects for EU funding under various schemes.

Action 6

To underline the importance of architectural quality as a cornerstone of national policy on the built environment the title of Principal Architect in the Office of Public Works will be changed to State Architect and Principal Architect in the Office of Public Works and the role will be strengthened to include:

- i. advising on the implementation of the Architecture Policy Actions;**
- ii. contributing to the Government Construction Contracts Committee (GCCC) to developing procurement and contracting policies in support of architectural quality in State funded projects;**
- iii. consultee regarding legislation and regulations affecting quality in architecture and the built environment;**
- iv. consultee regarding the design quality of all infrastructural programmes;**
- v. advising the relevant Departments of the accumulated experience and expertise in the public service and of programmes that will ensure that the care of monuments, and the conservation, restoration and re-use of historic buildings is fully exploited;**
- vi. acting as a point of reference and advice in the dissemination of knowledge and expertise.**

- Action 7** In order to advance the quality of the designed environment, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in collaboration with the City and County Managers Association, will consider the benefits of each county/city council submitting plans for the provision of in-house architectural services, headed at the level of City or County Architect whose responsibilities may include:
- i. the promotion of architectural quality within the built environment;
 - ii. specific engagement with infrastructure and public realm projects;
 - iii. engagement with NGO and private sector activities in the promotion of architecture and architectural heritage, including exhibitions and publications and local awards schemes in order to promote architecture among the wider public.

The plans submitted will include the deployment of architects and other related professionals including architectural conservation officers to ensure that architectural conservation issues are proactively addressed. This may also include proposals to regionalise specific expertise in creating efficiencies given the current economic difficulties and limited resources available in this regard.

- Action 8** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will require County and City Development Board strategies to incorporate aims and actions on architectural quality.





3.3 Translating New Standards into Practice

Shaping the built environment of the future will require substantial adjustment in design thinking at all levels, in developing the form of settlements, the nature of public space and in radically improving the performance of buildings. Adapting the existing built environment will be a continuing challenge. Ireland faces ever more stringent energy and environmental performance requirements together with new compliance certification demands. Notwithstanding some significant change in residential construction systems, (40% improvement in energy and environmental performance in 2008 as compared to 2005, moving to a target of 60% in 2010), greater change can be expected to follow both with regard to residential buildings and across the spectrum of the built environment. However, significant challenges remain if these proposed changes in performance are to be delivered without undue risk of failure. Considerable efforts are therefore required to develop the necessary capacities and skills, to ensure the requisite knowledge and understanding, and to complete the research and development tasks needed to safely deliver new and upgraded buildings that are capable of meeting future performance requirements.

Environmental imperatives, which extend to every aspect of design and architectural quality, are also measured by building performance over time. The Government will play a key role in setting standards and in ensuring that best practice is followed in the delivery of the designed built environment.

The discipline of whole life costing promoted under the *Government's Capital Works Management Framework* (Planning and Control of Capital Costs GN2.2 and Budget Development GN1.3)⁴ must continue to be consolidated in all public procurement, in a rigorous, realistic and objective manner. To be effective, whole life costing should be accompanied by analytical examination of sustainability performance, taking into account the wider economic, social, and environmental context.



Action 9

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will, in accordance with the requirements of the Capital Works Management Framework:

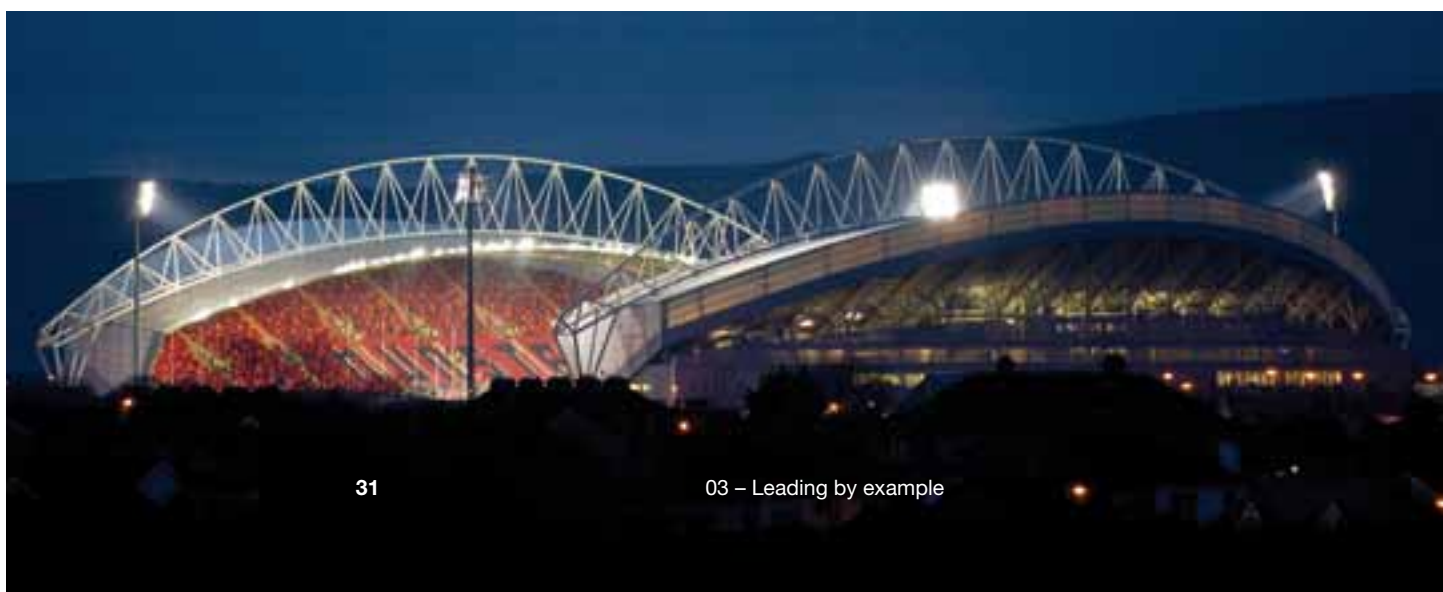
- i. investigate appropriate incentives for best practice in regard to future-proofing of buildings. The objective is that buildings be designed for resilience, and in terms of energy as net resource-generating environments;
- ii. develop relevant guidance documents on key sustainability criteria. Such documents will have wide application, for example as design aids and in evaluating applications for new building developments in order to ensure compliance with their objectives on sustainability, functionality and value for money as referred to above and as benchmarks against which to assess competition entries. The future adaptability and the ease to which the materials used could be recycled at the end of their lifespan are among the factors to be considered;
- iii. ensure that buildings procured in all public building contracts are designed for ease of maintenance and upgrade. In support of this action the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, in conjunction with the Government Construction Contracts Committee and with the assistance of relevant agencies will prepare a guidance document on the application of whole life costing in building projects in the State.

3.4 The Role of the State in Building Procurement

Through the apparatus of State and local government, influence is exercised on every building erected in the country. The State has a key role as building promoter, client, and property owner and employs a variety of procurement methods in accordance with this role and the requirements of the Government as described in the *Capital Works Management Framework*⁴. In view of its responsibility in setting an example for the community, the Government must present itself as an exemplary client committed to quality in every aspect of building procurement and property development, including the conservation and maintenance of its existing building stock. Its objective is to ensure the highest standards of design and construction in projects for which it has direct responsibility, which includes the objective to achieve both value for money and affordability. The public areas of such buildings are of particular significance in that they accommodate the interface of citizens with the apparatus of democratic government.

The Government is committed to ensuring the architectural quality of all buildings procured through state funding and to enhancing the importance of both architectural quality and the achievement of value for money as central objectives.

- Action 10** **In order to further promote the achievement of quality, the Government will implement the following measures:**
- i. **The Office of Public Works will contribute to the work of the Government Contracts Construction Committee in developing guidelines for quality in architecture and the built environment for all procurement by contracting authorities. Such guidance should apply also to leasing/rental of property and development undertaken through Public Private Partnership (PPP);**
 - ii. **the Office of Public Works will contribute to the work of the Government Construction Contracts Committee by conducting a review of:**
 - a) **the effectiveness of current procurement procedures with respect to architectural conservation projects, and**
 - b) **thresholds for architectural projects established under provisions for PPP projects;**
 - iii. **the Office of Public Works will report to the Government Construction Contracts Committee on the effectiveness of the current percentage ratings for architectural quality in the assessment process for Public Private Partnership projects.**
- Action 11** **The Government departments with responsibility for building procurement will undertake to educate, inform and communicate with the public, the building industry and professions, by demonstrating and achieving exemplary and sustainable practice in the architectural commissioning of works and services, and by resourcing their own structures and services with the necessary professional support to maintain, improve and enlarge this work and expertise.**



3.5 Fostering Creativity and Innovation

The best interest of society is served when it can draw on talent and creativity as well as experience and knowledge in providing for its needs. The pace of change demands that fresh thinking and new understanding of how issues might be approached is of significant importance. Meeting that challenge will mean drawing on a wide range of expertise from many disciplines, including architecture. It is important that architectural creativity is brought to bear at every level - at the level of built environment strategy as well as at the level of the building project. The Policy on Architecture seeks to reinforce the progress made in recent years in establishing a climate of critical exploration, architectural design investigation, and research through design. The fuller exploitation of talent and creativity will require that procurement of services and works is opened to wider expertise, thus optimising the delivery of projects of high quality, and of innovation in sustainability.

The Government recognises the importance of fostering architectural creativity and innovation and recognises the key role in certain circumstances of architectural design competitions in delivering architectural quality and value for money in the built environment

Action 12

To ensure that the State can benefit from the diversity of available talent, the Government will implement the following measures:

- i. **the Office of Public Works in consultation with the relevant authorities such as the National Development Finance Agency, will broaden the scope for architects to engage in the process of procurement including through Public Private Partnerships;**
- ii. **the Office of Public Works in consultation with the Government Construction Contracts Committee, will ensure that procurement policy encourages participation of architectural practices at all scales, and supports coalitions and collaboration between smaller practices as a way of achieving diversity with critical mass. In this regard criteria for participation in procurement generally will be reviewed to enable the participation of practices at all scales;**
- iii. **the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Government Construction Contracts Committee will seek to increase the range of areas in which architectural competitions are deployed.**

Action 13

The Arts Council will continue to provide opportunities for creative and critical explorations within the field of architecture and in supporting the development of critical practice within the profession.





3.6 The State as Custodian of Architectural Heritage

We have inherited an historic built environment of outstanding quality, testament to the evolution of our society and culture from the earliest settlements to the works of recent times. These physical remains and the artefacts associated with them are sometimes the main evidence of the values and lifestyles of our ancestors. The stone forts, cairns, tombs and enclosures, the monastic ruins, the castles, walled towns, designed urban and demesne landscapes and great houses, the modest cottages, terraced houses and industrial buildings, tell us of our complex past and remain as a legacy for future generations. Respect for this inheritance and commitment to its survival are measures of our contemporary values. Indeed, incorporating the practical advantages and aesthetic appeal of vernacular rural design and built heritage can contribute to high quality contemporary design, tailored to today's living and energy needs. Our ability to transmit this heritage will help shape the values of the future.

The State is committed to the highest standards in the protection, conservation, and maintenance of the built heritage and landscapes in its care and to promoting the adoption of these standards towards the historic built environment.

- Action 14** **The work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in identifying structures of special interest and the Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes survey will be continued and completed under the aegis of the NIAH.**
- Action 15** **The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider creating, maintaining and making publicly accessible a central database of structures subject to legislative protection, beginning with those protected under the National Monuments Acts and under Section 10 of the Heritage Acts. In consultation with planning authorities, consideration will be given to extending the database to include buildings protected under the Planning and Development Acts.**

- Action 16** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue guidelines on how older, traditionally constructed and historic buildings can contribute to a reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions while respecting their built fabric and cultural significance. This action may take cognisance of any data on building performance derived from buildings procured and maintained through State funds and will ensure appropriate dissemination of such information.
- Action 17** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, in collaboration with the Heritage Council and a number of Local Authorities will, subject to available funding, initiate a pilot scheme in preventive maintenance for buildings in their ownership. If successful, and in consideration of the value for money aspects, a scheme may be extended progressively nationwide, beginning with the larger urban authorities. It may be appropriate to develop a scheme in time for older buildings in private ownership.



- Action 18** Building on existing initiatives, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Department of Finance, will carry out an analysis of the operation and efficiency of existing grant-aid and tax relief programmes supporting architectural heritage protection. The analysis will examine the range of initiatives supported since 2000 and recommend how the experience gained can be best utilised in the interests of heritage protection.
- Action 19** The State is committed to the documenting and publication of its work in protection of the historic landscape and built environment. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in collaboration with the Office of Public Works and the Heritage Council will sponsor conservation conferences on practice and research in the area of building and landscape conservation of which the outcomes will be published. The conferences, which will be multi-disciplinary in scope, will be guided by a Scientific Committee established for the purpose.





3.7 Developing New Knowledge and Skills

The challenges in environmental provision bring urgent demands on Government departments, local authorities and state agencies for continuous development of their knowledge and skill base. The consultations undertaken in preparation of this Policy have identified urban design, sustainable and innovative building design and construction, and the maintaining, conserving and upgrading of the thermal performance of existing buildings as key areas of development in the pursuit of excellence in architectural quality. Enhanced knowledge and new skills are critical requirements for built environment professionals, operatives, and non-technical staff in meeting the requirements of the future.

The Government recognises the need to accelerate access to continuing education and training with regard to sustainable and high quality built environment provision and the protection of architectural heritage.

Good quality design is not easily achieved. It is important, when effective collaboration between planners and architects results in the production of a built environment of good quality, that this achievement is effectively communicated. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with the professional institutes to foster better formal and informal links between the architectural, planning and related professions at local, regional and national level.

Action 20

Government Departments and state agencies with responsibility for building procurement and heritage protection will be encouraged to avail of relevant partnerships established with educational institutions, professional bodies, the Institute of Public Administration and others in the development of suitable in-house and externally provided Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to address skills needs. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government can facilitate such objectives by promoting specific multi-disciplinary programmes, and consider the benefits:

- i. reciprocal inclusion of sister disciplines on juries for local and regional awards schemes;
- ii. supporting the development of joint initiatives and activities such as lectures, site visits and professional social events at local and regional level;
- iii. acknowledging good practice in planning advice and planning authorities who take a proactive stance in favour of quality in architecture, by such measures as including a citation for the planner or planning authority in architectural awards schemes and establishing specific categories in planning awards schemes to reward the integration of architectural quality with good quality planning.







4.1 Background

The focus of Government policy is to promote the creation of sustainable communities and settlements through integration of best practice in planning, engineering, landscape, urban design, and architecture. It is the policy of the Government to work in partnership with local and regional authorities in making provision for a sustainable future. While the resourcing of local authorities is a matter that is beyond the scope of this Policy, the Government is determined to ensure that the systems in place optimise the ability of authorities to meet their responsibilities in terms of the quality of the designed environment.

The delivery of quality in architecture depends on many factors, many of them related to wider considerations of societal values and environmental and financial policy and practice. The management of land use is one of those factors and, in this regard, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has issued over the last two years key design guidance which places an imperative on sustainable development, which requires concrete action to ensure that the optimum use of the non-renewable resource of land is determined by long-term economic, social, and environmentally sustainable criteria. Such guidance documents as: *Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities*⁶; *Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities*¹⁰; and *Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas*⁷ with the associated *Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide*⁸, coupled with the ongoing Developing Areas initiative, are noteworthy in this regard.

The Leipzig Charter on the European Sustainable City, 2007²³ and the objectives of EFAP, the European Forum for Architectural Policy on issues of architectural quality and sustainable development make particular reference for the need for an integrated approach to the design of our built environment. The primary aim of Government policy is the creation and management of sustainable communities and neighbourhoods - areas where efficient use of land, high quality urban and landscape design and effectively integrated physical and social infrastructure combine to create places people want to live in. As a general principle, increased densities will be possible only when supported by sustainable forms of transportation. Environmentally attuned planning and design, within a context of thoroughly integrated land-use and transportation policies, are essential to bringing this about. The recent Department of Transport policy *Smarter travel: A Sustainable Transport Future: a new transport policy for Ireland 2009-2020*¹⁷ notes the importance of aligning spatial planning and transport. Under the Developing Areas initiative, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is closely monitoring the integration and co-ordination of the provision of essential hard and soft infrastructure in a range of fast growth areas across the country with an aim to improve the systems and processes that enable the emergence of sustainable communities.





Creation of sustainable communities and the maintenance of existing communities involves integrating urban and landscape design, urban and building conservation and architectural quality criteria at every level in the planning process and effective co-ordination of hard and soft infrastructure provision in developing areas. High quality “place-making” must also recognise the importance of locational criteria in the promotion of a sustainable built environment.

The Government’s over-arching policy framework for spatial planning at the national level, the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020²⁴, sets out many important policy objectives regarding the creation of sustainable communities. In a regional development context, planning for and the delivery of high quality sustainable communities is a key policy instrument available to the public sector in attracting investment and high value-added economic opportunities. Sustainable communities make competitive places.

The policies on housing and development, as set out at in Section 5.3 of the National Spatial Strategy, and further developed in the document *Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities*⁶ emphasise the importance of taking account of the existing character and context in designing for the future and in utilising the tools required to promote the creation of places of quality. The production of guidance documents in this regard is an integral and on-going feature of the work of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

There is an increased demand for the application of the concepts of urban design throughout the planning processes requiring input from and co-ordination of a range of disciplines. The process of working down from the National Spatial Strategy, through regional planning guidelines, city and county development plans and their regional and local housing strategies, create a more integrated approach to place-making both at a local and site specific level.

4.2 Supporting Sustainable Place-making in the Planning Process

Within the overall process of sustainable place-making, the boundaries, insights and perspectives of various disciplines necessarily and frequently over-lap. This process will take account of the economic, planning, architectural, engineering, environmental, landscape and community development challenges that need to be addressed. Successful place-making depends on the overlaps between such disciplines as engineering, planning and architecture being managed and led effectively. Section 6 below, dealing with the implementation of this Policy on Architecture, sets out other proposals on how integration can be advanced over the target period. Good practice also requires that planning authorities continue to devote the necessary resources to, and place high importance on, the achievement of sustainable communities and high quality development in:

- i preparing well considered and comprehensive plans, in line with national policy and guidance for cities, counties, towns and local areas;
- ii facilitating proper pre-planning application consultation processes as well as appraisal and decision-making on planning applications; and
- iii carrying out enforcement activity as required.

In this regard, the quality of the public realm is of particular importance. It is essential that both statutory and non-statutory plans take adequate account of existing design guidance.

Government policy will seek to encourage urban design that is community centred and that uses the lessons of the past in making use of design strategies that avoid anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Such a strategy involves re-design and retro-fitting of the urban built environment in RAPID²⁵ (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) residential areas to make them more conducive to community life and to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Rural Development Programme 2007-13¹⁸ includes specific measures for the conservation and upgrading of our rural heritage. The White Paper on Rural Development – *Ensuring the Future - A Strategy for Rural Development in Ireland*¹⁹ commits the Government to striving to achieve a rural Ireland in which “there will be vibrant sustainable communities with the range of age, income and occupational groups, such as to allow them to adapt to on-going economic, social, cultural and environmental change and to enjoy a standard of living which will make them attractive communities in which to live and work”.





Action 21

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the provisions of the Planning Acts, will require that development plans and local area plans demonstrate compliance with key design criteria set out in its guidance documents: **Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities⁶**; **Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities¹⁰**; **Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities¹⁵**; **Sustainable Rural Housing – Guidelines for Planning Authorities⁹**; and **Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas⁷** with the associated **Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide⁸**. In support, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will continue to advance such objectives under the **Developing Areas** initiative and will also publish supplementary guidance on sustainable place-making drawing from examples of validated best practice in creating and maintaining integrated, sustainable places, in terms of architectural and urban design quality as well as social engagement.



4.3 Making Best Use of the Built Environment Resource

One of the key elements in achieving a sustainable high quality environment is ensuring that the potential of existing assets is fully realised and that their qualities are recognised and respected. Many public authorities currently have substantial holdings of land and buildings, many of which are located in areas adjacent to established facilities, and with the potential to enhance the public realm. In some cases, these holdings may form part of an existing urban landscape and their creative exploitation can retain a sense of place and identity in new developments. Assessment and analysis of the potential for sensitive adaptation and re-use of existing buildings and landscapes including historical/vernacular settlement patterns, and the re-use of building materials needs to be mainstreamed in the development process. In setting local policy on the most efficient and sustainable use of existing resources, public authorities should follow the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's *Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects*¹⁶ in addition to the documents referenced in Action 21.

An objective with regard to the production of a sustainable built environment is that the value of the existing built environment as a resource for the future is recognised and exploited. Subject to protecting its cultural value, continuing use of the existing building stock should be an important objective in both public and privately led development.





Action 22

To assist in meeting sustainability objectives public authorities, assisted by the development and implementation of sustainable planning by local authorities, will be encouraged to introduce the following measures:

- i. prioritise assessment of their existing land holdings including redundant and underused building stock in terms of its economic and social value. In deciding on future development, public authorities will be asked to encourage adaptive re-use of buildings that would be compatible with their character and significance;
- ii. develop their sustainability policies and objectives to specifically address the re-use of the existing building stock;
- iii. prepare a conservation policy for buildings of architectural heritage value in their care and/or ownership and within this framework to prepare a conservation plan for individual places as appropriate. Such policies should be based on an inventory of their historic building stock and make provision for ongoing conservation and maintenance programmes in fulfilment of the policy objectives;
- iv. with regard to developments on publicly-owned brown field sites, consideration will be given to measures which take account of existing material resources on the site and the potential for this material to be reused. Such an account should form part of the assessment of the site potential of the land, and its potential for planning purposes.

Action 23

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider the issue of guidelines on the assessment and adaptive re-use of existing buildings in public authority and private ownership, and on the disposal of historic buildings by public authorities.



- Action 24** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider extending its existing guidance by publishing guidelines for local authorities regarding the role of existing buildings in promoting a sustainable environment. The guidelines will recommend:
- i. where demolition of existing buildings and ground works is proposed in whole or in part, the application submitted should include an audit of the existing materials on site and a method statement regarding salvage, reuse or disposal;
 - ii. that, as part of a regular review, planning authorities should consider mechanisms to encourage the adaptive re-use of existing buildings.
- Action 25** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider extending eligibility for grant aid, subject to approval by the Department of Finance, for conservation and repair works within architectural conservation areas and review measures to provide additional support to planning authorities in the preparation of such areas.
- Action 26** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with the Building Regulations Advisory Body and relevant professional institutes with regard to providing detailed advice on best practice on the application of the Building Regulations to older/traditionally-built buildings with a view to appropriate alteration.

4.4 Supporting Architectural Quality

Good building design is facilitated by ensuring that the appropriate planning and urban design frameworks are incorporated into the statutory instruments available to planning authorities. Foremost among these is the Development Plan. The objective must be to ensure that there is an increasing approach to quality-led provisions in both statutory and non-statutory plans generated by local authorities as set out in recent Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance, previously referred to (see Appendix i).

Action 27 The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with relevant groups to derive guidelines with respect to a number of key issues:

- i. in collaboration with the relevant professional institutes, setting generally applicable performance criteria in relation to sustainability, under the inter-linked headings of environmental, economic and social criteria, taking account of best international practice;**
- ii. evaluating the criteria for high and large scale buildings in urban areas and their impact on historic urban areas.**

High quality architecture offers opportunities to adapt the experience and lessons of past rural building design to the current need for buildings to be carbon efficient while making the most effective use of the natural advantages that rural locations may offer for sustainable design. Contemporary architecture and design also have an important role to play in the design of rural buildings that make the best use of their location, while still blending into and enhancing the natural landscape.









5.1 Background

The quality of the built environment is largely dependent on the value that society places on it. Awareness and understanding of the practical, psychological, and cultural role of our environment allows us to play a full part in society, and in the creation of the places we inhabit. Responsibility for shaping, managing, and re-shaping the built environment is one shared by all sectors in society: communities, central and local Government, design and building professions, financial institutions, specialist agencies, clients who commission buildings and the building industry. Without an interested, well-informed, and demanding public, creation of a high quality built environment and protection of our significant inheritance from the past is difficult to achieve.

The continuing challenge has a new dimension: how to integrate this broad cultural agenda with the urgent requirement that we establish a sustainable built environment. It must provide a well-functioning setting for the practicalities of everyday life. It also must attain the highest standards of sustainability. That complex challenge is reflected in all the Actions of the Policy and is expressed in a particular way when addressing how support across the community can be developed and maintained.

In preparing this Policy, the Government sets out to ensure that awareness and understanding of this complex challenge is cultivated in our society, and those initiatives taken to promote awareness, understanding and engagement are supported. Education is vital to achieving sustainability and environmental quality. The objective is to develop in the community an understanding of architecture, landscape, and urban design and of the processes by which our environment is shaped. This Policy seeks to build on the achievements to date, some of which have arisen as a result of *Action on Architecture 2002-2005*², to promote a situation where people have the confidence and capacity to engage effectively and appropriately in the creation and management of a high quality built environment. The strategies envisaged extend from increasing international networking and improving effective use of resources and communication between existing agencies, to ensuring better access to information at local level.

In this regard, and following constructive partnership with both Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Enterprise Ireland, it is an objective that within this Policy there are various actions that will support initiatives on job creation and enterprise, including specific Enterprise Ireland programmes such as 'Enterprise Ireland's International Selling Programme delivered by the Dublin Institute of Technology' and the 'Leadership 4 Growth programme' which will support these objectives. It is an ambition that the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment through the aegis of Enterprise Ireland support this policy and its potential use regarding the export of Irish skills and products abroad regarding quality within the built Environment.



5.2 Developing a Partnership Strategy

Recent years have witnessed an increased interest in architecture in Ireland, both internationally and across the country. The work of Culture Ireland and the Arts Council has brought Irish contemporary architecture to an international audience. The positive international response can play an important role in fostering a sense of pride in our architecture. In time, such pride will contribute to the demand for quality and the commissioning and design of quality buildings. It is important to exploit the potential of organisations and institutions to developing awareness and the meaningful engagement of citizens.

The Arts Council's remit gives it a central role in the development of appreciation and public awareness of architecture as an art form. The Heritage Council has a well-established record of delivering or supporting the delivery by others of research and educational initiatives in relation to the built and natural environment. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government itself publishes guidance for citizens on environmental and architectural issues. *Action on Architecture 2002 – 2005*² resulted in the establishment of the Irish Architecture Foundation. In the first few years of its existence, the Foundation has established a series of events that have given expression to the aspirations of the document. Action 9 of that document focused on the potential of cultural institutions such as the National Museum, National Library, National Archives, National Gallery, and the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

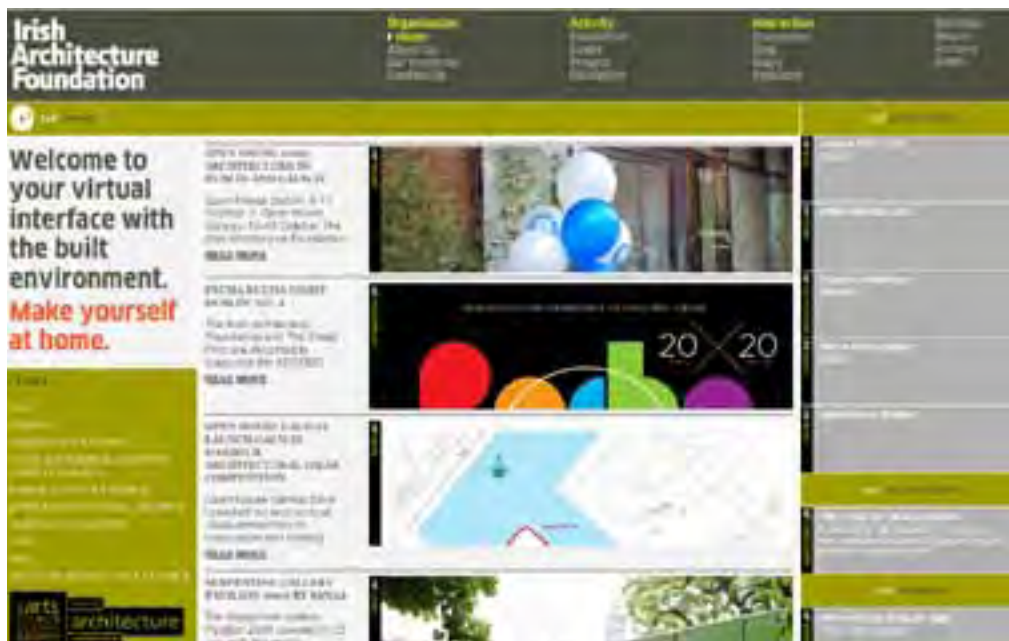
Since then, the number of institutions that have the potential to promote the cultural, technical, and sustainable aspects of architecture has been expanding. These include county museums, Irish Architectural Archive, local arts centres, and local libraries, theatres, and galleries. Public authorities and local organisations are resources for education, awareness, and advice. Professional bodies, amenity societies, and built environment organisations produce educational materials on architecture and the built environment.

It is clear that there is a need to improve some aspects of the functional and technical performance of buildings, such as, for example, sound performance in apartments. Users need to be provided with the means of evaluating the practical requirements of the built environment and challenging poor performance when they encounter it. This task needs to be addressed through all available channels with the engagement of educational, professional, and other relevant bodies.

The Government will enter into active collaboration with professional bodies, statutory agencies, and institutions to establish a comprehensive approach to promoting awareness of the value of good architecture and environmental design and in fostering the demand for quality balanced with the need for value for money.

For example, a notable feature of recent years has been the collaboration of design and planning professions, through initiatives such as the Urban Forum, in developing multi-disciplinary perspectives on design of the built environment.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Action 28 | Through the implementation mechanisms established for this Policy on Architecture, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism will review, in liaison with the range of appropriate cultural institutions, whether and to what extent, the promotion of architecture could be further developed as part of their individual briefs. |
| Action 29 | The Office of Public Works, Departments of State, public authorities and other agencies with responsibility for the procurement of buildings will ensure that public building projects are published and/or exhibited in an accessible manner for the general public. Review of such exhibitions will help develop understanding of architectural quality. |



- Action 30** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Arts Council and the Heritage Council, will develop an approach to fostering an understanding of architecture as an art form and as a component of our shared cultural inheritance by including an explicit architectural and built environment focus within the briefs of Local Authority Arts, Architectural Conservation and Heritage Officers.
- Action 31** In pursuit of its remit to develop awareness of the architectural heritage, the Heritage Council in collaboration with the Irish Architectural Archive will commission and publish a guide, aimed at diverse audiences, to the source material for architectural history in Ireland.
- Action 32** FÁS, in association with its partners and the Construction Industry Federation and relevant education bodies will undertake the following actions:
- enhance training in upgrading, repair and maintenance of existing buildings in line with good conservation practice;
 - ensure that skills appropriate to sustainable energy construction and conservation technologies are developed in apprentice training courses;
 - invite participation of architecture schools in preparing an architectural awareness module for inclusion in Phase 2 of construction apprentice training courses. The module will be introduced as each course comes up for review.



Action 33

In order to advance public engagement with architecture, the Arts Council, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, will undertake the following actions:

- i. commission a feasibility study into the provision of venues for architecture in Ireland. The study will examine existing comparable countries where such a resource exists while investigating the needs of Ireland in the context of all agencies, public and private, working within the area;
- ii. as a contribution to this study, within the next five years, establish pilot architectural exhibitions/events and monitor the audience response, using the findings as base information for the study;



- iii. further develop the network of existing venues such as City and County halls, libraries, galleries, theatres and arts centres throughout the country to support an ongoing programme of architectural events and exhibitions.

Action 34

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will support initiatives developed by the Irish Architecture Foundation to further the aims of this Policy, including development of a virtual interface as a portal for programmes and initiatives in architecture, design and the wider built environment.

5.3 Opportunities at Local Level

One of the more notable developments of recent years has been the great increase in public interest in planning and the environment. There are particularly good opportunities for the promotion of awareness and the demand for quality through the local government structures. One of the main areas in which the public may have a direct contact with architecture is through their interaction with planning authorities. Arts officers, architectural conservation officers and heritage officers within local authorities also play a role in the delivery of national programmes in partnership with the Arts Council, the Heritage Council and other national agencies. City and county halls, libraries, galleries, theatres and arts centres provide venues for exhibitions, meetings, local festivals and other events to which members of the public have access. Local authority websites are often the first port of call for citizens contemplating building or extending for themselves, or concerned about developments proposed by others. Increasingly, local authorities hold public consultations on area and other plans providing an opportunity for discussion on quality in architecture and the built environment.

Action 35

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will recommend that local authorities assist citizens and promote architectural quality by:

- i. producing exhibition material and publishing relevant and key public building projects within their area as an integral part of the procurement process and ensuring that this policy is incorporated in development plans, heritage plans and arts plans;
- ii. maintaining user-friendly websites, with links to portal sites through which more extensive access to architectural and built environment information and advice can be found.





5.4 The School Curriculum and Teacher Education

There are many areas of the curriculum of primary and second-level schools in which the built environment is an element, while not having a high profile. It is important that all opportunities within the curriculum are used to full advantage.

The Primary Curriculum Support Programme (PCSP)¹³ has actively promoted built environment education as part of professional development in Social Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE)¹⁴ over the past four years. At secondary level, architecture in some of its aspects is contained within a range of syllabi including Construction Studies, Art, Home Economics Social and Scientific, Geography and History. The introduction of Architectural Technology to the Leaving Certificate curriculum will add to its visibility. The Primary Curriculum Support Programme¹³ has focussed particularly on using the built environment as a location for learning and this is recognised as one of the principal methodologies for developing awareness and understanding of architecture. The Primary Curriculum Support Programme¹³ has developed the skills of teachers to this end using an Educational Trails approach and the pedagogical knowledge to achieve its potential is readily available within the primary teaching cohort. Schools and teachers need to be encouraged to continue with the development of this approach with school managements ensuring that the necessary supports and protections for teachers are in place.

The Government recognises that appreciation of the cultural and artistic value of architecture has an important role in supporting educational and awareness initiatives that develop public engagement with the built environment.

Action 36

With regard to primary and second level schools and teacher training institutions, the Department of Education and Science will complete the work in progress of identifying curriculum strands/areas across a range of subjects which can facilitate teaching and learning about architecture and the built environment and undertake the following supporting actions:

- i. encourage the use of the local environment as a location for learning, to suit the specific circumstance of individual schools and promote the adoption of such practices by Boards of Management;
- ii. identify, together with the teacher professional networks, the support services and other organisations, readily available teaching resources which support teaching and learning about the built environment and which support learning in curriculum strands/areas identified in the research conducted under Action on Architecture 2002 -2005². This information should be made available through the Virtual Architecture Centre or another existing website;
- iii. facilitate, in co-operation with the relevant organisations, an annual, task-based architecture awards scheme for schools incorporating a range of categories covering various age groups and subjects at primary and post-primary level. The task brief in each award category will provide close links to the respective curriculum element and subject syllabus. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Science, will provide support for the competitions by means of the internet, including appropriate background information and advice and guidance on the organisation and completion of the tasks;
- iv. in collaboration with relevant organisations including the Arts Council, and as resources allow, establish an 'Architect in Residence Scheme' in teacher training colleges associated with the education of teachers of Construction Studies, Home Economics, Art, and Architectural Technology;
- v. The Department of Education and Science will facilitate, as resources allow, in collaboration with the Arts Council, an 'Architect in Schools' scheme, to enhance architectural awareness in the participating schools.

5.5 Opportunities in Third Level and Further Education

While primary and secondary education curricula provide structured opportunities for environmental education that can readily be built upon, third level institutions and further education programmes offer a different challenge. The students now pursuing further and higher education programmes will feature strongly among the cohort of opinion-formers and decision-makers of the future. Therefore increasing understanding of and respect for our built and natural environment among students and staff in the universities, institutes of technology, colleges of education, the various private independent third level colleges, and over 1,400 education centres registered with the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC), can be expected to pay extra dividends. Government policies can encourage and provide support for the introduction of awareness initiatives across the sector.

The Government takes the view that environmental education should continue to form part of curricula across the spectrum of institutions and specialist subjects. Initiatives to encourage cross-campus engagement with students and staff through exhibitions, lectures, and debates will further the development of a wider understanding of architecture and the built urban and rural environment. Schools of architecture are a potential resource in this regard.





Action 37

The Department of Education and Science will consult with relevant stakeholders and the Higher Education Authority with a view to convening a colloquium involving directors of architectural programmes and teacher training institutions and teacher professional networks to explore how schools of architecture could collaborate to form a continual process through primary and post primary education. Potential collaborations will include:

- i. involvement in the development of teaching and learning resources and projects. Priority should be given to the development of a new resource for second level students that would build on “Shaping Space” and have a significant web-based aspect;
- ii. summer courses for primary/secondary teachers. Utilising the existing Summer Course model for primary teachers, the Department of Education and Science will seek to put a new web-based resource programme of activities and support materials in place;
- iii. involvement in a consultancy role with Support Services responsible for the provision of professional development for teachers of the revised Leaving Certificate syllabi in Art and Architectural Technology in second level schools;
- iv. the Department of Education and Science, in collaboration with the Higher Education Authority, the Higher Education and Training Awards Council and the Further Education and Training Awards Council will circulate all third level colleges to encourage outreach activities by hosting seminars, exhibitions and providing a range of part-time and evening courses related to the built and natural environment for people of all ages.

- Action 38** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will convene a colloquium involving the City and County Managers Association, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and directors of architectural programmes to examine how schools of architecture could contribute to addressing built environment design challenges at local level.
- Action 39** The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government will convene in association with the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and the Higher Education Authority a colloquium on the subject of education and training in urban and landscape design, inviting professional associations and directors of third level design programmes. The purpose is to explore opportunities for the following:
- i. initiatives that address the spectrum of environmental design challenges: advanced level multi-disciplinary design studies, integrating three-dimensional space-making with land use, transportation and economic development, and modelling with a focus on urban management;
 - ii. incorporation of urban and designed landscape studies into courses that deal with the built environment, and into programmes of continuing professional development;
 - iii. enhancing education programmes for built environment professions to ensure that building resilience becomes a driving objective, fostering appropriate design responses and construction technologies.

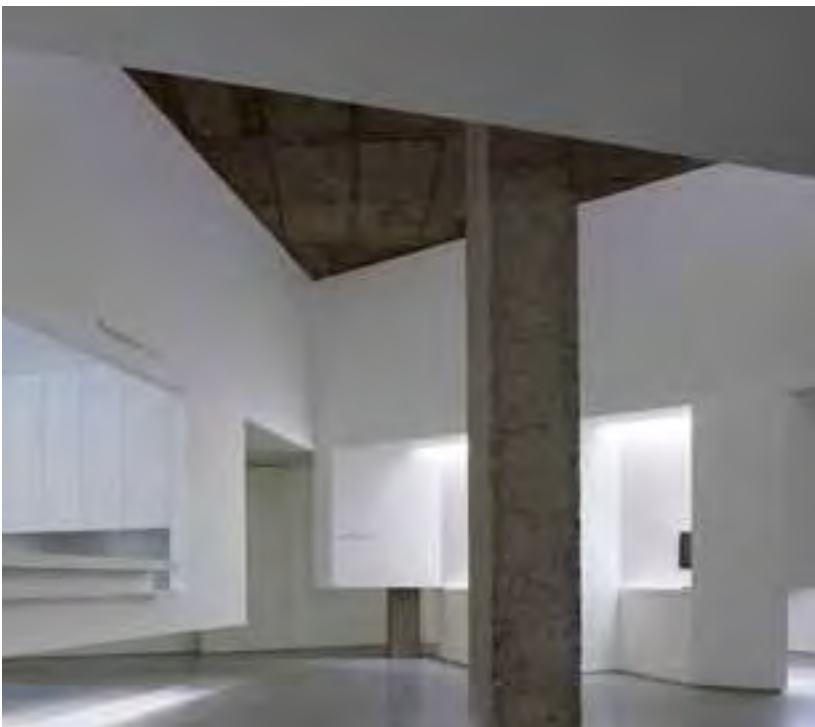


5.6 Buildings as Educational Resources

New public buildings, when completed, have a significant impact on the community they serve. The development of community connectivity and awareness can be increased by making information available both during the construction phase, and later, when the building is operational. With appropriate planning the development site itself can become a powerful and interesting base for this communication and in turn be a location for teaching and learning for children and adults alike.

The Government recognises the educational value of building projects and seeks to exploit this potential in projects for which it is responsible and to encourage agencies procuring buildings to do so wherever possible.

- Action 40** **The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will manage public buildings so as to facilitate engagement of the public with the building itself. Informational material will be introduced into public buildings to promote and explain their functioning, what they offer to the public in terms of public space, access, facilities, exhibitions etc, and their energy and environmental performance. Where possible, and subject to site conditions and cost, public building projects under construction should have a safe public viewing area, capable of accommodating a group, at the perimeter of the site complete with information panels/ screens to facilitate public engagement with the project.**
- Action 41** **Building on the success of the Green-Schools programme the Department of Education and Science will initiate a scheme, where possible, that provides information on the ongoing environmental performance of school buildings in use.**
- Action 42** **The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will sponsor television programmes that explain the process, from concept to execution of achieving good architecture, which are intelligible and accessible for the general public.**







6.1 Overview

The Actions set out in the previous sections of this Policy document cover a broad spectrum and involve many participants in addition to Government departments and State agencies. Participants that have been named in the Policy Actions include educational institutions and professional bodies and organisations devoted to the promotion of architecture. The Policy has been drawn up in the belief that good architecture and a well designed and constructed environment needs to have sustainable foundations as well as a sustainable agenda. The continuing engagement of society in bringing this about requires that the Policy be implemented consistently and persistently, and that institutions and individuals are made aware of progress on an ongoing basis.

6.2 Establishing Benchmarks and Organisational Measures to Support Quality

The Actions are intended to advance the Government's Policy in the period 2009 to 2015. This Section sets out specific Actions to ensure that the Policy is implemented and that its implementation is monitored with regard to the effectiveness of the Actions.

The Implementation Programme for the Policy on Architecture will set specific goals and timeframes for Actions in the Policy and for providing feedback on progress.

Action 43

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will assign responsibility for co-ordination of the implementation of this Policy. An implementation programme and a timetable for delivery in consultation with the principal stakeholders will be drawn up, and a progress report will be prepared annually for the Minister. An immediate focus will be the research strategy at the core of the Policy Actions. The Department will consider the benefits of:

- i. **co-ordinating the establishment and operation of a forum chaired by the State Architect (Principal Architect, Office of Public Works) and including the relevant principal or senior professional advisers of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in addition to representatives of the public and private sectors. The purpose of the forum will be as follows:**
 - a **to oversee implementation of the actions of this Policy directed towards the incorporation of quality and sustainability criteria in state-funded building projects;**
 - b **to co-ordinate the implementation of actions relating to the integration of national strategies, regional and local housing strategies, macro framework planning and local urban design initiatives, set out in this Policy on Architecture 2009-2015. A key focus will be the co-ordinated qualitative delivery of sustainable infrastructure and built environment in developing areas;**
 - c **to examine and monitor ongoing policy development and its implications arising from policy developments at EU level for all matters related to the quality of the built environment;**
- ii. **communicating across the agencies involved in the promoting of awareness and understanding of architecture within the designed environment. The Department will report on the implementation of actions in this area to facilitate planning of future initiatives;**
- iii. **as part of the annual report process, carry out a mid-term report on the implementation of the Policy in 2012.**

Action 44

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will establish a public authorities' historic buildings committee for the following purposes: to act as a means for information exchange; to organise seminars; to examine issues of common interest; and to co-ordinate guidance and advice in relation to care, maintenance and financing. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will require public authorities to establish in-house advisory groups to oversee the management and maintenance of the historic building resource.

6.3 Measures to Support Integrated Action

The task of creating, adapting, and managing the built environment in the interests of quality and sustainability is complex, and success will require important shifts in how developments and individual buildings are valued. Appraisal of quality must take the wider environment into account. The direction of policy is to create appropriate urban design contexts and to shift the focus in feasibility assessment towards a longer term appraisal of value.

The production and management of a sustainable high quality built environment will be advanced by integrating architectural design and planning frameworks.

Action 45

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with the City and County Managers Association with regard to the following:

- i. **to establish how policy actions on architecture that impact at local authority level can be implemented within the timeframe of the Policy;**
- ii. **to establish a built environment forum with the collaboration of the City and County Managers Association to heighten awareness of the measures that can be taken to drive a quality agenda for urban design, architecture and architectural conservation, building control, and landscape design and conservation.**





Appendices



Appendix (i)

References Index

Note: A reference to any document or publication is a reference to the most recent edition of that document or publication. Web addresses are correct at the time of going to press.

1. *Developing a Government Policy on Architecture: a proposed framework and discussion of issues*. Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, 1996. (Out of print)
2. *Action on Architecture 2002-2005*. Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 2002. (Out of print: available via www.environ.ie/en/ArchitecturalProtectionandHeritagePolicy/)
3. Building Control Act 2007 (No. 21/2007)
4. *Department of Finance, Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF)* Department of Finance, 2007. www.finance.gov.ie and www.constructionprocurement.gov.ie
5. *Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland*. Department of the Environment and Local Government), 1997. (Out of print: available via www.environ.ie/en/Publications/Environment/Miscellaneous/)
6. *Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2007.
7. *Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, consultation draft guidelines for Planning Authorities 2008.
8. *Urban Design Manual: a best practice guide*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008.
9. *Sustainable Rural Housing – Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2005.
10. *Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities – design guidelines*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2007.
11. *Health Impacts of the Built Environment*. Institute of Public Health in Ireland, 2006.
12. *All-Party Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution. Ninth Progress Report: Private Property*, 2004
13. Primary Curriculum Support Programme www.pcsp.ie
14. Social Environmental and Scientific Education www.curriculumonline.ie
15. *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004.
16. *Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006.
17. *Smarter travel: A Sustainable Transport Future: a new transport policy for Ireland 2009-2020*. Department of Transport, 2009. www.smartertravel.ie
18. *Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 Summary of Measures*, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, 2007
19. *Ensuring the Future – A Strategy for Rural Development in Ireland*; White paper on Rural Development, Department of Agriculture & Food, 1999
20. Enterprise Ireland Leadership 4 Growth Programme www.enterprise-ireland.com/Grow/LeadershipPeople/Leadership+4+Growth
21. Enterprise Ireland – International Selling Programme www.enterprise-ireland.com/International+Selling
22. European Construction Technology Platform www.ectp.org
23. Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities www.eu2007.de/en/News/download_docs/Mai/0524AN/075DokumentLeipzigCharta
24. The National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 www.nss.ie
25. RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning Investment and Development) www.pobail.ie/en/RAPIDandCLAR

Organisations and List of Websites and Web Portals

Departments, organisations and institutions mentioned in the text or otherwise relevant and their websites and web portals where applicable. Web addresses are correct at the time of going to press:

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) **www.environ.ie**

Department of Finance **www.finance.gov.ie**

Department of Finance – National Public Procurement Policy Unit (NPPPU) **www.constructionprocurement.gov.ie**

Department of Education and Science **www.education.ie**

Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism
www.arts-sports-tourism.gov.ie

Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland - Office of Public Works **www.opw.ie**

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
www.buildingsofireland.ie

The Arts Council **www.artscouncil.ie**

Culture Ireland **www.cultureireland.gov.ie**

The Heritage Council **www.heritagecouncil.ie**

Government Contracts Committee for Construction (GCCC)

Irish Architecture Foundation **www.architecturefoundation.ie**

Conversations about Architecture and the Built Environment
www.conversationsaboutarchitecture.ie

Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPHI) **www.publichealth.ie**

National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)
www.ncca.ie

Higher Education Authority (HEA) **www.hea.ie**

Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC)
www.hetac.ie

Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC)
www.fetac.ie

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) **www.epa.ie**

Irish Energy Research Council **[www.dcenr.gov.ie/
Energy/Office+of+the+Chief+Technical+Advisor/
Irish+Energy+Research+Council](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Energy/Office+of+the+Chief+Technical+Advisor/Irish+Energy+Research+Council)**

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) **www.sei.ie**

National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) **www.ndfa.ie**

National Disability Authority **www.nda.ie**

City and County Managers Association (CCMA)

Building Regulations Advisory Body (BRAB)
**[www.environ.ie/en/
DevelopmentandHousing/
BuildingStandards/BRAB](http://www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentandHousing/BuildingStandards/BRAB)**

National Museum of Ireland **www.museum.ie**

National Library of Ireland **www.nli.ie**

National Archives **www.nationalarchives.ie**

National Gallery of Ireland **www.nationalgallery.ie**

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) **www.imma.ie**

Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland **www.riai.ie**

Irish Architectural Archive **www.iarc.ie**

Architectural Association of Ireland (AAI) **www.aai-ireland.ie**

Urban Forum **www.riai.ie/urbanforum**

European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP)
www.ectp.org

European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP)
www.efap-fepa.eu

We wish to acknowledge our thanks to the various local authorities, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and individual architectural practices, the Office of Public Works, the Arts Council, the Dublin Docklands Development Authority, the National Building Agency and the Irish Architecture Foundation for the use of images in this publication

Appendix (ii)

Acronyms and abbreviated references used in the text

Capital Works Management Framework
CWMF

City and County Managers Association
CCMA

Continuing Professional Development
CPD

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DEHLG

Further Education and Training Awards Council
FETAC

Government Contracts Construction Committee
GCCC

Institute of Public Health in Ireland
IHPI

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NIAH

National Spatial Strategy
NSS

Non Governmental Organisation
NGO

Office of Public Works
OPW

Primary Curriculum Support Programme
PCSP

Public Private Partnership
PPP

Re-design of developments in disadvantaged urban areas
RAPID

Social Environmental and Scientific Education
SESE

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government appointed a Steering Committee, chaired by Professor Loughlin Kealy, with representatives from a broad spectrum of the public and private sectors, to oversee the development of the policy. The work of the Steering Committee has been underpinned by three focus groups, each of which has specialised in one of three core themes namely 'Promoting Awareness, Education And Research', 'Promoting Quality in the Built Environment', and 'Promoting Sustainability'.

We wish to acknowledge our thanks to the members of the Steering Committee and members of the Focus Groups.

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Actions

Action 1

In order to develop a robust framework for an evidence-based policy on architecture into the future the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will convene a built environment research committee and initiate discussions with relevant parties to guide the Department in formulating a research strategy for architecture and the built environment. In order to assist with the formulation of the strategy the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will:

- i. convene a research colloquium in collaboration with the Office of Public Works and other relevant parties to examine the issue of research funding as applied to the built environment;
- ii. commission a research scoping study to identify the range and priorities for architectural research to support the Policy on Architecture. The study should include identification of the bodies that have funded research in architecture and potential sponsors of architectural research. The study should associate the research priorities with specific funding programmes, identify where adjustments may be required and include a gap analysis leading to the identification of a number of definition studies in areas of significance to the Policy. The study should set out the research strategy required to support the Policy on Architecture and recommend appropriate management and funding mechanisms; and
- iii. commission a research study into aspects of the Irish climate that specifically impact on requirements for building performance to be then incorporated into the regulatory framework.

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will oversee the implementation of the research strategy and undertake where appropriate the definition studies identified in the research scoping study. The definition studies will identify the most urgent research tasks and information requirements.

The research scoping study will pay particular attention to the following: the criteria for exemplars of best practice with regard to sustainable “place-making”; building energy performance and whole life-cycle costing; environmental performance of building forms and typologies in high-density design and construction; the potential for all forms of construction systems to deliver higher sustainability standards, and factors affecting the social sustainability of settlements. This scoping study will take account of the range of research currently being undertaken in other European countries.

Action 2

The Office of Public Works will undertake materials research to support State practice and technical advice in the area of building conservation, maintenance, and repair.

Action 3

In order to strengthen the evidence base for policy, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will co-ordinate post-occupancy evaluation studies of buildings procured through direct State funding and publish the outcomes. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works will establish within their procurement provisions mechanisms for data gathering and analysis on schemes procured through public funding and Public Private Partnership.

Action 4

The Office of Public Works, in collaboration with academic institutions and other state-supported educational institutions, will identify areas where there is need for new design insight and will sponsor design research initiatives in partnership with the construction and development sectors, and disseminate the outcomes.

Action 5

The Arts Council, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Science, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and other relevant parties, will establish a working group to carry out the following:

- i. collate and assess the experience of existing schemes aimed at developing appreciation and awareness of the built environment, and of other related schemes initiated under this Policy, in order to ensure the optimum use of resources in support of the Policy and to provide operational feedback and intellectual continuity into the future;
- ii. sponsor a research project to consider national and international models of special interest collaboration with schools, in order to advance the aims of the Policy;
- iii. identify partners that can offer sustainable, funded support mechanisms for schemes involving architects working with teachers and pupils in schools.

Any recommendations or outcomes following establishment of such a working group referred to above, must have regard both to their resource implications for the Arts Council, and also to the fact that the budgetary resources likely to be available over the lifetime of this policy to the Minister for Education and Science for development of services in the education sector may be allocated to fund existing policy commitments.

Action 6

To underline the importance of architectural quality as a cornerstone of national policy on the built environment the title of Principal Architect in the Office of Public Works will be changed to State Architect and Principal Architect in the Office of Public Works and the role will be strengthened to include:

- i. advising on the implementation of the Architecture Policy Actions;
- ii. contributing to the Government Construction Contracts Committee (GCCC) to developing procurement and contracting policies in support of architectural quality in State funded projects;
- iii. consultee regarding legislation and regulations affecting quality in architecture and the built environment;
- iv. consultee regarding the design quality of all infrastructural programmes;
- v. advising the relevant Departments of the accumulated experience and expertise in the public service and of programmes that will ensure that the care of monuments, and the conservation, restoration and re-use of historic buildings is fully exploited;
- vi. acting as a point of reference and advice in the dissemination of knowledge and expertise.

Action 7

In order to advance the quality of the designed environment, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in collaboration with the City and County Managers Association, will consider the benefits of each county/city council submitting plans for the provision of in-house architectural services, headed at the level of City or County Architect whose responsibilities may include:

- i. the promotion of architectural quality within the built environment;
- ii. specific engagement with infrastructure and public realm projects;
- iii. engagement with NGO and private sector activities in the promotion of architecture and architectural heritage, including exhibitions and publications and local awards schemes in order to promote architecture among the wider public.

The plans submitted will include the deployment of architects and other related professionals including architectural conservation officers to ensure that architectural conservation

issues are proactively addressed. This may also include proposals to regionalise specific expertise in creating efficiencies given the current economic difficulties and limited resources available in this regard.

Action 8

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will require County and City Development Board strategies to incorporate aims and actions on architectural quality.

Action 9

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will, in accordance with the requirements of the Capital Works Management Framework:

- i. investigate appropriate incentives for best practice in regard to future-proofing of buildings. The objective is that buildings be designed for resilience, and in terms of energy as net resource-generating environments;
- ii. develop relevant guidance documents on key sustainability criteria. Such documents will have wide application, for example as design aids and in evaluating applications for new building developments in order to ensure compliance with their objectives on sustainability, functionality and value for money as referred to above and as benchmarks against which to assess competition entries. The future adaptability and the ease to which the materials used could be recycled at the end of their lifespan are among the factors to be considered;
- iii. ensure that buildings procured in all public building contracts are designed for ease of maintenance and upgrade. In support of this action the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, in conjunction with the Government Construction Contracts Committee and with the assistance of relevant agencies will prepare a guidance document on the application of whole life costing in building projects in the State.

Action 10

In order to further promote the achievement of quality, the Government will implement the following measures:

- i. The Office of Public Works will contribute to the work of the Government Contracts Construction Committee in developing guidelines for quality in architecture and the built environment for all procurement by contracting authorities. Such guidance should apply also to leasing/rental of property and development undertaken through Public Private Partnership (PPP);

- ii. the Office of Public Works will contribute to the work of the Government Construction Contracts Committee by conducting a review of:
 - a) the effectiveness of current procurement procedures with respect to architectural conservation projects, and
 - b) thresholds for architectural projects established under provisions for PPP projects;
- iii. the Office of Public Works will report to the Government Construction Contracts Committee on the effectiveness of the current percentage ratings for architectural quality in the assessment process for Public Private Partnership projects.

Action 11

The Government departments with responsibility for building procurement will undertake to educate, inform and communicate with the public, the building industry and professions, by demonstrating and achieving exemplary and sustainable practice in the architectural commissioning of works and services, and by resourcing their own structures and services with the necessary professional support to maintain, improve and enlarge this work and expertise.

Action 12

To ensure that the State can benefit from the diversity of available talent, the Government will implement the following measures:

- i. the Office of Public Works in consultation with the relevant authorities such as the National Development Finance Agency, will broaden the scope for architects to engage in the process of procurement including through Public Private Partnerships;
- ii. the Office of Public Works in consultation with the Government Construction Contracts Committee, will ensure that procurement policy encourages participation of architectural practices at all scales, and supports coalitions and collaboration between smaller practices as a way of achieving diversity with critical mass. In this regard criteria for participation in procurement generally will be reviewed to enable the participation of practices at all scales;
- iii. the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Government Construction Contracts Committee will seek to increase the range of areas in which architectural competitions are deployed.

Action 13

The Arts Council will continue to provide opportunities for creative and critical explorations within the field of architecture and in supporting the development of critical practice within the profession.

Action 14

The work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in identifying structures of special interest and the Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes survey will be continued and completed under the aegis of the NIAH.

Action 15

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider creating, maintaining and making publicly accessible a central database of structures subject to legislative protection, beginning with those protected under the National Monuments Acts and under Section 10 of the Heritage Acts. In consultation with planning authorities, consideration will be given to extending the database to include buildings protected under the Planning and Development Acts.

Action 16

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue guidelines on how older, traditionally constructed and historic buildings can contribute to a reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions while respecting their built fabric and cultural significance. This action may take cognisance of any data on building performance derived from buildings procured and maintained through State funds and will ensure appropriate dissemination of such information.

Action 17

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, in collaboration with the Heritage Council and a number of Local Authorities will, subject to available funding, initiate a pilot scheme in preventive maintenance for buildings in their ownership. If successful, and in consideration of the value for money aspects, a scheme may be extended progressively nationwide, beginning with the larger urban authorities. It may be appropriate to develop a scheme in time for older buildings in private ownership.

Action 18

Building on existing initiatives, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Department of Finance, will carry out an analysis of the operation and efficiency of existing grant-aid and tax relief programmes supporting architectural heritage protection. The analysis will examine the range of initiatives supported since 2000 and recommend how the experience gained can be best utilised in the interests of heritage protection.

Action 19

The State is committed to the documenting and publication of its work in protection of the historic landscape and built environment. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in collaboration with the Office of Public Works and the Heritage Council will sponsor conservation

conferences on practice and research in the area of building and landscape conservation of which the outcomes will be published. The conferences, which will be multi-disciplinary in scope, will be guided by a Scientific Committee established for the purpose.

Action 20

Government Departments and state agencies with responsibility for building procurement and heritage protection will be encouraged to avail of relevant partnerships established with educational institutions, professional bodies, the Institute of Public Administration and others in the development of suitable in-house and externally provided Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to address skills needs. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government can facilitate such objectives by promoting specific multi-disciplinary programmes, and consider the benefits:

- i. reciprocal inclusion of sister disciplines on juries for local and regional awards schemes;
- ii. supporting the development of joint initiatives and activities such as lectures, site visits and professional social events at local and regional level;
- iii. acknowledging good practice in planning advice and planning authorities who take a proactive stance in favour of quality in architecture, by such measures as including a citation for the planner or planning authority in architectural awards schemes and establishing specific categories in planning awards schemes to reward the integration of architectural quality with good quality planning.

Action 21

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the provisions of the Planning Acts, will require that development plans and local area plans demonstrate compliance with key design criteria set out in its guidance documents: Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities⁶; Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities¹⁰; Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities¹⁵; Sustainable Rural Housing – Guidelines for Planning Authorities⁹; and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas⁷ with the associated Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide⁸. In support, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will continue to advance such objectives under the Developing Areas initiative and will also publish supplementary guidance on sustainable place-making drawing from examples of validated best practice in creating and maintaining integrated, sustainable places, in terms of architectural and urban design quality as well as social engagement.

Action 22

To assist in meeting sustainability objectives public authorities, assisted by the development and implementation of sustainable planning by local authorities, will be encouraged to introduce the following measures:

- i. prioritise assessment of their existing land holdings including redundant and underused building stock in terms of its economic and social value. In deciding on future development, public authorities will be asked to encourage adaptive re-use of buildings that would be compatible with their character and significance;
- ii. develop their sustainability policies and objectives to specifically address the re-use of the existing building stock;
- iii. prepare a conservation policy for buildings of architectural heritage value in their care and/or ownership and within this framework to prepare a conservation plan for individual places as appropriate. Such policies should be based on an inventory of their historic building stock and make provision for ongoing conservation and maintenance programmes in fulfilment of the policy objectives;
- iv. with regard to developments on publicly-owned brown field sites, consideration will be given to measures which take account of existing material resources on the site and the potential for this material to be reused. Such an account should form part of the assessment of the site potential of the land, and its potential for planning purposes.

Action 23

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider the issue of guidelines on the assessment and adaptive re-use of existing buildings in public authority and private ownership, and on the disposal of historic buildings by public authorities.

Action 24

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider extending its existing guidance by publishing guidelines for local authorities regarding the role of existing buildings in promoting a sustainable environment. The guidelines will recommend:

- i. where demolition of existing buildings and ground works is proposed in whole or in part, the application submitted should include an audit of the existing materials on site and a method statement regarding salvage, reuse or disposal;
- ii. that, as part of a regular review, planning authorities should consider mechanisms to encourage the adaptive re-use of existing buildings.

Action 25

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will consider extending eligibility for grant aid, subject to approval by the Department of Finance, for conservation and repair works within architectural conservation areas and review measures to provide additional support to planning authorities in the preparation of such areas.

Action 26

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with the Building Regulations Advisory Body and relevant professional institutes with regard to providing detailed advice on best practice on the application of the Building Regulations to older/traditionally-built buildings with a view to appropriate alteration.

Action 27

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with relevant groups to derive guidelines with respect to a number of key issues:

- i. in collaboration with the relevant professional institutes, setting generally applicable performance criteria in relation to sustainability, under the inter-linked headings of environmental, economic and social criteria, taking account of best international practice;
- ii. evaluating the criteria for high and large scale buildings in urban areas and their impact on historic urban areas.

High quality architecture offers opportunities to adapt the experience and lessons of past rural building design to the current need for buildings to be carbon efficient while making the most effective use of the natural advantages that rural locations may offer for sustainable design. Contemporary architecture and design also have an important role to play in the design of rural buildings that make the best use of their location, while still blending into and enhancing the natural landscape.

Action 28

Through the implementation mechanisms established for this Policy on Architecture, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism will review, in liaison with the range of appropriate cultural institutions, whether and to what extent, the promotion of architecture could be further developed as part of their individual briefs.

Action 29

The Office of Public Works, Departments of State, public authorities and other agencies with responsibility for the procurement of buildings will ensure that public building projects are published and/or exhibited in an accessible manner for the general public. Review of such exhibitions will help develop understanding of architectural quality.

Action 30

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in consultation with the Arts Council and the Heritage Council, will develop an approach to fostering an understanding of architecture as an art form and as a component of our shared cultural inheritance by including an explicit architectural and built environment focus within the briefs of Local Authority Arts, Architectural Conservation and Heritage Officers.

Action 31

In pursuit of its remit to develop awareness of the architectural heritage, the Heritage Council in collaboration with the Irish Architectural Archive will commission and publish a guide, aimed at diverse audiences, to the source material for architectural history in Ireland.

Action 32

FÁS, in association with its partners and the Construction Industry Federation and relevant education bodies will undertake the following actions:

- i. enhance training in upgrading, repair and maintenance of existing buildings in line with good conservation practice;
- ii. ensure that skills appropriate to sustainable energy construction and conservation technologies are developed in apprentice training courses;
- iii. invite participation of architecture schools in preparing an architectural awareness module for inclusion in Phase 2 of construction apprentice training courses. The module will be introduced as each course comes up for review.

Action 33

In order to advance public engagement with architecture, the Arts Council, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, will undertake the following actions:

- i. commission a feasibility study into the provision of venues for architecture in Ireland. The study will examine existing comparable countries where such a resource exists while investigating the needs of Ireland in the context of all agencies, public and private, working within the area;
- ii. as a contribution to this study, within the next five years, establish pilot architectural exhibitions/events and monitor the audience response, using the findings as base information for the study;
- iii. further develop the network of existing venues such as City and County halls, libraries, galleries, theatres and arts centres throughout the country to support an ongoing programme of architectural events and exhibitions.

Action 34

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will support initiatives developed by the Irish Architecture Foundation to further the aims of this Policy, including development of a virtual interface as a portal for programmes and initiatives in architecture, design and the wider built environment.

Action 35

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will recommend that local authorities assist citizens and promote architectural quality by:

- i. producing exhibition material and publishing relevant and key public building projects within their area as an integral part of the procurement process and ensuring that this policy is incorporated in development plans, heritage plans and arts plans;
- ii. maintaining user-friendly websites, with links to portal sites through which more extensive access to architectural and built environment information and advice can be found.

Action 36

With regard to primary and second level schools and teacher training institutions, the Department of Education and Science will complete the work in progress of identifying curriculum strands/areas across a range of subjects which can facilitate teaching and learning about architecture and the built environment and undertake the following supporting actions:

- i. encourage the use of the local environment as a location for learning, to suit the specific circumstance of individual schools and promote the adoption of such practices by Boards of Management;
- ii. identify, together with the teacher professional networks, the support services and other organisations, readily available teaching resources which support teaching and learning about the built environment and which support learning in curriculum strands/areas identified in the research conducted under Action on Architecture 2002 -2005². This information should be made available through the Virtual Architecture Centre or another existing website;
- iii. facilitate, in co-operation with the relevant organisations, an annual, task-based architecture awards scheme for schools incorporating a range of categories covering various age groups and subjects at primary and post-primary level. The task brief in each award category will provide close links to the respective curriculum element and subject syllabus. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Govern-

ment, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Science, will provide support for the competitions by means of the internet, including appropriate background information and advice and guidance on the organisation and completion of the tasks;

- iv. in collaboration with relevant organisations including the Arts Council, and as resources allow, establish an 'Architect in Residence Scheme' in teacher training colleges associated with the education of teachers of Construction Studies, Home Economics, Art, and Architectural Technology;
- v. The Department of Education and Science will facilitate, as resources allow, in collaboration with the Arts Council, an 'Architect in Schools' scheme, to enhance architectural awareness in the participating schools.

Action 37

The Department of Education and Science will consult with relevant stakeholders and the Higher Education Authority with a view to convening a colloquium involving directors of architectural programmes and teacher training institutions and teacher professional networks to explore how schools of architecture could collaborate to form a continual process through primary and post primary education. Potential collaborations will include:

- i. involvement in the development of teaching and learning resources and projects. Priority should be given to the development of a new resource for second level students that would build on "Shaping Space" and have a significant web-based aspect;
- ii. summer courses for primary/secondary teachers. Utilising the existing Summer Course model for primary teachers, the Department of Education and Science will seek to put a new web-based resource programme of activities and support materials in place;
- iii. involvement in a consultancy role with Support Services responsible for the provision of professional development for teachers of the revised Leaving Certificate syllabi in Art and Architectural Technology in second level schools;
- iv. the Department of Education and Science, in collaboration with the Higher Education Authority, the Higher Education and Training Awards Council and the Further Education and Training Awards Council will circulate all third level colleges to encourage outreach activities by hosting seminars, exhibitions and providing a range of part-time and evening courses related to the built and natural environment for people of all ages.

Action 38

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will convene a colloquium involving the City and County Managers Association, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and directors of architectural programmes to examine how schools of architecture could contribute to addressing built environment design challenges at local level.

Action 39

The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government will convene in association with the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and the Higher Education Authority a colloquium on the subject of education and training in urban and landscape design, inviting professional associations and directors of third level design programmes. The purpose is to explore opportunities for the following:

- i. initiatives that address the spectrum of environmental design challenges: advanced level multi-disciplinary design studies, integrating three-dimensional space-making with land use, transportation and economic development, and modelling with a focus on urban management;
- ii. incorporation of urban and designed landscape studies into courses that deal with the built environment, and into programmes of continuing professional development;
- iii. enhancing education programmes for built environment professions to ensure that building resilience becomes a driving objective, fostering appropriate design responses and construction technologies.

Action 40

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will manage public buildings so as to facilitate engagement of the public with the building itself. Informational material will be introduced into public buildings to promote and explain their functioning, what they offer to the public in terms of public space, access, facilities, exhibitions etc, and their energy and environmental performance. Where possible, and subject to site conditions and cost, public building projects under construction should have a safe public viewing area, capable of accommodating a group, at the perimeter of the site complete with information panels/screens to facilitate public engagement with the project.

Action 41

Building on the success of the Green-Schools programme the Department of Education and Science will initiate a scheme, where possible, that provides information on the ongoing environmental performance of school buildings in use.

Action 42

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works will sponsor television programmes that explain the process, from concept to execution of achieving good architecture, which are intelligible and accessible for the general public.

Action 43

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will assign responsibility for co-ordination of the implementation of this Policy. An implementation programme and a timetable for delivery in consultation with the principal stakeholders will be drawn up, and a progress report will be prepared annually for the Minister. An immediate focus will be the research strategy at the core of the Policy Actions. The Department will consider the benefits of:

- i. co-ordinating the establishment and operation of a forum chaired by the State Architect (Principal Architect, Office of Public Works) and including the relevant principal or senior professional advisers of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in addition to representatives of the public and private sectors. The purpose of the forum will be as follows:
 - a to oversee implementation of the actions of this Policy directed towards the incorporation of quality and sustainability criteria in state-funded building projects;
 - b to co-ordinate the implementation of actions relating to the integration of national strategies, regional and local housing strategies, macro framework planning and local urban design initiatives, set out in this Policy on Architecture 2009-2015. A key focus will be the co-ordinated qualitative delivery of sustainable infrastructure and built environment in developing areas;
 - c to examine and monitor ongoing policy development and its implications arising from policy developments at EU level for all matters related to the quality of the built environment;
- ii. communicating across the agencies involved in the promoting of awareness and understanding of architecture within the designed environment. The Department will report on the implementation of actions in this area to facilitate planning of future initiatives;
- iii. as part of the annual report process, carry out a mid-term report on the implementation of the Policy in 2012.

Action 44

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will establish a public authorities' historic buildings committee for the following purposes: to act as a means for

information exchange; to organise seminars; to examine issues of common interest; and to co-ordinate guidance and advice in relation to care, maintenance and financing. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will require public authorities to establish in-house advisory groups to oversee the management and maintenance of the historic building resource.

Action 45

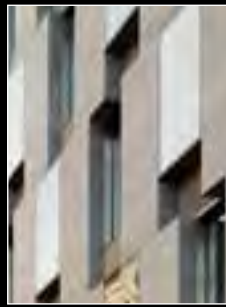
The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will liaise with the City and County Managers Association with regard to the following:

- i. to establish how policy actions on architecture that impact at local authority level can be implemented within the timeframe of the Policy;
- ii. to establish a built environment forum with the collaboration of the City and County Managers Association to heighten awareness of the measures that can be taken to drive a quality agenda for urban design, architecture and architectural conservation, building control, and landscape design and conservation.





Inside front cover
 Brookfield Community Youth Centre and Crèche, Tallaght, Dublin 24
 Architect: Hassett Ducatez Architects
 Client: South Dublin County Council
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 Department of Finance, 7-9 Merrion Row, Dublin 2
 Architect: Grafton Architects / OPW Architectural Services
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Dennis Gilbert



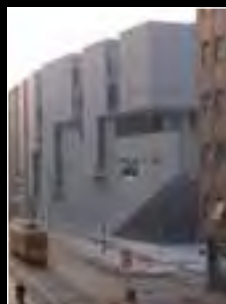
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 National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Turlough Park, Co. Mayo
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services
 Client: National Museum of Ireland
 Photo: Paula Nolan



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 Conversations about Architecture meeting at The Ark, Temple Bar, Dublin 2
 Photo: Mark Stedman, Photocall Ireland



Page: 5
 Heywood Gardens, Ballinakill, Co. Laois
 Architect: OPW Heritage Services
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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 Luigi Bocconi University, Milan
 Architect: Grafton Architects
 Client: Università' Luigi Bocconi
 Photo: Federico Brunetti Photography



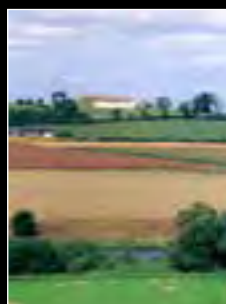
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 former Stack A Tobacco Warehouse, now The CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1
 Architect: Michael Collins Associates
 Client: Dublin Docklands Development Authority
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 St. George and St. Thomas, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin 1
 Architect: Clancy Moore Architects
 Client: Select Vestry of St. George and St. Thomas
 Photo: Alice Clancy



Page: 9
 former Carrick-on-Shannon courthouse, now The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
 Architect: Coady Partnership Architects
 Client: Leitrim County Council
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Co. Meath
 Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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Tourism and Hospitality Studies Building,
Cork Institute of Technology

Architect: de Blacam and Meagher / Boyd
Barrett Murphy-O'Connor Architects

Client: Cork Institute of Technology

Photo: Peter Cook



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Grand Canal Square, Grand Canal Dock,
Dublin 2

Architect: Martha Schwartz Partners

Client: Dublin Docklands Development
Authority

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Adare Castle, Co. Limerick

Architect: OPW Architectural Services -
National Monuments

Client: The Commissioners of Public Works

Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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Tailteann, Mary Immaculate College,
Limerick

Architect: Murray Ó Laoire Architects

Client: Mary Immaculate College

Photo: Murray Ó Laoire Architects



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The Source Arts Centre and Library,
Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

Architect: McCullough Mulvin Architects

Client: North Tipperary County Council /
Joint Tipperary Libraries Committee

Photo: Christian Richters



Page: 20

The Main Guard, Sarsfield Street, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary

Architect: Margaret Quinlan / OPW
Architectural Services - National
Monuments

Client: The Commissioners of Public Works

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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The Source Arts Centre and Library,
Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

Architect: McCullough Mulvin Architects

Client: North Tipperary County Council /
Joint Tipperary Libraries Committee

Photo: Christian Richters



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York Street Housing, York Street, Dublin 2

Architect: Seán Harrington Architects

Client: Dublin City Council Housing and
Residential Services / City Architects
Department

Photo: Seán Harrington Architects and
Philip Lauterbach



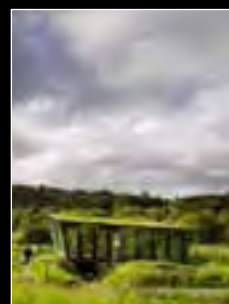
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Emo Court, Co. Laois

Architect: OPW Architectural Services

Client: The Commissioners of Public Works

Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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Mimetic House, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim

Architect: Dominic Stevens

Client: Private

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



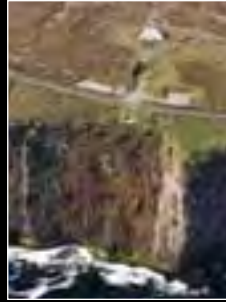
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 Timberyard, The Coombe, Dublin 8
 Architect: O'Donnell and Tuomey Architects
 Client: Dublin City Council
 Photo: Dennis Gilbert



Page: 30
 Food Safety Office, Backweston Co. Kildare
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services
 Client: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
 Photo: Gerry O'Leary



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 National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Glasnevin, Dublin 7
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 Céide Fields Visitors Centre, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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 Wexford Opera House, High Street, Wexford
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services with Keith Williams Architects
 Client: Wexford Festival Opera
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 EU Food and Veterinary Office HQ, Grange, Co. Meath
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services
 Client: European Commission
 Photo: Dennis Gilbert



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 Castletown House, Co. Kildare
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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 Thomond Park Stadium, Limerick
 Architect: Murray Ó Laoire Architects / Atherden Fuller Leng Architects
 Client: Irish Rugby Football Union Munster Branch
 Photo: Murray Ó Laoire Architects



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 Waterford City Library, Lady Lane, Waterford
 Architect: McCullough Mulvin Architects
 Client: Waterford City Council
 Photo: Christian Richters



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 Cork City Council Civic Offices
 Architect: ABK Architects
 Client: Cork City Council
 Photo: Dennis Gilbert



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 Department of Finance, 7-9 Merrion Row, Dublin 2
 Architect: Grafton Architects / OPW Architectural Services
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 former Cork City Waterworks now the Lifetime Lab, Lee Road, Cork
 Architect: Jack Coughlan Associates
 Client: Cork City Council
 Photo: F22



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 Charles Fort, Kinsale, Co. Cork
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services - National Monuments
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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 The Main Guard, Sarsfield Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
 Architect: Margaret Quinlan / OPW Architectural Services - National Monuments
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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 former Presentation Convent now Waterford Health Park, Waterford
 Architect: DHB Architects
 Client: Dr. Mark and Mrs. Edele Rowe
 Photo: Philip Lauterbach



Page: 36
 Wexford Opera House, High Street, Wexford
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services with Keith Williams Architects
 Client: Wexford Festival Opera
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, Co. Meath
 Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



Page: 37
 Wexford Opera House, High Street, Wexford
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services with Keith Williams Architects
 Client: Wexford Festival Opera
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



Page: 35
 Casino, Marino, Dublin 3
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services - National Monuments and T Austin Dunphy, Architect
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



Page: 38-39
 Grand Canal Basin, Dublin
 Client: Dublin Docklands Development Authority
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Sean O'Casey Bridge / Samuel Beckett Bridge, Dublin

Architect: Brian Halloran & Associates / O'Connor Sutton Cronin Dr. Santiago Calatrava

Client: Dublin Docklands Development Authority

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Adamstown, Co. Dublin, District Centre Study

Architect: Metropolitan Workshop

Client: South Dublin County Council / Chartridge / Castlethorn



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Grand Canal Square, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin 2

Architect: Martha Schwartz Partners

Client: Dublin Docklands Development Authority

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Adamstown, Co. Dublin

Architect: O'Mahony Pike Architects

Client: South Dublin County Council / Chartridge / Castlethorn

Photo: O'Mahony Pike Architects



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Altro Vetro Residential Tower, Dublin 2

Architect: Shay Cleary Architects

Client: Private

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Dublin Docklands area

Photo: Peter Barrow



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Balgaddy Housing Scheme, Co. Dublin

Architect: Howley Harrington Architects

Client: South Dublin County Council

Photo: David Davison



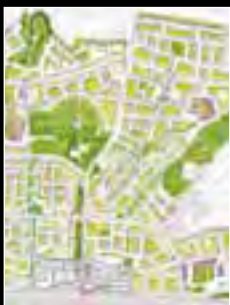
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former Stack A Tobacco Warehouse, now The CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1

Architect: Michael Collins Associates

Client: Dublin Docklands Development Authority

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Adamstown, Co. Dublin, Strategic Development Zone Plan

Architect: O'Mahony Pike Architects

Client: South Dublin County Council / Chartridge / Castlethorn



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The Red Stables, St. Anne's Park, Mount Prospect Avenue, Dublin 3

Architect: Dublin City Council

Client: Department of Culture, Recreation and Amenity, Dublin City Council

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 Charlemont Street, Dublin 2, Masterplan
 Architect: Paul Keogh Architects
 Client: Dublin City Council



Page: 47
 Charlemont Street, Dublin 2
 Architect: Paul Keogh Architects
 Client: Dublin City Council



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 Masterplan for St. Mary's Park, Limerick
 Architect: Murray Ó Laoire Architects
 Client: Limerick Northside Regeneration Agency



Page: 47
 Masterplan for St. Mary's Park, Limerick
 Architect: Murray Ó Laoire Architects
 Client: Limerick Northside Regeneration Agency



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 National Gallery of Ireland, Clare Street, Dublin 2
 Architect: Benson and Forsyth Architects / OPW Architectural Services
 Client: Governors and Guardians of the National Gallery of Ireland
 Photo: Gareth Byrne



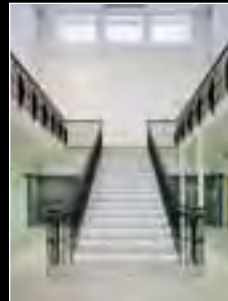
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 Name: Robertstown National School, Co. Kildare
 Architect: Paul Keogh Architects
 Client: Board of Management, Scoil Robaird, Robertstown
 Photo: Paul Tierney



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 Cork School of Music, Cork
 Architect: Murray Ó Laoire Architects
 Client: Cork Institute of Technology/ Department of Education and Science
 Photo: Murray Ó Laoire Architects



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 Kilkenny Castle, Kilkenny
 Architect: OPW Architectural Services
 Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
 Photo: Don Allen



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 former Carrick-on-Shannon courthouse, now The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
 Architect: Coady Partnership Architects
 Client: Leitrim County Council
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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 Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Co. Meath
 Architect: Grafton Architects
 Client: Meath County Council
 Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Co. Meath
Architect: Grafton Architects
Client: Meath County Council
Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Inishcaltra or Holy Island, Co. Clare
Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG



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Boyne Bridge, M1 Northern Motorway
Engineer: Roughan & O'Donovan
Client: Meath County Council and Louth County Council
Photo: Ros Kavanagh



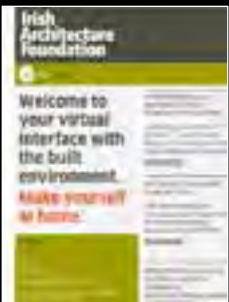
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Name: Mnemonic Tectonics by TAKA,
The Lives of Spaces, 11th International
Architecture Exhibition Venice Biennale
2008
Architect: TAKA
Photo: Alice Clancy



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Brookfield Community Youth Centre and
Crèche, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Architect: Hassett Ducatez Architects
Client: South Dublin County Council
Photo: Michael Duffy



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Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Co. Meath
Architect: Grafton Architects
Client: Meath County Council
Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Irish Architecture Foundation
www.architecturefoundation.ie



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Ratoath College, Co. Meath
Architect: McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects
Client: County Meath Vocational Education
Committee
Photo: Richard Hatch Photography



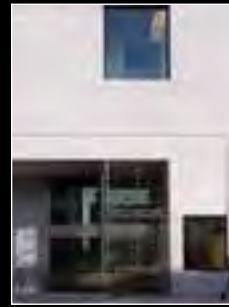
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Irish Architecture Foundation, Open House
Dublin 2008
Photo: Bart Kaluzny



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Ratoath College, Co. Meath
Architect: McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects
Client: County Meath Vocational Education
Committee
Photo: Richard Hatch Photography



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Cavan Re-Imagined, Ten Tasks Workshop 2.1 at Farnham Centre, Cavan
Architect: Orla Murphy and Dermot McCabe
Client: Cavan County Council
Photo: Daniela Crawley



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Department of Finance, 7-9 Merrion Row, Dublin 2
Architect: Grafton Architects / OPW Architectural Services
Client: The Commissioners of Public Works
Photo: Dennis Gilbert



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Ratoath College, Co. Meath
Architect: McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects
Client: County Meath Vocational Education Committee
Photo: Richard Hatch Photography



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Athlone Civic Centre, Library and Town Square, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Architect: Keith Williams Architects
Client: Athlone Town Council
Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Virus Reference Laboratory, University College Dublin
Architect: McCullough Mulvin Architects
Client: University College Dublin
Photo: Christian Richters



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Athlone Civic Centre, Library and Town Square, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Architect: Keith Williams Architects
Client: Athlone Town Council
Photo: Ros Kavanagh



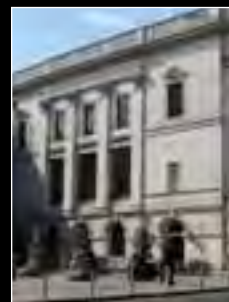
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Tobar Naofa, Dean's Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Architect: National Building Agency
Client: Tralee Town Council
Photo: National Building Agency



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Athlone Civic Centre, Library and Town Square, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Architect: Keith Williams Architects
Client: Athlone Town Council
Photo: Ros Kavanagh



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Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1
Architect: dePaor Architects / OPW Architectural Services
Client: Department of Foreign Affairs
Photo: Dennis Gilbert



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City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2
Architect: Paul Arnold Architects
Client: Dublin City Council
Photo: Paul Arnold Architects



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The Red Stables, St. Anne's Park, Mount Prospect Avenue, Dublin 3

Architect: Dublin City Council

Client: Department of Culture, Recreation and Amenity, Dublin City Council

Photo: Ros Kavanagh

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Rossnowlagh Strand Beach Management Project, Co. Donegal

Architect: Dedalus Architects

Client: Donegal County Council Marine and Water Leisure Programme

Photo: Ros Kavanagh



Inside back cover

Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly

Architect: OPW Architectural Services - National Monuments

Client: The Commissioners of Public Works

Photo: Photographic Unit, OPW/DEHLG





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