



Assessors' Report – Stage 1

Aoibhneas Children's Centre Architectural Competition

Assessors present:

Terri Morrissey (Chair)
Fergus Finlay
Marguerite Murphy
Ryan Kennihan
Linda Smith

Report:

The 102 Stage One competition submissions presented the jury with a diverse range of imaginative designs. The various results illustrated many creative solutions to the problems caused by the difficult site with new buildings placed in front, behind and in some cases within and on top of the existing structure. The jury was impressed and continually surprised by the high standard of all of the entries which made the selection process quite challenging.

Throughout the judging process it was buildings which found a way to make a new and generous heart to the complex or to the children's area that were more successful. Projects which relied too heavily on a complete reconfiguration or elimination of the existing building were generally decided to be impractical while projects which considered phasing or the use of the centre during construction were looked on more favourably. Many projects were held back because they did not understand the importance of the existing courtyard space to facility. More often than not it was characteristics of subtlety, sensitivity and security which the jury found most suited to the challenges at hand.

The jury and Aoibhneas greatly appreciate all of the effort which the participants put into the competition entries. The assessors have selected three entries to go forward to Stage Two of the competition. These are the submissions with anonymity codes MC779, PA010 and RC444.

Details of these practices will not be published until Stage Two of the competition has been completed and a winner has been chosen. Stage Two of the competition begins on 8 June 2010.