



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

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



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# President's Report

I claim no prophetic powers. However by including a cartoon of the "Celtic Tiger" leaving Ireland, having been advised of credit restrictions, in my first President's Column (A.I. Jan 2008) I was reflecting an analysis I presented to the Merriman Summer School (2006), and what I was feeling in my aging bones. The President's Column has become for me personally an interesting index of the reality and perception of global and national economic collapse that has characterised 2008.

The convergence of the legislation enabling registration, the culmination of 10 years of dedicated engagement by my predecessors and the Directorate, with what was officially pronounced a "recession" in June 2008, quickly called for a review of priorities, reflective of the potential damage to the Institute and its capacity to serve its members in this new landscape. A third strand of convergence is the pending "Government Policy on Architecture", due to be published in Autumn 2009.

Membership is at an all time high, and through prudent stewardship respectable reserves have been accrued. However, it was becoming evident in mid 2008, that many members were being rendered redundant. That trend has accelerated with tragic human consequences.

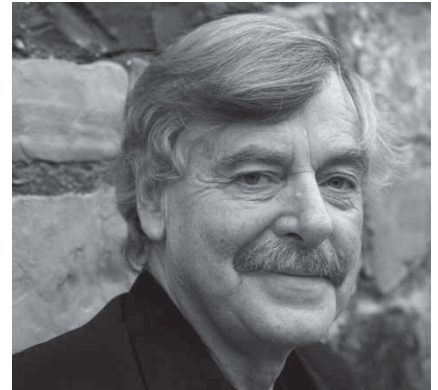
In recognition of this new reality, the preparation of a major strategic review was initiated in October 2008, with an extensive programme of consultation with a steering

group, regional members, Council and other stakeholders

Broadly, its terms of reference were to set out a survival and development strategy that would guide the Institute through a hugely uncertain future, in a manner that reflects its remit to best serve its members, promote architecture, and be accountable to the public, the consumers of its members' services. Critically, it sets out to declare a positive commitment to the quality of architecture in a post registration regime.

Under the direction of John Graby, Ann McNicholl and Margaret Hynds O'Flanagan, the first pilot "technical assessment programme" was successfully completed.

As a marker for future policy, vis a vis, the RIAI "Annual Conference", the 2008 Conference was held in Bordeaux and was conceived as "Part 1" of two thematically linked conferences, with Limerick proposed to host the 2009 conference. The linking theme of "Making Cities Work", was consciously selected to bring a focus on our dysfunctional planning system and to assist to position the profession at the heart of problem solving, rather than at the margins. The transformation of Bordeaux proved highly instructive, as did the contribution of French and Irish speakers at the day long conference. The tour programme was splendidly organised by L'Arc en Reve, a truly dynamic centre of architecture in Bordeaux.



**Seán Ó Laoire**  
**President 2007/2008**

I took the opportunity to meet with the heads of all 5 schools in the Republic with a view to discussing how the profession and the schools could magnify the profile of architecture and architects. I believe that this initiative will bear fruit in 2009 and beyond.

In June 2008, a majority of voters rejected the Lisbon Treaty, as indeed is their entitlement, and this reality warrants respect. I re-iterate here in summary what I expressed at the opening of the 2008 RIAI awards:- while my own personal position is one of critical support for the European project, we as a society tolerated and indeed colluded in a depressing travesty masquerading as a debate, where myths and lies were unchallenged, and leadership was found wanting. Sadly, the sorry state of

the body politic, which includes the people, is being further exposed, as we limp from states of myopic self delusion to very harsh reality.

The number of entries for the 2008 awards was a record reflecting the output of the previous years. Happily the standards also reflected the continued upward curve in the quality of Irish Architecture. This evolution was most notably recognised by the award of Best Building to Grafton Architects for Bocconi University Milan, at the World Festival of Architecture in Barcelona.

Institute members and officers through their work groups made substantial and considered contributions to the deliberations of those charged with drafting the pending Government Policy on Architecture.

In my capacity as President, I was honoured to present papers to the Conference of the Irish Planning Institute, the National Housing Conference, Maximising the (Dublin) City's Potential and the (PLEA) International Conference at UCD, the John Roberts Architectural Festival at WIT. I also represent the Institute at the Forum for Architectural Policy in Bordeaux, "ACE" in Brussels and Lubljana, and met most regional members in conjunction with the openings of the RIAI awards exhibition at regional venues. Being asked to give the opening address to hundreds of multinational young student architects at the launch of the EASA008 summer school in Dublin Castle was a cherished honour.

The end of 2008 was a period of gloom and pessimism occasioned by the converge

of global economic turmoil with the ever-unfolding stories of the mismanagement of the Irish economy, and the demise of our banks.

In response to rapid decline in the economy and anecdotal reporting of the scale of redundancies, the Institute commissioned a survey to provide some empirical basis to quantify the scale of the problem. The Institute issued a "support pack" of information and advice to members who were rendered redundant, and established a forum for unwaged members.

All indicators are pointing to continuing economic gloom, which no doubt will magnify the unemployment issue, I trust that Government will look positively at the initiative of the Construction Industry Council, to look to an innovative funding mechanism for infrastructural projects, using pension funds. The Institute has a significant catalytic involvement in this project which will be presented to Government in Spring 2009.

Discussions are ongoing in relation to a five-year programme of competitions promoted jointly by the RIAI, OPW and SEI. For a variety of unforeseen circumstances the first of these competitions will not be announced until late in 2009. However, over a five-year period, members will have an opportunity to focus on all scales of the sustainability agenda, with commissions ensuing in some cases. The same grouping organised what was deemed to be a highly successful conference in Dublin Castle, "Sustainable Energy Now; Delivering Exemplar Buildings, Selecting Future Standards" in January 2009.

Every member of the Institute will be profoundly impacted by the current crisis – which has the potential to redefine the practice of architecture for better or worse. The joint Enterprise Ireland / RIAI initiative in supporting architects to export their services will hopefully render the prospects of survival better for some members.

However, the short-term pre-occupation will understandably be with survival. We do need to use this time to assist in guiding our leaders towards a better and sustainable future. Equally we need to use this time to assert the profession diversity of problem solving skills so that never again will we become the butt of cheap political shots, which is one memorable instance, suggested that architects somehow were responsible for the costs of school buildings. We need courage and conviction, and the courage of our convictions.

Beir Bua is Beannacht.

# Director's Report

## 2008 was very much a question of the five 'R's':

- Registration
- Recession
- Reserves
- Review
- Regulation

### Registration

2008 saw the commencement of the Building Control Act 2007 i.e. the Act then became law. Architects might reasonably wonder why the system was actually not operating in 2008, but the various nominations of non-architects to committees and boards were not made by Government. This process will be completed in 2009.

What commencement of the Act did allow was the necessary confidence to begin serious planning for the transition to a statutory regulatory function including hardware, software, staff training, systems analysis and associated costs. 2008 also saw the conclusion of the Technical Assessment Pilot Scheme, announced in late 2007, which enabled the Institute to assess the systems for this complex task and to evaluate results so as to improve the final methodology.

### Recession

Whatever about the collapse of Lehmann Bros in September 2008, and all the associated subprime problems in the US, toxic loans and so on, it was clear from

early 2008 that construction activity was slowing down because this can be easily tracked in the sale of RIAI documents; the rate of sale of Opinions on Compliance, Building Contracts, Certificates for Payments etc all showed a marked fall. In anticipation of a continuing decline in activity, expenditure items were carefully scrutinised so as to ensure that a surplus would be achieved at year end as can be seen in the Annual Accounts included in this report.

There was early evidence of redundancies and short-time work in practices leading to problems for salaried architects. An RIAI survey showed an anticipated 41% redundancies in architectural practices and sadly the projection was accurate. An information pack for unwaged members was prepared and financial hardship rates introduced.

Although there was some reduction in annual subscription payments, the RIAI is unusual in relation to most professional organisations for the low level of dependence on direct annual charges, averaging about 22% of overall income. The RIAI has a range of income streams from a significant number of sources which help to keep subscriptions to the lowest possible level while offering a wide range of services and support such as education, public programmes etc.

### Reserves

As the Annual Accounts show the RIAI has



John Graby  
Director

a reasonable level of reserves built up in recent years which allowed the Institute to invest the necessary resources in preparing for registration and to prepare for the inevitable downturn. RIAI reserves also enabled investment in an online CPD system to be launched in 2009 and for 2009 subscriptions to be kept at 2008 levels.

### Review

The Commencement of the Building Control Act 2007 in 2008 represented a significant change and coupled with the end of one of the most active decades in architecture in the State, leading to economic slowdown, it was important to review the role of the RIAI in this new context. The Strategic Review process started in late 2008 and will conclude in 2009.

## Regulations, Planning and Payment

Consistent problems with the operation of the Regulatory Framework for building and planning continued, together with significant procurement and payment problems.

### Planning

There seemed to be no realisation at official level of the range and extent of problems being caused to architects and the industry in this area. The major problem was the administration of the system, including irrational invalidation, inconsistent advice, misuse of additional information requests and the extraordinary length of time taken by Local Authorities to respond to compliance submissions.

RIAI continued to receive complaints from members about the administration of the planning system. So as to arrive at an evidence based statistical evaluation RIAI commissioned a survey of the system. The findings formed the basis of a lobbying campaign, including print media, radio and representations to Government.

There were four key findings:

**1. 62% saw the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) as having the primary responsibility for planning process improvements:**

This is not the view of DEHLG which continues to see problems with Local Authorities and planning as a matter for representations to that Authority. There is an urgent need for DEHLG to take a more proactive role in evaluating and responding to

variances in performance of various Local Authorities so as to ensure an even standard of performance throughout the sector which would result in cost savings for applicants, and the public sector, leading to projects moving quickly to site with consequent increases in employment.

**2. 76% saw the planning decisions as not being supportive of good quality design in the built environment.**

The question must be asked as to what is the objective of the planning system?

**3. 82% saw the planning process as not being well positioned to cope with changes regarding energy performance, accessibility or sustainability.**

This finding must be a worry for a Government with ambitious energy and low carbon targets.

**4. The overall satisfaction rate with the Local Authorities' management was low, an average rating of 5.7 out of a potential 10, comparing poorly with similar studies in the business environment.**

Attempts were made to defend the low ratings of some Local Authorities by pointing to the relatively low level of applications by RIAI members, not appreciating that architects were making application to a wide range of Authorities and were in a position to compare and contrast.

### Procurement

Procurement was an ever increasing problem with substantial waste of resources for the private sector in making applications for appointments and for the public sector in evaluating such applications. Procurement agencies used similar methodologies, but while asking the same questions, there was no degree of standardisation available to those making applications.

Exclusionary criteria continued as a problem including excessive levels of turnover and professional indemnity insurance. In 2006 the Competition Authority, in a report on competition in professional services, identified high levels of professional indemnity insurance required as excluding small firms from providing services to public bodies. Following representation from the RIAI, the Authority supported the use of sliding scales for P.I. as in the DEHLG 2004 guidelines to Local Authorities. In many cases these guidelines have been ignored.

These exclusionary criteria and marking/evaluation systems that did not seem relevant to achieving a quality outcome and, given the seriousness of the problem the RIAI cooperated with the Society of Chartered Surveyors and the Association of Consulting Engineers in Ireland, in examining abuses of the procurement system with a view to making a detailed submission to Government in 2009.

### Payment

Delays in payment of fees due to architects exacerbated the problems caused by the economic slowdown. With some notable exceptions the State sector seems to regard Prompt Payment legislation as

a form of fiction and takes refuge in mechanisms such as withholding approval of a stage to avoid any payment and payment of interest. These practices have the potential to have a devastating impact on architectural firms in the future.

Another aspect of payment was shown in a 2008 independent Architects' Council of Europe survey of the architectural profession in the EU where the average 2007 income for an architect in Ireland was €65,000 at a time when Irish architects were the most productive in Europe.

### **Voluntary Input by Members**

The RIAI benefits from input by Members who work to advance the cause of architecture across areas of the Institute which in Education includes RIAI Visiting Boards, Members working as examiners in the Professional Practice Examination, and in the Architectural Technician Entry Examination. In areas such as Conservation a considerable number of Members are involved in marking examinations and evaluating dossiers, holding interviews etc.

A substantial area of work is that of Appeals Board, where there are now Boards for the Professional Practice Examination, Conservation Induction Module, Conservation Grades 1 and 2 and the Architectural Technician Examination.

Both architects and architect technician members have given substantial amount of time to the development of competences for graduate architects, professionally qualified architects, and architect technicians/technologists. This work is particularly important as a framework for statutory

regulations, technical assessment and the register admissions examination. The Board of Architectural Education continues to exercise responsibility for all educational matters, including admission of new members to the RIAI. 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.

### **Practice**

In the area of practice architects and architectural technician members have made important contributions to areas such as:

- RIAI Forms of Building Contracts
- RIAI SF 88 – Insurances and Health and Safety update requirements
- Draft Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry Form of Contract
- RIAI Insurance Clauses 26/Existing Buildings
- Liquidation of Main Contractors and Nominated Sub-contractors
- Building Regulations Advisory Board
- Draft Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry Guidance Notes on Health and Safety Procedures
- Liaison Committee and Conciliation Procedures
- Retrospective Fire Safety Applications

under the Act

- SEI and Approved DEAP courses
- Arbitration Bill 2008
- National Consumers Report on the Home Construction Sector in Ireland
- Ordnance Survey and Digital Mapping Difficulties
- Evaluation of Tenders under the new Government Form of Contract
- New Government Conditions of Engagement of Consultants for Building Projects
- RIAI Fee Survey 2003-2007
- RIAI Planning Survey
- RIAI Opinions on Compliance
- Practice Procedure for Issue of Drawings in Digital Format to Third Parties
- Copyright and the Abuse of Copyright
- RIAI Competence Task Force Report
- Review and Updating of RIAI Practice Notes and Information Papers
- Review of the contributions to the RIAI Good Practice Guide
- Clients and their Credit rating
- RIAI PSDP Accreditation



- Model Safety Statement for Architectural Practices
- VAT Changes from the 1st September 2008 and Principle Contractors
- Hard Times for RIAI Members and Practices
- Procurement and the Competition Authority

## EU and International

The 2008 Lisbon Treaty debate showed again how important the EU has become in our lives. RIAI members working with the Architects' Council of Europe 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.

At an international level RIAI members contributed, through the International Union of Architects (UIA) to accessibility, Children in Architecture and professional practice.

## Architecture

The Members' input into the area of architecture has as always been immense. Members have acted on the juries for awards and competitions, have given their time to the Simon Open Door event which continues to grow each year and is now the RIAI's largest public annual engagement event. Members have volunteered to work on the Government Policy on Architecture which is a vitally important document in the development of the profession and the improvement of the awareness of the value of quality in the built environment. RIAI members have again given a great deal of their time to work on the editorial boards of both the RIAI magazines Architecture Ireland and the RIAI's only public focus magazine "House".

The RIAI executive worked on developing

media campaigns to support these initiatives. Successful media campaigns were run for the Open Door RIAI / Simon Community and for Irish Architecture Awards with the equivalent of €500,000 worth of coverage being achieved. Other media campaigns were run to promote the competitions, exhibition and awards.

## New Members

There was substantial membership growth with 264 new members admitted.

## 2008

In a year of increasing difficulties for architects, architecture and the RIAI it was encouraging, and at times inspiring, to work with an insightful President, engaged Council and Committee Members, as well as leading a staff who dealt with new challenges, increased levels of demand for advice and information for members in the context of an increasingly complex regulatory framework, and the preparation for registration with dedication and commitment.

## 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
Architecture Ireland	Inter-Professional Group
Government Policy on Architecture	Liaison Committee of the Construction Industry
House Magazine	Local Government Management Services Board
Tidy Towns Award	National Construction and Demolition Waste Council
	National Disease Surveillance Centre
	Timber Consultative Committee
Regional Groups	International
London Group	International Union of Architects (UIA)
Limerick Forum	■ Architecture for All
Southern Region	■ Accessibility
Western Group	■ Professional Practice
EU	Architecture sans Frontiers
Architects Council of Europe	
■ Cost Information Systems	
■ Environment and Sustainable Architecture	
■ Procurement	
■ SHW Research	
■ Professional Experience	
■ Trade in Services	
European Forum for Architectural Policies	

# Architecture

With the focus on registration in 2008; it was important for the RIAI to maintain and strengthen its involvement in the promotion of Architecture – a wide range of events, competitions and awards were held.

## RIAI Irish Architecture Awards 2008

The RIAI Irish Architecture Awards were reorganised to give a focus on the different building types, and we negotiated with RTE to partner with the RIAI in the first Public vote for their favourite building of the year. Over 5000 members of the public voted “Tuath na Mara” by MacGabhann Architects as their favourite building in 2008.

The Awards received wide spread TV radio and new print coverage and this gave an excellent promotion to the Awards exhibition which then travelled to Limerick, Galway, Cork, Letterkenny, Cavan and London. The Exhibition was also invited to Mexico City by the Department of Foreign Affairs and was shown as part of its Irish culture week.

217 Entries were received for the 2008 Awards. The Jury were:

**Joan O'Connor**  
(Chair, Architect, Interactive Project Managers Ltd)

**Rob Docter**  
(International, Berlage Institute, Rotterdam, the Netherlands)

**Greg Tisdall**  
(Duff Tisdall)

**Paul Keogh**  
(Paul Keogh Architects)  
**Nicki Matthews**  
(Conservation Architect)  
**Emma Cullinan**  
(Non-Architect, Irish Times)

The Awards were:

**Best Accessible Project (sponsored by OPW)**  
New Civic Offices Cork, by ABK Architects

**Best Conservation/Restoration Project**  
CHQ, by Michael Collins Associates

**Best Educational Building**  
CIT Cork School of Music, by Murray O'Laoire

**Best House**  
Tuath na Mara, by MacGabhann Architects

**Best House Extension**  
One Up-One Down-One Deep, by A2 Architects

**Best Leisure Building (Hotel/Bar/Restaurant/Sports)**  
Tailteann, Mary Immaculate College, by Murray O'Laoire

**Best Office Development/Commercial**  
Elm Park Office Buildings, by Bucholz McEvoy

**Best Public Building**  
New Civic Offices Cork, by ABK Architects



**Kathryn Meghen**  
**Assistant Director**

**Best Retail Building**  
Salon, 1B Emmet Place, by DePaor Architects

**Sustainability Award**  
New Civic Offices Cork, by ABK Architects

**Assessors' Award**  
7-9 Merrion Row and The Billets, by Grafton Architects

**Public Choice Award**  
Tuath na Mara, by MacGabhann Architects

The Awards Ceremony was held in June 2008, at the CHQ, Dublin. Minister John Gormley presented the Awards with the RIAI President Seán Ó Laoire and the ceremony was hosted by Ryan Tubridy.

## RIAI Competitions 2008

The RIAI again partnered with a number of Client bodies to 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 to get recognition and work.

The following competitions were completed in 2008.

### 16 Henrietta Street Design Ideas Competition for Dublin City Council

#### Winner

Ryan W. Kennihan Architects

#### Highly Commended

Lenzie O'Sullivan and Associates  
O'Keefe Architects

#### Commended

Conor Moloney and Joost Beunderman  
Carr Cotter and Naessans  
4 Architecture  
Conroy Crowe Kelly

### Ballsbridge-Dodder Pedestrian Bridge for Mountbrook Group

#### Winner

Alan Dempsey

### National Distribution Control Building Competition for Bord Gáis Networks

#### Winner

Denis Byrne Architects

#### Shortlist

NORD LLP  
VMX Architects  
Heneghan Peng Architects

Lawrence and Long Architects  
Hascher + Jehle Planungsgesellschaft mbH  
Buchholz McEvoy Architects Ltd.  
Oliver Chapman Architects

## European 9 was announced in January 2008

The RIAI ran the first Irish involvement in the European competition with two sites Dublin and Cork. The competition was funded by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government and was open to all European Architects under the age of 40.

The winners were

#### Dublin Site

##### Winner

'Better Cheaper Housing'  
Hugo Lamonte and Andrew Griffin

##### Runner-up

'Suburban Consolidation'  
Daryl Mulvihill

##### Honourable mention

'If You Go Down to the Park Today'  
Michael Robert Conroy

#### Cork Site

##### Winner

'Refilling Green'  
Marco Plazzogna and Silvia Bertolone

##### Runner-up'

Contemporary Raumplan'  
Paolo Cardin and Emanuela Bartolini

Two further competitions were launched in 2008 an open competition for a master plan and offices for Meath County Council and Navan Town Council, and an restricted

competition for Metro West Liffey Bridge.

## RIAI Simon Communities of Ireland Open Door

Open Door has developed into the largest public initiative of the RIAI each year. With an increasing number of architects taking part, 2008 was significantly the most successful year to date.

The fourth annual RIAI/Simon Open Door event was held on Saturday, 12 April 2008.

- 174 Practices took part (98 in 2007)
- 747 consultations were held (532 in 2007)
- €58,000 was raised (€38,000 in 2007)
- 313 architects took part

## Urban Forum

The RIAI as a founder of the Urban Forum - a collaboration between the RIAI, Irish Planning Institute, Irish Landscape Institute, Society of Chartered Surveyors and Engineers Ireland. The RIAI has provided all administrative backup to the Forum since it was founded in 2005. The Forum has three primary aims

- To promote the discipline of urban design in the public and private sectors
- To develop education courses for members of the above bodies to improve the levels of Urban Design knowledge and skills within the professions
- To promote the benefits of good urban design to the public

In 2008 the Forum's work included **Twice the Size: Imagineering the future of Irish Gateways, a study carried out on behalf of the Urban Forum, by DIT Futures Academy,**

To evaluate alternative future options of Ireland's strategic planning policies and in particular to the development of the gateway cities.

The study addresses

- Distinctiveness of the gateways
- National Spatial Strategy
- Regional Governance
- Collaborative visionary leadership
- Projected population increases

### **2020 Vision for Sustainable Travel and Transport**

The Urban Forum has made a submission on the "2020 Vision" study to the Department of Transport. The submission asks that the Department create effective Regional Authorities to develop and implement planning policies and for better coordination between Departments to ensure that any new policies align with existing ones.

### **Colloquia**

The Forum held a number of very successful colloquia dealing with

- The Urban Design Agenda – what is impeding good urban planning in Ireland?
- Coordination of infrastructure
- Public Spaces – Delivering Quality
- Colloquium on OECD Review of Irish Public Service

### **Urban Forum Education Taskforce**

The RIAI ran a very successful CPD on behalf on the Forum "Urban Design in a Changing Environment" – a two day course for Architects, Landscape Architects, Engineers, Planners and Surveyors.

### **RIAI Tidy Towns Award**

The Officers selected Angler's Rest, Ballina by Vincent Colman Architects as the winner of the 2008 Award from the 78 nominations received. A plaque will be presented to the Clients and the Architects and a cheque for €1,000 will be presented to the local Tidy Towns Committee.

### **Government Policy on Architecture**

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government announced plans to develop a second Government Policy on Architecture. RIAI members were invited to contribute to Steering Committee, Taskforces and consultation groups. The policy is due for publication in September 2009.

### **House Magazine**

Three issues of the RIAI's magazine of domestic Architecture were published. The magazine aims to promote contemporary domestic architecture to the general public and to communicate an understanding of the services of the architectural profession.

### **Promoting Irish Architects abroad**

The RIAI built a new relationship with Enterprise Ireland to look at assisting architectural practices working abroad. The RIAI, with Enterprise Ireland, organised a trip of 18 practices to the Middle East to meet with development companies. A

number of the practices have gone on to establish offices or partnerships in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The RIAI also worked on a trip to Moscow and Sochi in Russia to look at opportunities stemming from the winter Olympics in 2014. The RIAI will continue to pursue these opportunities on members' behalf in 2009.

### **RIAI OPW Graduate Training Scheme**

The RIAI OPW Graduate Training Scheme which provides graduate Architects with work experience aimed at enabling them to take their Examination in Professional Practice was expanded in 2008 and is now a three year programme for thirty graduates. Following discussion between the RIAI graduates and the OPW it was considered important that the graduates had an opportunity to complete their case studies during the programme and that this would require three years. The programme is very successful for the RIAI and the OPW and the feedback from the graduates has always been very positive.

### **City and County Architects publication**

A best practice publication on a model structure for an architect's department within a local authority was published in early 2008. The publication recommends a structure for architects departments within local authorities. It was published by the RIAI in association with the City and County Architects Association. It is part of the RIAI's campaign, with the CCCA, to increase the numbers and areas of involvement of the Architects Departments within Local Authorities.



### **Architecture Gallery**

The Architecture Gallery at 8 Merrion Square has been closed since September 2008 to give the RIAI the necessary temporary extra space required to manage the registration function. A section of the gallery has been made available to the Irish Architecture Foundation as office space.

### **Exhibition Programme 2008**

January / February - Title Two Minds

March / April - Robert Carr,

Exhibition of Sculptural Artwork

May - Irish Architecture Awards 2008

July - Contemporary Norwegian Architecture

### **EASA (European Architectural Students Association)**

The RIAI sponsored the EASA symposium in Dublin and Letterfrack in August at which over 200 international architectural students attended. The event was launched at the RIAI on 10 April by Ruairi Quinn, TD and Seán Ó Laoire, RIAI President.

### **Sustainable Architecture Now Conference**

The RIAI and SEI held a joint conference - Sustainable Architecture Now - Delivering Exemplar Buildings, Setting Future Standards on 22 July 2008, in Dublin Castle.

The day composed two parts:

1. Working Debate and Open Forums, covering topics that pose a particular practical challenge for the industry;
2. Announcement of a suite of design competitions designed to stimulate exemplar solutions.

# Education

Up until June 2008 the RIAI Education Division handled both education and membership admissions. From July 2008, in response to the introduction of Registration under the Building Control Act 2007, administration was rationalised to separate Education and Admissions, with new staffing arrangements put in place to correspond.

The Board of Architectural Education, Chaired by Martin Donnelly, continues to exercise responsibility for all educational matters, including admission of new members to the RIAI. 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 member alike.

## New Members

Meantime the Education division continued with its annual cycle of activities. During 2008 the RIAI assessed and admitted 264 new members; 212 Members, 19 Associate members and 33 Architectural Technician members.

One hundred and thirty-one candidates sat one or more stages of the RIAI Examination in Professional Practice, with a total of 59 candidates completing all stages successfully. Briefing sessions for Examination Candidates and their Mentors, and advisory sessions for final

year UCD and DIT students on examination and registration requirements, practical experience and career planning, were delivered as usual. A growing problem for candidates was unemployment, or cancellation of Case Study projects, resulting in some having to postpone completion of the examination. The RIAI and UCD together campaigned successfully to reverse the policy of unemployed Examination candidates being refused Jobseekers Allowance on the grounds that, as 'students' registered for the one-day-a-week UCD Lecture Series, they were ineligible.

## Schools of Architecture

RIAI Visiting Boards recommended renewed accreditation of the BArch degree at UCD and continued its review of the new schools of architecture at WIT, UL and the Cork Centre for Architectural Education and of the new programme in Architectural Technology at Letterkenny IT. Proposals for Prescription Procedures under the Building Control Act were developed, in association with the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) and the National Qualifications Authority (NQAI), for submission to the Minister.

Students from three schools of architecture entered the Travelling Scholarship.

## New Processes

2008 saw the implementation of new admission processes under the Building Control Act and *Directive 2005/36/*



**Ann McNicholl**  
**Education Director**

*EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.* Nineteen different categories of applicant must be catered for under the Act, and procedures must comply with the Act and with the EU Code of Conduct for processing applications under the Directive.

The biggest challenge was development of a system for 'Technical Assessment' under the Building Control Act. Nine of the 20 candidates who took part in a Pilot Scheme to test the system were successful.

*The RIAI Standard of Knowledge Skill and Competence for Architecture*, which will be the benchmark for admission to Registration and to RIAI Membership, was trialled during the Technical Assessment Pilot Scheme. Work on an RIAI Standard of Knowledge Skill and Competence for

Architectural Technology was begun.

## CPD

CPD delivery increased, with several courses run on a regular basis and in different locations (Dublin, Cork and Limerick) and also in-house in RIAI member practices:

- Marketing and Communications in the Built Environment
- Project Supervisor for the Design Process
- Designing for Safety
- Urban Design in a Changing Environment
- Sustainable Architecture Now
- Project Management in the Built Environment
- Safe Ingress and Evacuation for People with Disabilities
- Negotiation and Business Communication Skills

2008 saw the last issue of 'Dispatch' which has been edited by the Education division and published continuously in Architecture Ireland and earlier RIAI journals since 1998.

Work advanced on 'CPDEngage', a new online CPD service for RIAI members to be launched in 2009, which will deliver CPD directly to RIAI members in the location of their choice at low cost, and accessible at any time.

## Representation

The Education Director chaired the Focus Group on Education, Awareness and Research in the preparation of the draft Government Policy on Architecture 2009 – 2015.

The RIAI was represented on the Architects Council of Europe (ACE) Accreditation and Validation Work Group, which has the task of reviewing the processes by which architectural qualifications are evaluated and notified to the EC by Member States for listing in the Qualifications Directive. This will be important in helping to ensure equivalence between the architectural qualifications listed in the Directive.

The RIAI was a founding member of the European Network of Architectural Competent Authorities (ENACA), a forum for information exchange and discussion aimed at effective implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive in relation to architects. The RIAI chairs ENACA, and its website is hosted by the Education division of the RIAI. The Directive and its implementation are complex matters and RIAI involvement in ENACA will help the Institute to support mobility of Irish architects in Europe at a time when it is much needed.

The RIAI is also represented on the International Union of Architects (UIA) Architecture and Children Work Programme and hosts the Work Programme's website. Since the publication of *Shaping Space: Architecture in the Transition Year* in 1998 the RIAI has continued to maintain a high profile on the issue of teaching young people about architecture, a topic which receives renewed support in the new Government Policy on Architecture.

# Practice

The controlling hand of the state, the Department of Finance, was much in evidence in 2008, with the implementation of the new government forms of building contracts and the procurement procedures for engaging consultants. The Practice Division consulted with the Department of Finance and negotiated a number of changes to the contracts. Also much in evidence 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.

In a time of diminishing commissions, the plethora of changes to, and introduction of, building and planning and development regulations continues at a pace. The ability of the RIAI to respond to these regulations and the ability of the Architect, to become aware of the legislation, comprehend it and act upon it, is now a major challenge.

## Planning

Planning statistics indicate a fall off in planning applications, yet there is little indication of a more efficient system. Bizarre planning invalidations, without recourse to redress, continue to challenge the client/architect relationship with client unjustified allegations of incompetence by the architects. The device of Request for Additional Information, in order to avoid making a planning decision within a two month period, are common place, and the use of refusals, for contentious projects, so that the decision is made by An Bord

Pleanála, are not uncommon.

Regrettably, the planning guidance issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is being ignored by planning authorities; a plethora of planning application forms exist, county by county, despite the publication of a national planning form by DEHLG.

## 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:

- RIAI Forms of Building Contracts.
- RIAI SF 88- Insurances and Health and Safety update requirements
- Draft Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry Form of Contract
- RIAI Insurance Clauses 26 / Existing Buildings
- Liquidation of Main Contractors and Nominated Sub-contractors
- RIAI Client Architect Agreement for Domestic Work

## Consulted with Outside Bodies

- Building Regulations Advisory Board
- Draft Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry Guidance Notes on Health and Safety Procedures



**Joe Miller**  
**Practice Director**

- Liaison Committee and Conciliation Procedures
- The Building Control Act 2007
- Retrospective Fire Safety Applications under the Act
- SEI and Approved DEAP courses
- 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 Fee Survey 2003 - 2007
- RIAI Planning Survey
- RIAI Opinions on Compliance
- Practice Procedure for Issue of Drawings in Digital Format to Third Parties
- 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
- Clients and their Credit rating
- RIAI PSDP Accreditation
- Model Safety Statement for Architectural Practices
- Vat Changes from the 1st September 2008 and Principle Contractors
- The Business of Architecture
- Hard Times for RIAI Members and Practices
- Procurement and the Competition Authority

### **The RIAI Independent Fee Survey**

The third independent fee survey for the period 2003 - 2007 was published, as was the completely reviewed RIAI Good Practice Guide 3rd edition, now available on-line, together with opinions on compliance, building contracts and client/ architect agreements.

### **The Procurement of Architectural Services**

A special committee was set up to report 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 is conducted by email with monthly Practice, Membership and CPD bulletins, which cover the latest and salient information available to the RIAI for the benefit of the Members.



# RIAI Council for 2008

<b>Seán Ó Laoire</b>	President
<b>Paul Keogh</b>	First Vice President
<b>Michelle Fagan</b>	Second Vice President
<b>Niall Rowan</b>	Honorary Secretary
<b>Martin Colreavy</b>	Honorary Treasurer
<b>James Pike</b>	Past President
<b>Fionnuala Rogerson</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>Marguerite Murphy</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>Niall McCullough</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>Robin Mandal</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>Sean Harrington</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>Orla FitzGerald</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>Angela Brady</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>James Coady</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>Cormac Allen</b>	Ordinary Member
<b>Tony Reddy</b>	Member Elected By Council
<b>Michael Hegarty</b>	Northern Region Representative
<b>Michael Williams</b>	Southern Region Representative
<b>Martin Tritschler</b>	Eastern Region Representative
<b>David Power</b>	Western Region Representative
<b>Brian Maher</b>	Architectural Technician Member
<b>Seamus McCloskey</b>	RSUA
<b>David Smith</b>	AAI
<b>Maol Iosa Molloy</b>	AGA NUI
<b>Kevin Rooney</b>	AGA DIT
<b>John Graby</b>	Director

# Financial Report

The RIAI had a good financial year in 2008. 271 new members and 60 new practices registered with the Institute.

It was apparent that a significant downturn was beginning by the middle of the year and a number of income streams would be affected. Measures were taken to ensure that expenditures were cut where possible to react to the downturn and the RIAI achieved a surplus on its activities of €593,525 compared with €604,271 in 2007.

There were a number of significant items in the RIAI's accounts for 2008

1. To meet with the audit requirements Corrigan House was revalued. The property is now valued at €2,300,000 compared with €6,360,000 the previous year. The drop in value has been caused by the general market and the length of time remaining in the lease (it expires 16 October 2010).
2. RIAI Taxation position. On the advice of the RIAI taxation consultants the RIAI began a review its taxation position during 2008. The position heretofore has been based on mutual activities. The balance of business of the RIAI changed in recent

years with more outwardly focused initiatives in relation to the public and education, and it was advised that this should be reflected in the taxation status.

Following the analysis and recommendation from the consultants the Institute applied for "Charitable Tax Status" in late 2008.



# Financial Statements

# Revenue

for the year ended 31 December 2008

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	€	€
Subscriptions and other operating income from continuing operations	5,496,625	5,569,963
Surplus for the year before taxation	509,029	682,194
Taxation	84,496	(77,923)
Surplus for the year after taxation	593,525	604,271

Approved by the Council on 3 July 2009

Niall Rowan

Honorary Secretary

Martin Colreavy

Honorary Treasurer

# BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31 December 2008

	2008	2007
	€	€
<b>Assets Employed</b>		
Fixed Assets	3,350,182	7,377,873
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	88,470	82,278
Debtors	520,910	794,233
Bank	3,255,101	2,421,637
	<b>3,864,481</b>	<b>3,298,148</b>
CREDITORS		
(Amounts falling due within one year)	(1,129,287)	(1,124,170)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	2,735,194	2,173,978
<b>Net Assets</b>	6,085,376	9,551,851
<b>Financed By:</b>		
Revenue Account	3,964,133	3,370,608
Revaluation Reserve	2,095,333	6,155,333
Other Reserves	25,910	25,910
	6,085,376	9,551,851

Approved by the Council on 3 July 2009

Niall Rowan

Honorary Secretary

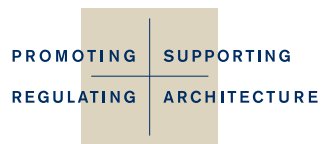
Martin Colreavy

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





**RIAI**

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