



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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



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Director's Report

Although the RIAI provides a wide range of information to architects, architectural technicians, other professions, politicians, civil servants and the public through television, radio, print media, website, members and practices emails, Architecture Ireland and House magazine, it can be difficult to have an overview of the diversity and range of RIAI activities in one place. I hope this Annual Report will help to fill that gap.

2009 was a difficult year as the recession continued to deepen; a considerable number of Architects and Architect Technicians were made redundant; Government works slowed down and there was almost a total absence of any activity in the private sector other than small scale domestic work.

The reports on Architecture, Education and Practice list the wide range of activities carried out by the RIAI in 2009, all of which contributed towards maintaining and developing a place for architects, architectural technicians and architecture in society.

Architecture Matters

The main focus of the RIAI was working to ensure that architecture and construction was not sidelined because of economic difficulties. The four main areas of activity were:

- Strategic Review
- Construction Industry Council Submission to Government

- Architectural Promotion
- Registration

Strategic Review

In the context of the Building Control Act 2007 and the dramatic slowdown in architecture, the Strategic Review was initiated with a series of meetings held with members around the country. Meetings were held with industry representatives including, contractors, surveyors, engineers, officials and also a series of Council Workshops. Throughout this process the President, Seán Ó Laoire played a major role in moving the process forward. Towards the year end the incoming President, Paul Keogh, finalised the RIAI Action Plan in the context of the crisis facing architecture but also Ireland as a whole. The **2010–2013 Action Plan** set out the RIAI's policies and objectives for the promotion, regulation and support of architecture in Ireland to:

- Promote the value of quality and design in architecture to the advancement of Ireland's economic, social and environmental policy objectives, and the delivery of a high quality built environment.
- Promote the importance of first-class infrastructure and a high quality built environment to the delivery of Ireland's 'Smart Economy' framework, and its economic, social and environmental objectives.



John Graby
Director

- Champion the theory and practice of Sustainable Development; to combat climate change and to improve quality of life for the people of Ireland, today and for generations to come.
- Establish the RIAI structures and programmes required to support the objectives and actions contained in the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.
- Engage with government, the professions, industry and the public to effect improvements in the planning system, and to promote sustainable, and design-led planning in Ireland
- Advance implementation of the RIAI structures required to administer the

Register of Architects under the 2007 Building Control Act and relevant EU directives.

- Promote best practice in the procurement of architectural services; deliver quality, value and risk management for commissioning bodies, and to enable practices of all scales participate effectively in the public procurement process.
- Review RIAI governance and administrative structures to achieve operational improvements, and to provide consumer protection and high-quality services to architects, clients, end-users and the public.
- Promote the need for evidence-based research in architecture, conservation, construction, urban design and the built environment – including green enterprise – and identify key research objectives relevant to architectural practice and consumer protection.
- Expand the RIAI's education and outreach programmes to achieve a wider social, cultural, political and public awareness – and appreciation – of architecture and environmental issues.

Paul Keogh, incoming President for 2010/2011, put the challenge to the RIAI and the profession very clearly in his forward to the Action Plan where he stated:

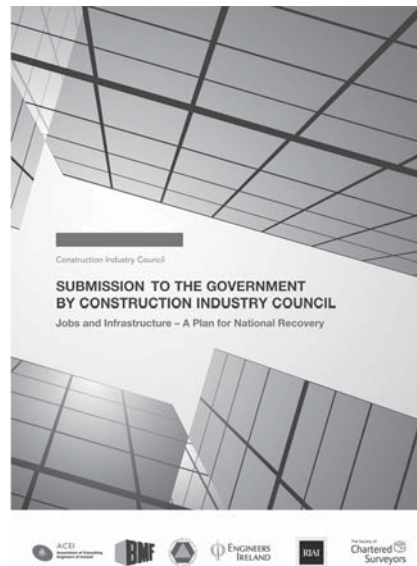
“The strategic review will be judged by our success in delivering on the policies set out in this Action Plan. I look forward to working with central and local government, state authorities, the professions, industry, clients,

the public – and most of all architects – to ensure survival, renewal and recovery of the profession as champion of the importance of quality and design in architecture to the advancement of Ireland’s economic, social and environmental policy objectives”.

Construction Industry Council Submission

In March the Construction Industry Council (CIC) a body representing the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland, the Building Materials Federation, the Construction Industry Federation, Engineers Ireland, the RIAI and the Society of Chartered Surveyors submitted a detailed report entitled “Jobs and Infrastructure – A Plan for National Recovery”

The CIC vision was:
“to save 70,000 jobs over the next three years. Maintain highly skilled productive



resources in Ireland and deliver necessary infrastructure at excellent value for money for the public benefit, with minimal additional State borrowings”.

In summary the report noted that:

- Construction confidence is at an all time low
- A sharp adjustment is underway
- Optimum size suggests output at €18bn
- Infrastructure deficit remains to be addressed
- Industry to shrink to 43% below its optimum size by end of 2011
- Economy could lose 20% of its workforce by end of 2011
- A narrow window of opportunity exists
- Employment intensity of construction projects
- A Government stimulus package of €5bn per annum for next three years for infrastructure

The key element in the report was the CIC view that it was essential for design, planning permission and tenders to be advanced in 2009 in order to ensure the projects reach construction in 2010. Moreover Government stimulus would help to restore confidence to the private sector and the induced impacts would generate substantial benefits to the economy over the medium term, well in excess of €5bn.

Significant lobbying was carried out by the CIC, directly with Government and also with pension funds so as to promote alternative funding mechanisms. The report also dealt with delivering a more effective planning system and topics raised included:

- The need for a standardised application forms
- Validation at the counter
- Planning notices
- Proper pre-planning consultation and records
- The need to monitor planning performance of local authorities
- The need for effective management of the planning system
- The need for a team based approach
- Defined timescales for An Board Pleanála Appeals

The report also suggested that projects with a social purpose such as social housing, schools, health care together with infrastructure works which would deliver long term benefits to society and which would generate employment with taxation revenues should be prioritised in the context of mechanisms such as the Infrastructure Act 2005 and local area plans.

Despite the carefully researched case and the convincing economic payback demonstrated in the CIC Submission, no response was received from Government.

Promotion of Architecture

In the various meetings with Members around the country the promotion of architecture was regarded as having a significant role particularly in times of difficult economic circumstances. The extent of RIAI promotional activities is not always seen as this takes place in a range of media, but significant coverage on television, radio and print media was achieved. Further detail can be found in the "Architecture" section of the Annual Report.

Registration

Events are often described as being "historical" but the launch of the Register of Architects on 16 November 2009 could be easily described as such. May 2009 saw the appointment of the Admissions Board and the Technical Assessment Board. By 16 November there were 2,640 architects on the Register and the procedures for Technical Assessment were published on the website on that day.

This could be seen as the end of a long process but Winston Churchill's clarification on what is meant by this might be appropriate:

"no this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end, but it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning"

The report on Admissions shows the range and complexity of work in the area of Admissions. Other tasks in relation to registration include:

- Finalisation of statutory Code of Professional Conduct

- Issue of first Annual Registration Certificates
- Development of RIAI website to include:
 - Online Register
 - Routes to Registration
 - Information on Registration
- Support for the Admission and Technical Assessment Boards
- Preparation of procedural rules for Boards
- Publication of three leaflets
 - Regulating The Title 'Architect'
 - How Registration Helps You
 - As An Architect On The Register What Do I Have To Do?





Government Policy on Architecture 2009 – 2015

The launch of the Government policy on Architecture in 2009 represented hope for the future of architecture at such a difficult time. The Policy has 45 Actions, funding, an implementation timeline, and an implementation group, on which the RIAI is represented, which was charged in making an annual report on progress to the Minister of the Environment each year.

The key statements on the Policy 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;

Government Policy on Architecture 2009 – 2015

Towards a Sustainable Future:
Delivering Quality within the Built Environment



- 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.

Support

The importance of major policy initiatives such as the CIC Submission to Government, the Government Policy on Architecture and of Registration cannot be over-emphasised but support of individual architects or architectural technicians was and will be a major area of work for the RIAI.

Significant RIAI staff time, particularly for the Practice Director, was taken up on providing advice and information on the range of problems being experienced in a very difficult time. Problems included:

- Professional Indemnity Insurance Claims
- Copyright advice
- Financial Issues
- Difficulties with clients, contractors etc.

- Building Regulations
- Procurement
- Practice Start-Up
- Contracts

The RIAI was also able to help those in financial difficulties by introducing an 'Unwaged Rate' and a rate for 'Financial Hardship'.

At the end of 2009 the RIAI took a decision to reduce Annual Charges for Annual Membership and Registration to the level of the 2004 subscriptions.

CPD Engage

Because defined levels of Continued Professional Development were introduced in the context of Registration and a new Statutory Code of Conduct, CPD Engage was launched. Although a great deal of work was done through emails, training and articles in Architecture Ireland, it proved difficult to get the message through that CPD Engage has the potential to deliver a range of professional development activities at no cost to enable professional obligations to be met as easily as possible.

EU and International

The value of the continuation of RIAI Members to the work of the Architects Council of Europe (ACE) was recognised in the election of Selma Harrington as ACE President for 2009/2010

RIAI Members working with ACE were active in monitoring a range of European issues including the professional Qualifications Directive, the Services

Directive, the Mobile Sites Directive, Cost Information Systems, Urban Issues, Sustainability, Professional Standards and Accreditation, all of which impact on the practice of architecture.

The Future

It would have to be said that anyone involved in architecture needs to be optimistic by nature. For most there was little reason to be optimistic in 2009 but the Policy on Architecture and the Action Plan have the potential for progress between now and 2013 which could lead to a better place for architecture. The RIAI finds itself well placed to deal with these challenging times, with help of members committed to advancing architecture on a voluntary basis, by Council, Committee Members, and a hard-working staff who have coped with the changes and challenges of 2009.

Your Input

Thank you for taking the time to read this report which I hope gives you an overview of the RIAI's work. Your views are welcome: contact us at www.riai.ie

A Voice for Architects

RIAI members provided the voice of architects in a diverse range of national, EU and international bodies as listed:

Architecture, Urbanism and Design	Industry and Professional
Irish Architecture Foundation	Construction Industry Council
Irish Architectural Archive	Construction Advisory Committee
Design Ireland	Construction Safety Partnership
DEHLG/RIAI Sustainable Communities and Housing Committee	Construction Standards Committee
Urban Forum	Irish Agreement Board
Government Policy on Architecture	Inter-Professional Group
Tidy Towns Award for Architecture	Liaison Committee of the Construction Industry
	Local Government Management Services Board
Regional Groups	National Construction and Demolition Waste Council
London Group	National Disease Surveillance Centre
Limerick Forum	Timber Consultative Committee
Southern Region	Construction Industry Technology Alliance
Western Region	Building Regulations Advisory Board
EU	International
Architects Council of Europe	International Union of Architects (UIA)
Cost Information Systems	Architecture for All
Environment and Sustainable Architecture	Accessibility
Procurement	Professional Practice
SHW Research	Architecture sans Frontiers
Professional Experience	International Council for Monuments and Sites
Trade in Services	
European Forum for Architectural Policies	
European Network of Architectural Competent Authorities	

Architecture

A significant strand of the RIAI strategic review in 2009 was an evaluation of the RIAI's role in architecture. The outcome of the discussions, which reflected on what the RIAI was doing and what work it wanted to carry out in the promotion and development of architecture, is that that RIAI's function is communicate the value of quality sustainable architecture to new audiences. The RIAI has concentrated its efforts on expanding the number and diversity of Architectural Competitions, broadening the media appeal and public engagement in the Annual Awards, and developing the Annual Simon Open Door. Smaller initiatives like the Design Week Lecture series and the RIAI Tidy Towns Award broaden the audience that the RIAI is communicating with and help to promote the message that architecture matters.

Awards

The RIAI Gold Medal and the Silver Medal for Housing were both presented in 2009. The media profile for the medals was strengthened by releasing a shortlist to the public. This has been a successful initiative in achieving wider public interest and lengthening the media exposure.

The **RIAI Gold Medal 2001-2003** was awarded to Gilroy McMahon Architects for Croke Park Stadium.

Commended projects were Offaly County Council by ABK Architects and Pumphouse, Clontarf, Dublin by dePaor Architects. The **Gold Medal** was presented to Gilroy

McMahon Architects by Mary McAleese, President of Ireland on Tuesday, 7 April 2009 at the RIAI.

Silver Medal for Housing 2005-2006

The **Silver Medal** for Housing was presented at the National Housing Conference on Monday, 27 April 2009 to O'Mahony Pike Architects for Hanover Quay.

Highly Commended projects were St. Joseph's Court Sheltered Housing, Co. Wexford by Paul Keogh Architects and Fitzwilliam Quay, Dublin 4 by O'Mahony Pike Architects.

The **commended projects** were Hazel Grove Transitional Housing, Donabate by Gerry Cahill Architects and Cluain Padraig Housing, Westport, Co. Mayo by Simon J. Kelly + Partners Architects.

Irish Architecture Awards 2009

A record 220 entries were received for the 2009 Awards. The jury were Greg Tisdall (Chair), James Howley, Des McMahon, Mark Turpin, Martin Henchion and Pat Ruane.

17 projects were given Awards on Monday 22 June at a presentation held in Farnleigh, Phoenix Park. The Awards were presented by John Gormley TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. RTE broadcaster Ryan Tubridy acted as Master of Ceremonies at the event.



Kathryn Meghen
Assistant Director

The shortlist, public vote and the awards announcement received record media coverage, with pieces on Morning Ireland, Six and Nine o'clock news, Irish Times, Sunday Times and many regional papers and radio stations. The Public Choice Award received over 5,000 online votes.

The award winning projects were:

Public Choice Award

Thomond Park Redevelopment – Murray Ó Laoire Architects and AFL Architects

The President's Award

Università Luigi Bocconi, Milan, Italy – Grafton Architects

Best Conservation/Restoration Project

Library, Abbeyleigh – de Blacam and Meagher Architects

Best Cultural Building

Wexford Opera House – OPW Architects & Keith Williams Architects

Best Educational Building

Eurocampus / French School Dublin – A2 Architects

Best Health Building

Midland Regional Hospital at Tullamore – Murray Ó Laoire Architects / Brian O’Connell Associates

Best Single House

10a Grangegorman Villas – ODOS Architects

Best House Extension

Lake House – Clancy Moore Architects

Best Housing (more than one unit)

Timberyard Social Housing – O’Donnell + Tuomey Architects

Best Building in the Landscape

Spa & Leisure Building, Hotel Europa – Gottstein Architects

Best Leisure Building

Ballyfermot Leisure & Youth Centre Project – McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects

Best Public Building

Leixlip Garda Station – O’Brian Beary Architects

Best Public Space

Tallaght Zip & Plaza – Seán Harrington Architects

Best Retail Building

Victoria Square – BDP Architects

Best Sustainable Project

York Street Social Housing – Seán Harrington Architects

Best Accessible Project

Irishtown Health Centre – A&D Weichert & Partners

The Assessors’ Award

St George’s & St Thomas’ Church Insertion – Clancy Moore Architects

RIAI Competitions 2009

The RIAI again partnered with a number of client bodies to administer and promote architectural competitions. Competitions continue to be an important part of the RIAI’s work in promoting quality in architecture to clients and the public and provide an excellent opportunity for new practices.

The following competitions were completed in 2009:

West Cork Arts Centre Architectural Design Competition for West Cork Arts Centre

Winner

Donaghy + Dimond Architects

Shortlist

O’Donnell + Tuomey Architects
Clancy Moore Architects
Matter Design / Office dA

Metro West Liffey Valley Bridge Design Competition for the Railway Procurement Authority (RPA)

Winner

Buro Happold & Explorations Architecture

Shortlist

Foster + Partners / Flint + Neill
Aedas Architects Ltd / Alan Baxter Structural Engineers
Scott Wilson Scotland Ltd / Heneghan Peng Architects / Arup

Masterplan and Offices for Meath County Council and Navan Town Council for Meath County Council

Winner

Hackett Hall McKnight Architects

Shortlist

Raymond McGinley Architects
Murray Ó Laoire Architects
Shay Cleary Architects

Dublin’s Parlour Design Competition for Point Village Ltd

Winner

LiD Architecture

Shortlist

David Wright & Derek Murphy
McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects
Heneghan Peng Architects
Nex Architecture

Holy Cross Parish Church Improvement Competition for Holy Cross Parish Development Committee

Winner

NDBA Architects Ltd

Highly Commended

Lawrence + Long Architects

Commended

de Blacam and Meagher Architects

Shortlist

Deaton Lysaght Architects
Paul Keogh Architects

Centre Pier, Galway Harbour Ideas Competition for Galway Harbour Company in association with Open House Galway

Category A: Architects

Winner

JM Architects

Commended

Cooney McNamara Architects
Raul G. Salgado Architect

Shortlist

O'Donnell Architects
Fabijanczyk / Kandra / Szary / Cosgrave
Paul Keogh Architects
Aughey O'Flaherty Architects
Architecture Republic & SPARQ
Diarmuid Kelly Architecture and Design &
TJ Hartnett
caruso-torricella architetti

Category B: Architectural Graduates / Current Students

Winner

Laura O'Brien & Faella Guiden

Highly commended

Gerry Gleeson
Myles Burke & Michael Stack

Commended

Brian Mallon & Padraic Ward

Shortlist

Elaine Hanna, Lynn McMahon & Elizabeth Clyne
Petrina Tierney & Catriona Toner
Nerea Amoros Elorduy & Victor Gonzalez

Marti
Zsofia Berenyi

European 10

European 10 was launched on 19 January 2009. European aims to give a platform to young European architects to develop and promote their ideas and to give cities and developers innovative solutions to architecture and urban design challenges. For the second time the RIAI managed Ireland's involvement in the European Competition with two sites in Ballymun, Dublin and Ballyburke, Galway.

The competition is confined to architects and other design professionals under the age of forty.

31 submissions were received for the Dublin site and 18 submissions for the Galway site, the submissions came from Ireland, UK, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Latvia, Denmark and Holland. The assessment and jury site visits took place on 3 and 4 September and the jury chose a shortlist of 6 submissions for the Dublin site and 3 submissions for the Galway site.

The jury travelled to Graz, Austria (November 6-8) for the European Cities and Juries Forum to discuss the shortlist and choose winners.

Jury

Aidan O'Connor - Principal Advisor, Housing Division, DoEHLG
Yvonne Farrell - Grafton Architects, Dublin
Neil Baxter - Secretary and Treasurer, The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland
Marguerite Murphy - County Architect, Fingal County Council

John McLaughlin - Director of Architecture, Dublin Docklands Development Authority
Theo Dorgan - Poet, Dublin
Alex Ely - mæ LLP Architects, United Kingdom
Edward Jones - Dixon Jones Limited, United Kingdom
Gerard Maccreanor - Maccreanor Lavington Architects, The Netherlands

The results will be announced on 18 January 2010 and all the submissions for each site will be exhibited – the Dublin site submissions in Ballymun and the Galway site submissions in Galway Civic Offices in January.

Government Policy on Architecture

The Government Policy on Architecture - Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment was launched by the Minister for the Environment Heritage and Local Government in October 2009. The policy provides an important framework for the promotion and development of quality architecture. The RIAI made a significant contribution to the development of the policy and is looking forward to assisting in its implementation as it provides the RIAI with a unique opportunity to develop proposals and initiatives which will help to meet policy objectives.

RIAI Simon Communities of Ireland Open Door

Open Door has developed into the largest public engagement initiative of the RIAI each year. Over the last 5 years, a total of 2675 consultations have been held between architects and the public, raising € 191,000 for the Simon Communities of Ireland.

The fifth annual RIAI/Simon Open Door event was held on Saturday, 7 March 2009.

- 200 Practices took part
- 491 consultations were held
- €37,870 was raised

As in previous years the feedback from both participating clients and architects has been extremely positive, and it has helped a significant number of architects meet new clients while raising monies for a worthy cause.

RIAI Tidy Towns Award 2009

The RIAI Tidy Towns Award was presented by the Honorary Treasurer, David Power on Friday, 16 October to Axo Architects for the Commercial Infill Development, Hopkins Road, Castlebar. The ceremony was attended by the Minister for State Michael Finneran. The award received very good media coverage and helps in the Institute's objective of widening awareness of the contribution of contemporary architecture across the country.

Annual RIAI Conference – Shaping Ireland's Future

The Conference was held in Ireland for the first time in 20 years and focused on what Architects and Architecture can contribute to Shaping Ireland's future.

The conference in Limerick explored three central themes for creating a better built environment – Living, Learning and Health. A wide range of international and national speakers looked at best practice and through panel discussions and presentations discussed how these themes could help to shape Ireland's future.

The conference provided an opportunity for architects - public and private sector, employer and employee to gather and discuss what is now needed to improve the professions circumstances and what changes are needed from architects and from Government to ensure that Ireland gets the quality of architecture it deserves.

The second day was designed as a workshop for practitioners to hear how some architects have taken innovative approaches to dealing with the recession; and tips from business advisors on public relations, internationalisation and new business opportunities.

Speakers and contributors included the Minister of the Environment John Gormley, Kim Nielsen of 3XN Architect Denmark; Professor Ristead Mulcahy, Yvonne Farrell, Conor Skehan, Martin Colreavy, Merrit Bucholz, Gerry Cahill and The RIAI President Sean O'Laoire.

Architecture Foundation

It was agreed that from February 2009 the Architecture Gallery will be on loan to the Irish Architecture Foundation; the Foundation has been having difficulties in securing appropriate accommodation and the RIAI has not been in a position to fully utilise the Gallery space due to the need for secure storage for Technical Assessment applications.

Publications

House Magazine the RIAI's magazine aimed at the private domestic market was only produced once in 2009. The magazine is a showcase for the range of work and expertise that Irish Architects can provide to domestic clients.

The New Housing 2 Building Sustainable Communities was published in March 2009 and launched at the National Housing Conference. A development on the first publication which concentrated in the issue of delivering quality high density housing schemes, the New Housing 2 focuses on delivering sustainable communities and is illustrated by 110 housing projects which address the wider community issues of housing such as:

- Integration with existing facilities
- Development of new towns and communities which provide for more sustainable lifestyles
- Small infill projects which help to regenerate areas
- Coherent strategies for developing small towns and villages

Architecture Ireland: The magazine had a number of changes during 2009 including a new design from the July/August 2009 issue and the inclusion of identifiable CPD credits for all articles and reviews. The other significant change is the magazine is now issued online to all members outside the Republic of Ireland.

Grafton Architects Lecture

The RIAI hosted a lecture by Grafton Architects to mark their winning of the World Architecture Prize 2008 in Dublin Castle. 340 places available were booked out in minutes and the capacity audience were treated to a very informative and entertaining lecture by Yvonne Farrell and Shelly McNamara.

Other lectures hosted by the RIAI in 2009 were

3XN Lecture: 7 May 2009

Henning Larsen Lecture: 7 October 2009

Design Week Lecture Series: 2 – 6 November 2009

Greg Bracken Lecture: 12 November 2009

Keith Bradley – Accordia Lecture: 17 November 2009

Design Week

To coincide with Design Week 2009 the RIAI ran a series of lunch time public lectures by

- A2 Architects on Eurocampus
- Keith Williams Architects and OPW Architects on Wexford Opera House
- Clancy Moore Architects on St George & St Thomas Church insertion and the Lake House
- O'Donnell + Tuomey on Timberyard Social Housing
- de Blacam and Meagher on Abbeyleix Library

Other RIAI events associated with Design Week

- Opening night of Irish Architecture Awards Limerick 02 November
- Opening night at Nexus Building CIT Cork 06 November Irish Architecture Awards
- Plan Expo – 03 -05 November RDS 2nd Exhibition Panels Irish Architecture Awards

EASA – European Architectural Students Association.

The RIAI continued its support of EASA, with two Irish Students Kevin Donnellan and Paul O'Brien travelling to Italy to participate in the largest annual gathering of Architectural Students. The 2009 project was entitled LOGGIA and the project was to study the traditional Italian typology of the marketplace, and create the students' own interpretation of its primary architectural characteristics.

RIAI OPW Graduate Training Scheme

The RIAI OPW Graduate Training Scheme which provides Architectural Graduates with a three year work experience placement aimed at enabling them to take their Examination in Professional Practice. In 2009 another 16 Architectural Graduates were recruited, taking the total number to 30. The programme is very successful for the RIAI and the OPW and the feedback from the graduates has continued to be very positive.

Exhibitions

An exhibition of all 216 Stage 1 entries for the West Cork Arts Centre Competition, the Stage 2 entries and the models of the winning entry took place in the West Cork Arts Centre in Skibbereen, 6 – 21 February 2009. The winners, Donaghy + Dimond Architects presented their winning scheme on 7 February in West Cork.

The winner, shortlist and those chosen for exhibition of the Dublin's Parlour Design Competition were exhibited as part of 'Innovation Dublin 2009' 14 – 20 October 2009 in the Dublin Civic Offices. They

were also exhibited at Plan Expo, 3 – 5 November 2009.

All 117 submissions for the Centre Pier, Galway Harbour competition were exhibited as part of Open House Galway, 16 – 18 October 2009 in the shed on the Centre Pier. The submissions were also exhibited in association with the Accordia lecture in Galway, 17 November 2009.

The RIAI Bookshop

The Bookshop at 8 Merrion Square continues to stock the largest selection of architectural and design publications in the country. The number of customers to the bookshop has been maintained with a wide range of architects from Ireland and abroad and an increasing number of members of the public visiting the shop.

Education

The Board of Architectural Education exercises responsibility for all educational matters and for assessment of applicants for RIAI membership. The voluntary input of RIAI members, in terms of time, quality and intensity, to the BAE, to examinations, visiting boards and other educational activities is enormously valuable. Without it the Institute could not provide the services and support that it does to members and potential members alike.

New Members Admitted

During 2009 the RIAI admitted 204 new applicants; 152 Members, 9 Architectural Graduate Members and 43 Architectural Technician members. The Architectural Graduate membership category was introduced during 2009 to replace the suspended Associate membership grade.

Professional Practice Examination

In the 2008/2009 cycle 135 candidates sat one or more stages of the RIAI Examination in Professional Practice. Of 84 undertaking the final stage 59 were successful. Briefing sessions for Examination Candidates and their Mentors and advisory sessions for final year students on examination and registration requirements, practical experience and career planning, were delivered as usual.

More Exam Flexibility

In response to the situation of candidates facing unemployment or cancellation of their Case Study projects the examination

regulations were modified to provide more flexibility. Candidates could now sit the Written Exam with one year's post-graduate experience instead of two, with a three-day week counted as full-time employment. Two years of experience were still required before taking the Case Study and Oral Examination. But Case Studies based on projects in other jurisdictions could be accepted under suitable circumstances and the 'Monitored Case Study' was introduced to make it easier for unemployed candidates to sit the Case Study and Oral Examination.

New Repeat Programme

A Pilot Repeat Programme was introduced for candidates who had failed their Case Study and Oral examination by a narrow margin. This proved very successful, with seven out of nine eligible candidates passing in this process, and will be continued in future cycles.

Technician Entry Examination

The Examination took place in June 2009. Briefing meetings and the practical exercise examination were held in DIT with the generous support of the Department of Architectural Technology. Thirteen candidates sat the examination; all were successful and therefore eligible for Architectural Technician membership.

Schools of Architecture - Nine Visits

RIAI Visiting Boards carried out nine accreditation visits during the year. RIAI



Ann McNicholl
Education Director

Accreditation of the Bachelor of Architecture Degree and of the Post Graduate Diploma in Professional Practice at University College Dublin was renewed for a period of five years; the Bachelor of Architecture Degree at Waterford Institute of Technology was awarded full Accreditation with conditions; and the new Register Admission Examination conducted by ARAE Ltd. was granted Provisional Approval. Interim review of other programmes continued during the year.

New Format Travelling Scholarship 2009

A new format brief was issued to the schools of architecture in October 2009 for submission in April 2010. This introduced a three-year cycle which will focus on housing. The Brief for 2009/2010 was

'Rural 2010 – Building in the Landscape'. Urban and suburban housing will feature in the following two years, with publication of a book at the end of the cycle.

Implementation of Registration

The education division continued to contribute to the development and implementation of the RIAI admission procedures under the Building Control Act 2007 and *Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications*, while evaluation of non-EU qualifications in architecture, and the assessment of candidates seeking exemption from the examination in professional practice, remains its responsibility.

Standards for Knowledge, Skill and Competence

The *RIAI Standard of Knowledge Skill and Competence for Practice as an Architect*, now the benchmark for admission to Registration and RIAI Membership and the framework for members' CPD planning, was published.

In January 2009 Council decided to replace the membership category of 'Architectural Technician' with that of 'Architectural Technologist' and to develop a single *RIAI Standard of Knowledge, Skill and Competence for Practice as an Architectural Technologist*. Work on the new *Standard*, which will be benchmark for admission to RIAI Architectural Technologist membership regardless of how a candidate's skills have been attained, was completed by year end.

Conservation Accreditation

The RIAI Conservation Induction Module was run again in April – May, with 81 participants successfully completing the

Assessment Exercise which entitles them to Accreditation at Grade III. The RIAI Conservation Accreditation System was re-evaluated and some modifications in the timing of required experience introduced before launch of a call for applications for Grades I and II in December. Application fees were reduced to 2006 levels.

CPD

2009 was a critical year, with mandatory CPD finally coming into force in October. CPD *Bulletins* Nos. 51 – 64 were issued to all members and registered RIAI practices.

'CPD Engage'

RIAI CPD Engage, a new online service, was launched at the end of March to provide members with access to as wide a range of CPD as possible. The system was designed to allow members to plan, find, undertake, record and reflect on their CPD activities regardless of geographic location or time of day. It provides links to CPD offered by the RIAI itself and by many other providers.

Free 'CPD Engage Information and Training' sessions were delivered around the country, accompanied by a pack designed to equip participants to transmit the information to their colleagues back at base. Also put in place was an on-line CPD Engage training module and a *CPD Engage User Manual*, while RIAI CPD staff members provided telephone support to members experiencing difficulty with the system.

RIAI Courses

CPD delivery increased again, with some courses being repeated in different locations (Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick

and Letterkenny) and in-house in RIAI member practices. In 2009 these included:

- Project Supervisor for the Design Process
- Designing for Safety
- Project Management in the Built Environment
- Fire Refresher: Making a Fire Safety Application
- BS 9999: What's New?
- Conservation Induction Module
- Creative Thinking in a Crisis
- Urban Design Master Class Series
- Designing Low-Energy Domestic Refurbs
- Disability Access Certificates

A series of low-cost Breakfast Seminars on business-related topics such as human resources, company and partnership law, commercial, competition and employment law, financial planning and public relations were delivered in Dublin – all focused on the establishment of new practices or development of existing practices in recession conditions.

Free and Low-Cost CPD

In recognition of the difficult economic circumstances the RIAI introduced, for every RIAI-run CPD event, a 'CPD Lottery', offering one free place to an unemployed member, and one place at a fifty per



cent discount to a member experiencing financial hardship. In addition a reduction was applied to the price of all existing RIAI courses for the year and unwaged members were alerted to FÁS funding. As for CPD Engage, in building the new database of courses and materials, access for members to free or low-cost CPD was a priority.

RIAI CPD Network

More companies and presentations were added to the 'RIAI CPD Network'. RIAI Regional Representatives supported local practices in arranging group sessions for presentation on topics of particular interest.

RIAI CPD Links

Work began on 'CPD Links', a new service designed to provide RIAI members with

better information on the range of CPD offered by other educational, professional and training organisations. The launch was planned for 2010.

Practice

Public commissions diminished at an alarming rate in 2009.

8% Reduction in Professional Fees for Public Commissions

The RIAI, through the Construction Industry Council, consulted with the Department of Finance and negotiated a number of changes to the contracts and conditions of engagement, in particular the 8% reduction in professional fees. Fortunately this issued turned out to be multifaceted, eventually acknowledged by the Department of Finance. In most instances 8% reductions on projects were achieved by very competitive tendering; in other instances risk assessment by public bodies confirmed the 8% reduction was not possible due to the increased risk if the 8% was applied. Also much in evidence, as in 2008, was the inability of the state and state agencies to cut through the level of bureaucracy created by the procurement methods and pay fees promptly to Architects.

Smaller Practices benefited from commissions for domestic projects, either extensions to existing dwellings, new dwellings or general refurbishment to meet energy saving standards or future proofing of dwellings.

A trend, common to all recessions in the construction industry, for the unwaged or unemployed to form new architectural practices, reoccurred. It should be recalled that some of the largest practices in the State were formed in previous recessions.

Building Regulations

A date for the implementation of Disability Access Certificates was announced in October 2009, which immediately gave rise to uncertainty as to the process and procedures including the role of the Commencement Notice. Regulations rushed out by DEHLG, were ill thought out, both for those submitted applications for DACs and those processing them. The continuing uncertainty and confusion will continue into 2010.

Existing Building Contracts

Main contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers experienced considerable credit difficulties in 2009. This reflected on the workload of the RIAI Member in practice. Numerous contractors and suppliers went into liquidation during contracts; sub-contractors and supplier in many instances were not paid certified monies, and this burden extended contract completion dates, introduced liquidators and receivers into contracts, and the appointment of new contractors to complete contracts.

The Practice Committee

The Practice division within the RIAI is supported by the Members without whose assistance the Practice Committee; the Accessibility Task Force; the Housing Committee, the Historic Building Committee and the Sustainability Task Force could not function so successfully. The Practice Committee considered and reviewed:

- National Consumer Report on the Home Construction Sector in Ireland



Joe Miller
Practice Director

- RIAI Architects Opinions on Compliance
- BER Certification and RIAI Members
- Schools and the Department of Education and Science
- RIAI Strategic Review 2009 onwards
- Collateral Warranties
- Propose Mediation and the Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry
- Liaison Committee New Form of Contract
- Registration and Legislation Issues
- Planning and Building regulations Issues
- Financial/Economic/Insolvency Issues
- CPD and Lost Business Skills
- The National Housing Conference 2009 - Unblocking the System
- The New Housing 2
- 8% Reduction in Consultants Fees for State Commissions

- RIAI CPD Engage
- CPD - Making a Fire Safety Certificate Application
- CPD - How to Specify Small Structural Work for Domestic Projects
- CIC Proposal for Maintaining Employment in the Construction Industry
- Additional Architectural Services for Building Energy Performance Monitoring
- The Government Forms of Building Contract and Conditions of Engagement
- Cost of Additional Work under GCCC Forms of Building Contracts
- The New RIAI Planning Methodology
- Recent High Court Case Involving a Firm of Consulting Engineers and HSA
- RIAI proposals on BREG and the Law Society of Ireland
- Part 6 of the NAMA Legislation
- RIAI Survey of RIAI Practices
- Construction Industry Council Submission to NAMA
- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Part M of the Building Regulations
- Requirement for Disability Access Certificates in the Building Regulations BS 9999
- Practical Completion Certificate
- Department of Education and Science and Procurement
- Liaison Committee and their Health and Safety Guidance
- Construction Industry Council's Proposals for Procurement
- RIAI Technicians Competences
- The Planning and Development (Amendments) Bill 2009
- The Chairperson and Vice Chair for the RIAI Practice Committee for 2009 onwards
- Review of the Structure of the RIAI

- Practice Committee for 2010 onwards
- Draft Client / Architect Agreement for restoration Work

Consulted with Outside Bodies

- Law Society of Ireland
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Department of Education and Science
- Department of Finance
- Liaison Committee and Conciliation Procedures
- Retrospective Fire Safety Applications under the Act
- Arbitration Bill 2008
- National Consumers Report on the Home Construction Sector in Ireland
- Ordnance Survey and Digital Mapping Difficulties

New Government Building Contracts

- Evaluation of Tenders under the new Government Form of Contract
- New Government Conditions of Engagement of Consultants for Building Projects

RIAI Practice Matters

- RIAI Planning Survey
- RIAI Opinions on Compliance
- Copyright and the Abuse of Copyright
- RIAI Competence Task Force Report
- Review and Updating of RIAI Practice Notes and Information Papers
- Review of and contributions to the RIAI Good Practice Guide
- New RIAI Proposed Code of Professional Conduct
- RIAI PSDP Accreditation
- RIAI Accessibility Accreditation
- RIAI Sustainability Accreditation
- Model Safety Statement for Architectural Practices

- VAT Changes
- The Business of Architecture
- Procurement and the Competition Authority

The Procurement of Architectural Services

The work of the special committee set up under the chair of RIAI Second Vice President, Michelle Fagan, continued. They reported on difficulties with the exclusion of small to medium size practices from the government conditions of engagement for building consultants. Difficulties identified include, excessive annual turnover requirements; excessive Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements; specific previous project experience; excessive staffing levels. Also identified are abuses of the procurement system such as subsequent re-evaluation of prequalification during the bidding process.

Communications

Communications with the RIAI Membership was conducted by email with monthly Practice, Members and CPD bulletins, which covered the latest and most salient information available to the RIAI for the benefit of the Members.

Admissions

The RIAI Admissions division, having been established in July 2008, continued work on the development and implementation of procedures and systems for admission to RIAI membership and to the Register of architects in 2009. While the registration of architects is a new function and a key reason for establishing a dedicated admissions division, the division also deals with architectural graduates (the new grade replacing the 'Associate' admission route) and architectural technologists. Work is ongoing on all fronts in the development and streamlining of admissions systems.

New Developments

A key focus for 2009 was the implementation of the new admission routes for all grades of membership and the register. These routes are presented in the RIAI website in the Admissions section and work has been ongoing to ensure that these routes are clear and intelligible with adjustments being made based on feedback from applicants.

The RIAI database was upgraded prior to 2009 to cope with the new systems and to make data processing and reporting more transparent and straightforward. 2009 saw further upgrades to respond to emerging needs as the new admission processes bedded down. A core development involved adjustments to ensure that the database could provide up to date information for the planned online Register of architects and the production of registration certificates.

The Admissions division also worked closely with the Education division on the establishment of systems for entry to the register set out in the Building Control Act and not already in existence. Among others, these included the Technical Assessment system and the Register Admissions Examination. The ARAE (Architects Registration Admission Examination, a campus company of UCD) was established as the provider of this examination and opened for applications just prior to the launch of the register.

Building Control Act 2007 – appointment of Boards and launch of the Register

The Building Control Act passed in May 2007 and was commenced in May 2008; work on actually admitting architects to the register could not, however, proceed until the Independent Boards described in the Act could be established. The Admissions and Technical Assessment Boards were both established on 1 May 2009 following the nomination of the non-architect members and the appointment of the chairpersons by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The membership of the Boards when first established was as follows;

Admissions Board: Chairperson Richard Humphreys; Ministerial Nominees Brian Cunningham, Paula Rice, Martin Hogan and Mairead Hughes; RIAI nominees Eoin O'Cofaigh, Toal O'Muire, Grainne Shaffrey.



Margaret Hynds O'Flanagan
Admissions Director

Technical Assessment Board: Chairperson Cliona Kimber; Ministerial nominees Sean Balfe, Bernard Lennon, Henk van der Kamp, Geraldine Walsh; RIAI nominees Orla FitzGerald, Loughlin Kealy, Joan O'Connor.

Both Boards met for the first time in June 2009, the first meeting in both cases comprised a briefing by the Registrar John Graby, the Admissions Director and the Chairperson of the relevant Board followed by a question and answer session.

Both Boards met monthly and spent the early months familiarising themselves with their roles and the processes relevant to their area of responsibility with explanatory documentation provided by the RIAI's

Admissions division. The Admissions division also provided the draft rules to be established by the RIAI under the terms of the Act, the rules are being established and implemented on an incremental basis.

The Boards, while supported by the RIAI administration, worked carefully to ensure that all procedures complied with the Building Control Act 2007, and the Professional Qualifications Directive. There was particular emphasis by both Boards on the need for independence in process and decision making as provided for in the Act.

The Register was launched on 16 November 2009, on that date 2,640 architects were registered. On the same date the Technical Assessment system was opened to applications. Technical Assessment is 'Route E' in the new admissions system.

Admissions to RIAI membership

New admissions to all grades of membership in 2009 totalled 204. The breakdown by grade was as follows:

Architect	152
Architectural Graduate	9
Architectural Technician	43
Total	204

All of those admitted as architects in 2009 chose to be Members of the RIAI as well as registrants.

European co-operation supporting mobility for architects

Almost 40% of architect admissions in 2009 were carried out under the provisions of the Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC) which came into force in October 2007, replacing the Architects Directive. The Directive requires that provisions be made for administrative co-operation between Competent Authorities (the RIAI is the Irish Competent Authority for architects). The RIAI has been very pro-active in this regard being a central actor in the formation of the ENACA (European Network of Architects Competent Authorities www.enaca.eu). The ENACA is chaired by Toal O'Muire and the Admissions Director is an active participant in the network. The Admissions Director attended a day-long session in Brussels hosted by the European Commission in February 2009 for participants in the pilot phase of the Services Directive element of the IMI, a formal information exchange tool provided by the Commission for Competent Authorities.

In December 2009 the Admissions Director spoke on the RIAI's behalf at the Department of Education and Science 'Conference on the EU Qualifications Directive 2005-36' which was attended by Irish Competent Authorities across all sectors, officials from State organisations and government Departments and representatives of the European Commission. Speakers at the event included representatives of the Department of Education and Science, the European

Commission, the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment, the Medical Council, FÁS and the RIAI.



RIAI Council for 2009

Seán Ó Laoire	President
Paul Keogh	First Vice President
Michelle Fagan	Second Vice President
David Power	Honorary Secretary
Martin Colreavy	Honorary Treasurer
James Pike	Past President
Fionnuala Rogerson	Ordinary Member
Toal O'Muire	Ordinary Member
Robin Mandal	Ordinary Member
Jim Coady	Ordinary Member
Angela Brady	Ordinary Member
Niall McCullough	Ordinary Member
Orla FitzGerald	Ordinary Member
Marguerite Murphy	Ordinary Member
Cormac Allen	Ordinary Member
Eamonn Greville	Member Elected By Council
David Wylde	Northern Region Representative
Michael Williams	Southern Region Representative
Martin Tritschler	Eastern Region Representative
Helena McElmeel	Western Region Representative
Brian Maher	Architectural Technician Member
Seamus McCloskey	RSUA Observer Member
David Smith	AAI Representative
Maol Iosa Molloy	AGA UCD Representative
Ronan Rose-Roberts	AGA DIT Representative
John Graby	Director

Financial Report

The financial impact of the recession was felt in all the RIAI areas of activity.

However, the RIAI continued to trade with a modest surplus in 2009; this was created by reducing expenditure in all areas and renegotiation with suppliers. The RIAI financial policy in recent years to build up reserves was adopted to ensure that the RIAI could continue to provide members with a full range of services during a period of negative growth, and to ensure it had sufficient funds to develop the systems, procedures and staff for the Registration function start-up. It has always been envisaged that registration would be self-funding but that there would be considerable demands on cash resources in the initial stages.

The RIAI policy of broadening its sources of funding had also been maintained with Membership Subscriptions contributing 26% of total turnover and Practice Subscriptions contributing 6% of total. The RIAI's financial management policy has been to provide a wide range of services to members and on behalf of members while allowing members to select and pay for any additional services they require.

There was a significant decrease during 2009 in many of the business related services. Bookshop, document sales, job search, and membership and practice subscriptions declined.

The development of the internal systems necessary to implement and deliver registration required investment in both capital and the recruitment of two additional staff.

The downturn in the levels of activity in the industry impacted on the number of new members which fell from 271 in 2008 to 206 in 2009 and with 42 practices registering with the RIAI in comparison to 60 the previous year. An increasing number of Members sought financial hardship reductions and job seekers rates. The size of practice also reduced with the larger practices being most significantly affected in 2009.

The forecast for 2010 is negative with the RIAI predicting a loss of €300,000 which will have to be met from reserves. All expenditures are being reviewed on a monthly basis. However, the RIAI Council and Executive have made the decision to maintain the level of services to Members and to invest when necessary in projects which will, in the long term, assist the organisation in meeting its strategic objectives.

Because the appointments of the non-architects to the Admissions and Technical Assessment Boards under the Building Control Act 2007 were only made in May 2009 and the Register launched in November, it has not been possible

or feasible to account for the costs of registration for 2009, or to reconfigure RIAI financial systems in reporting in this regard. This will take place in 2010.



Financial Statements

Revenue

for the year ended 31 December 2009

	2009	2008
	€	€
Operating income from continuing operations	4,455,637	5,496,625
Surplus for the year before taxation	146,863	509,029
Taxation	-	84,496
Surplus for the year after taxation	146,863	593,525

Approved by the Council on 6 July 2010

David Power

Honorary Secretary

Martin Colreavy

Honorary Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31 December 2009

	2009	2008
	€	€
Assets Employed		
Fixed Assets	2,347,420	3,350,182
Current Assets		
Stocks	72,343	88,470
Debtors	397,733	520,910
Bank	3,544,385	3,255,101
	4,014,461	3,864,481
CREDITORS		
(Amounts falling due within one year)	(1,029,642)	(1,129,287)
Net Current Assets	2,984,819	2,735,194
Net Assets	5,332,239	6,085,376
Financed By:		
Revenue Account	4,110,996	3,964,133
Revaluation Reserve	1,195,333	2,095,333
Other Reserves	25,910	25,910
	5,332,239	6,085,376

Approved by the Council on 6 July 2010

David Power

Honorary Secretary

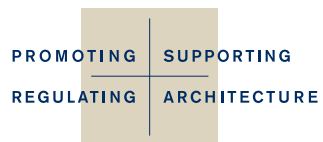
Martin Colreavy

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 accessed on the Institute's website in the "Members only" area.





RIAI

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