



**RIAI**  
**The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland**  
8 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

**T:** 353 1 676 1703  
**F:** 353 1 661 0948  
**E:** [info@riai.ie](mailto:info@riai.ie)  
**W:** [www.riai.ie](http://www.riai.ie)



## ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland  
The Registration Body for Architects in Ireland

# President's Report

2007 was the year in which Registration was finally achieved.

The final campaign has taken nearly ten years, with major contributions from many of my predecessors but particularly the continuous cool co-ordination of the Director and key staff. Right up to the last stages, there were doubts as to whether the terms of the Act would prove workable for the Institute. The final detail is very close to what we wanted, but that will only be proven now that the Act has come into operation on May 1st, 2008.

2007 was also election year, and registration was achieved only just in time. In the run up to the election, the Institute's campaign was directed principally in collaboration with our colleagues in the Urban Forum, whose election manifesto supported by the five Institutes carried much more weight. Representatives of the Forum met with key members of all the main political parties, and the manifesto achieved considerable media coverage. The manifesto highlighted the negative impact of bad planning during a period of unprecedented growth, and called for major change in planning strategies from national to local level, with a revised National Spatial Strategy and land use and transportation bodies for all our city regions. Plan-led development with Local Area Plans or SDZs should be the priority. It also called for much greater consistency within each local authority in carrying out central policy, staffing, and the delivery of

social / affordable housing, points which are continuously raised by Institute members in their ongoing struggles with the planning system.

The election resulted in the Green Party forming part of the Government for the first time, with two Ministers in key positions for architecture and construction. Reform of local Government has come to the fore under a Green Minister. This is reinforced by the OECD Review of the Public Service commissioned by the previous Government, to which the Urban Forum had made a submission and debated with key stakeholders at a subsequent colloquium. The new Minister John Gormley undertook to publish a Green Paper, which has subsequently emerged with several policies supported by the Urban Forum up for debate.

The green agenda was reinforced, with Part L of the Building Regulations being rapidly advanced. A number of new housing schemes were built ahead of the introduction of the new standards; these highlight the major changes needed to achieve the new standards at reasonable cost.

Another decision by Minister Gormley was to draw up a new policy on architecture, highlighting the importance of quality in architecture and the built environment. A programme of extensive consultation and debate has commenced under the Chairmanship of Professor Loughlin Kealy.



**James Pike**  
**President 2006/2007**

The launch of the policy is targeted for the end of 2008. The RIAI is represented in the steering committee. Ann McNicholl, Education Director also chairs the Awareness, Education and Research Focus Group, while I chair the Focus Group on Promoting Quality in the Built Environment.

The Architecture Foundation has a new Director, Nathalie Weadick, who was previously the Assistant Director of the UK Architecture Foundation in London. The Open House weekend in Dublin continues to expand, and an ambitious programme is planned for 2008.

Another issue developing through the year was that of architectural technicians

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# Director's Report



and technologists and their relationships with architects, their status in architects' offices, the role of the Institute and whether the Institute will remain the principal body representing technicians or whether they will set up their own Institute. The debate will continue through 2008.

Events during the year include the biannual Housing Conference organised by the joint DEHLG / RIAI Housing Committee in Dublin in March and focusing particularly on new developments on the urban fringe and regeneration. The new DEHLG Policy Documents – "Delivering Homes – Sustaining Communities" and the guidance document "Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities" were at the core of the debate and reflect the broadening focus of housing design into urban design and planning.

May saw a conference managed by the RIAI on behalf of the Urban Forum and the Academy of Urbanism, at Dublin Castle,

under the title "Space, Place, Life", which explored the "fine grain" or urban design and masterplanning, with an excellent range of speakers.

The Institute's annual conference took place in New York in November. It included many entertaining tours to Manhattan's diverse neighbourhoods, and explored the theme of sustainable high density development. The conference included papers on the Bank of America Tower by Serge Appel, the leading urban designer Alexander Gavin, Irish architect Cathal Stephens, on the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters and eminent historian and critic Kenneth Frampton on "Architecture is an age of Globalisation". I took the opportunity to bring members up to date with the conclusions of the Gateway Project, undertaken by the Futures Academy at DIT on behalf of the Urban Forum, which presents different scenarios for the future development of Ireland, and, we hope, will bring a much longer term

framework for spatial strategy of the island and stimulate greater debate in each of the gateways.

A regular at the annual conference with his wife Maureen, David Keane was much missed this year and was remembered with a minute's silence.

The Conference dinner, an evening cruise around Manhattan with the glittering city as a backdrop, proved the social occasion of the conference.

So a momentous year for the Institute closed with many new issues and challenges and many old ones lingering on.

## Registration

Registration finally became a reality in 2007 marking a significant point in the recognition of architects and architecture in Irish life.

The commitment of Minister Roche and the DoEHLG officials in seeing the Bill through the final stages of the Dáil and Seanad was commendable, particularly in the context of amendments and lobbying from some quarters. Following enactment of the Bill, work was started on what is going to be the most challenging aspect of the Registration System in the short term, the assessment of those not having formal qualifications in architecture.

Work was carried out on defining the competencies of an architect both at graduate and professional practice level and these fed into the design of a Technical Assessment Pilot Scheme which was launched in December, with submissions due in 2008.

Other work was also carried out in bringing RIAI Admission Systems and Entry Regulations in line with the Building Control Act and Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Profession Qualifications.

## Architecture

In a year dominated from the outset by the detail of the Building Control Bill, amendments and lobbying and then preparations for implementation and the

Technical Assessment Scheme, it could be thought that RIAI focus on architecture would be reduced. With issues such as the New Government Forms of Appointment and new Building Contracts, members may have lost sight of the Institute's role in vigorously promoting architecture to the public, to commissioning bodies, to educational establishments, to Government and in the EU, and internationally.

There was significant television, national and local media coverage of the Irish Architecture Awards, which were presented in Dublin Civic Offices by The Minister for the Environment and the RIAI President the evening was hosted by Ryan Tubridy; and for the Silver Medal for Housing Awards which was presented to Derek Tynan Architects for Clarion Quay Housing, the Silver Medal for Conservation Award to City Hall and the Silver Medal for Restoration for Ardferd Cathedral.

The RIAI Tidy Towns Award for contemporary architecture was made to Solstice Arts Centre, Navan by Grafton Architects.

There was substantial media coverage for the Tadao Ando Lecture, jointly hosted by the RIAI and IMMA, which was attended by over 3,000 people, and introduced by Bono. And 550 Members of the public consulted architects during the third annual RIAI/Simon "Open Day" which raised €38,605 for the homeless people.



**John Graby**  
Director

Conferences included the joint DEHLG/ RIAI National Housing Conference "Transforming the Housing Environment" which was accompanied by an exhibition showing small villages, infill and town and village extensions, and the SEI/ RIAI Conference 'See The Light 2007 – Building Ireland's Future Together'. The RIAI organised the Academy of Urbanism Conference in Dublin.

The Irish Architecture Awards Exhibition travelled to 15 venues around the country and to the UK. Exhibitions in the Architecture Gallery included "A Nations Obsession – Illustration and Architect", a joint initiative of the RIAI and the Illustrators Guild of Ireland,

“Focus – Light, Space and Matter”; the architecture competition entries for the Council library and lecture centre for Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, which was won by Carr Cotter Naessens; an exhibition by the Greek sculptor and architect, Michalis Sohvatzidis, and ‘Circles and Lines’ by Jane Proctor,

The President, Director, Committees and Staff represented the views of members on:

Liaison Committee on the Building Industry, Local Government Management Services Board, Irish Agreement Board, Timber Consultative Committee, The Construction Industry Standards Committee, Joint DoEHLG/RIAI Housing Committee, Architects Council of Europe, UIA, UIA Architecture for All work programme, UIA Architecture and Children work programme, Construction Industry Council, Irish Architectural Archive, Construction Safety Advisory Committee, Construction Safety Partnership, Irish Architecture Foundation, Urban Forum.

### Services

Practice and Member emails were an important element in updating members on the many challenges they face. Briefing papers on the new Government Contacts and on Safety, Health and Welfare regulations and procedures were issued. CPD activities included Designing for Safety, Conservation, Project Management, the Business of Architecture, DEAP training and Negotiation and Business Skills. Revised Conservation Guidelines were published as well as a new Health & Safety pack. A Small Practice Group was formed to address the

particular procurement problems facing this sector.

The RIAI OPW Graduate Training Scheme was expanded to thirty graduates and continues to be a very successful initiative, providing training and experience for graduate architects and valuable feedback to the RIAI.

### Advocacy

RIAI continues to maintain and develop its role as an advocate for architecture and architecture through formal submissions, media statements, publications and events.

#### RIAI made submissions on:

- Review of the 1999 Social Housing Guidelines – Housing Design - Best Practice
- Review of the Government Policy on Architecture Urban Housing: Standards for Apartments – Public Consultation – Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities
- Dublin City Development Plan – Achieving Liveable Sustainable New Apartment Homes
- Housing Design Guidelines for Occupational Therapists
- Part M of the Building Regulations
- Law Reform Commission and Multi-Unit Developments
- Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement on Governance of

Apartment Owners’ Management Companies

### Accessibility

RIAI adopted a new Policy Statement on Accessibility, with the objective of promoting inclusive design and accessibility issues through – Planning, Advising, Reviewing, Training including Consulting, Implementing, Promoting, Amending, Task Forces and Equality i.e. PARTICIPATE.

### Funding

The RIAI had a good financial year with a surplus of €604,271 (after taxation).

### Membership

2007 was a record year for membership growth with 402 architects and architectural technicians joining the Institute bringing the total membership to 2,961.

### Conclusion

In what was a important year for the profession, the RIAI through its collaborative approach of Council, Committees, Members and Staff has once again successfully addressed and dealt with a wide range of practice and public issues and the RIAI is in an excellent position to engage with the challenges and opportunities presented by Registration.

# RIAI Council for 2007

**James Pike**  
**Michael O’Doherty**  
**Sean Harrington**  
**Niall Rowan**  
**Orla Fitzgerald**  
**Anthony Reddy**  
**Toal O’Muire**  
**Fionnuala Rogerson**  
**Shane O’Toole**  
**Angela Brady**  
**Paul Keogh**  
**Robin Mandal**

President  
 First Vice President  
 Second Vice President  
 Honorary Secretary  
 Honorary Treasurer  
 Past President  
 Ordinary Member  
 Ordinary Member  
 Ordinary Member  
 Ordinary Member  
 Ordinary Member  
 Ordinary Member

**Martin Donnelly**  
**Michelle Fagan**  
**Arthur Hickey**  
**Marguerite Murphy**  
**Michael Hegarty**  
**Michael Williams**  
**Martin Tritschler**  
**David Power**  
**Ruth Reilly**  
**Robin McKelvey**  
**Maol Iosa Molloy**  
**Kevin Rooney**

Ordinary Member  
 Ordinary Member  
 Ordinary Member  
 Member Elected By Council  
 Northern Region Representative  
 Southern Region Representative  
 Eastern Region Representative  
 Western Region Representative  
 Architectural Technician Member  
 RSUA Observer Member  
 AGA NUI Representative  
 AGA DIT Representative



# Revenue

for the year ended 31 December 2007

	2007	2006
	€	€
Subscriptions and other operating income from continuing operators	5,569,963	4,581,413
Surplus for the year before taxation	682,194	702,556
Taxation	(77,923)	(37,994)
Surplus for the year after taxation	604,271	664,562

Approved by the Council on 4 July 2008

Niall Rowan

Honorary Secretary

Martin Colreavy

Honorary Treasurer

## Financial Statements

# BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31 December 2007

	2007	2006
	€	€
<b>Assets Employed</b>		
Fixed Assets	7,377,873	6,848,295
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	82,278	81,257
Debtors	794,233	306,129
Bank	2,421,637	2,474,812
	<b>3,298,148</b>	<b>2,862,198</b>
CREDITORS		
(Amounts falling due within one year)	(1,124,170)	(1,122,913)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>2,173,978</b>	<b>1,739,285</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>9,551,851</b>	<b>8,587,580</b>
<b>Financed By:</b>		
Revenue Account	3,370,608	2,766,337
Revaluation Reserve	6,155,333	5,795,333
Other Reserves	25,910	25,910
	<b>9,551,851</b>	<b>8,587,580</b>

Approved by the Council on 4 July 2008

Niall Rowan  
Honorary Secretary

Martin Colreavy  
Honorary Treasurer

## Note

The Revenue Account and Balance Sheet are extracted from the complete statutory financial statements which have been attached to the Annual Report lodged at the Companies Registration Office and on which the auditors have reported without qualification. A copy of the complete statutory financial statements are also available on request from the Institute or can be assessed on the Institute's website in the "Members only" area.

