

BRIEF NOTES OF MEETING

Irish Design 2015 - Festival of Architecture 2016

Creative Connections in the Built Environment

At the Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 4 on Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 5.30pm

Our Ref: EM R10 Irish Design 2015 / Festival of Architecture 2016 Mtg Minutes 2015-11-17

PRESENT

Neil Baxter	RIAS
Marianne O’Kane Boal	MAG Architecture & Built Environment for Northern Ireland
Katherine Brookfield	University of Edinburgh
Marie Christie	Visit Scotland Events
Meabhann Crowe	Colliers International
Jocelyn Cunliffe	Gray, Marshall & Associates
Shaun Doherty	Geddes Consulting
David Dunbar	Festival of Architecture 2016
Suzanne Ewing	University of Edinburgh
Linda Fabiani MSP	Scottish Parliament
Anne Marie Flynn	Vice Consul General of Ireland
Deirdre Greaney	MAG Architecture & Built Environment for Northern Ireland
Alan Hendry	Jacobs
Lesley Hepburn	Glasgow Life
Rebecca Hughes	Landscape Institute
Diarmaid Lawlor	Architecture Design Scotland
John Lawson	City of Edinburgh Council
Samuel McKeever	Geddes Consulting
Daniel McKendry	Architecture + Design Scotland
Alex Milton	Irish Design 2015
Ruairidh Moir	RIAS
Bruce Nicolson	The City of Edinburgh Council
Dr Miles Oglethorpe	Historic Environment Scotland
Peter Riddoch	Peter Riddoch Architect
Carol Robertson	University of Dundee
Emmett Scanlon	Irish Design 2015
Myles Thompson	AECOM
Dr Ola Uduku	ESALA
Dr James T White	University of Glasgow
Hamish Neilson	Landscape Institute of Scotland
Leon Thompson	Visit Scotland
Mike Mackenzie MSP	Scottish Parliament
Pat Bourne	Consul General of Ireland
Eugene Mullan	RIAS

APOLOGIES

Nick Allan	Nick Allan Associates
Richard Baker MSP	Scottish Parliament
Claudia Beamish MSP	Scottish Parliament
Michael Collin	Oliver Chapman Architects
Jane Duncan	RIBA President
Christine Esson	Enterprise Ireland
Gill Henry	Cruden Homes

Lara Kinneir	MAG
Angus MacDonald MSP	Scottish Parliament
Mark McDonald MSP	Scottish Parliament
Jim Macdonald	Architecture + Design Scotland
Diane McLafferty	The Scottish Government
Craig McLaren	RTPI
Nanette Milne MSP	Scottish Parliament
Ann Packard	RSA
Bill Pagan	BEFS
David Thompson	DPT Urban Design
Steven Tolson	RICS
Gordon Watson	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Willie Watt	RIAS President
Maureen Watt MSP	Scottish Parliament
Karen Anderson	Architecture + Design Scotland

1.0 WELCOME

Linda welcomed all present to the meeting - delighted to see so many people in attendance.

A special welcome was given to all the speakers who have travelled from Ireland, including Marianne O’Kane Boal and Deirdre Greaney, of the Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture & Built Environment in Northern Ireland.

Linda drew everyone’s attention to a joint initiative between ESALA in Edinburgh and Queens University Belfast. The students have been working with a Trust in Donaghadee Northern Ireland to create a permanent home for the historic Sir Samuel Kelly Lifeboat. The vessel has significance in both Northern Ireland and Scotland owing to its unique role in the 1950s Princess Victoria rescue.

The students are developing a proposal for a temporary shelter as a live build project with a series of workshops. Information on their design proposals can be seen on the display boards. Thanks to Ola Uduku from Edinburgh University for bringing along the information.

2.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE MEETING THEME – LINDA FABIANI MSP

This meeting provided an opportunity for representatives of these two national initiatives to discuss **creative connections in the built environment**, and to consider the opportunities and challenges involved in promoting design and its economic benefits.

Irish Design 2015 (ID2015) is a year-long initiative backed by the Irish government exploring, promoting and celebrating Irish design throughout Ireland and internationally in order to drive job creation, grow exports and increase competitiveness.

ID2015 seeks to harness the power of design to support all aspects of society – from students and educators to business and the public sector.

Festival of Architecture 2016 aims to boost confidence and understanding of our built environment, and to make a lasting difference to Scottish communities. The year-long initiative

will inform all members of the Scottish public of the economic and social benefits of good architecture. The festival will also consolidate and advance Scotland's position on the world architectural stage.

Linda gave a special welcome to Pat Bourne the Consul General of Ireland and the vice Consul Anne Marie Flynn.

3.0 WELCOME FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF IRELAND - PAT BOURNE

Pat also welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular the visitors from Ireland.

Relationships between Scotland and Ireland are better than ever with a lot of political connections. There have been two Scottish parliamentary visits within recent weeks and regular visits by Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs. Pat noted that the Irish government has reflected the importance of this relationship by recently appointing Ann Marie Flynn as Vice Consul to Edinburgh and the Scottish government by creating a Scottish Innovation Hub in the British Embassy in Dublin.

In light of this context Pat considers it a very good timing to hold this discussion on the creative connections within the built environment.

4.0 PRESENTATION BY MARIE CHRISTIE – HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT – EVENTS INDUSTRY, VISITSCOTLAND EVENTS DIRECTORATE.

Marie Christie heads up the Development Department within Visit Scotland's Events Directorate.

Teams within the Department have responsibility for Events and Exhibitions, Industry Development, Special Projects and Visit Scotland's Growth Fund.

Marie is Chair of the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design Steering Group.

Presentation Summary: Marie put the Year of Innovation Architecture and Design 2016 into the context of the previous themed years, the opportunity for everyone to engage in these events, the expectation of tangible results and an opportunity to attract visitors to Scotland. She pointed out that Scotland has more patents per head of population than any other country, with an enviable reputation for design such as Grand Theft Auto, the Mackintosh coat and Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

She highlighted the shared objectives for the year of Promotion, Celebration, Participation, Collaboration and Business Engagement. They are delighted that the Festival of Architecture 2016 is forming part of the overall year theme, including events related to NMS Scotland gallery opening, the Kelpies, St Peter's Seminary in Cardross and the V&A in Dundee.

They have £265,000 Event Fund and announcements are imminent on the successful events, there is also opportunity for Partner events. See www.visitscotland.org for more information.

She gave us a "sneak preview" of the logo design which was a design competition as part of their young talent programme.

5.0 PRESENTATION BY ALEX MILTON – PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, IRISH DESIGN 2015

Alex Milton is the Programme Director of Irish Design 2015. As a designer, educator, researcher, curator and author he has promoted a critical, provocative and entrepreneurial approach to design.

He is a visiting professor at Manchester School of Art, Aston University and the National College of Art and Design, Ireland he previously taught at Edinburgh College of Art. His creative work has been exhibited at numerous international venues.

He has published extensively including his most recent book 'Research Methods for Product Design'. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Designers in Ireland and a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts.

Presentation Summary: Alex gave a very comprehensive presentation on the ID2015 aims, programme and outcomes.

The Aims and Objectives of the year were:-

- Grow export and sales opportunities
- Raise the profile of Irish Design at home and abroad
- Increase awareness of the value of design in all aspects of life
- Build on the international reputation of Irish designers
- Showcase the importance of design and innovation in business and as a driver of economic growth.

The ID 2015 programme was funded by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Foreign Affairs, this set a series of economic targets as well as cultural and social targets. The Year is an Island of Ireland initiative which involved all regions, with a "bottom up approach to engage the public and to attract visitors.

Alex highlighted aspects such as the range of disciplines involved, the education to enterprise initiatives and the Design Ireland Tourism App – which was extremely successful. The international programme included attendance at various Biennales, trade fairs, conferences and the London Festival of Architecture including a programme called "we built this city"!

He provided detailed information on the legacy and impact in relation to developing sectors, boosting exports and increasing trade and most significantly taking a design landscape which was static and disconnected and changing it into a dynamic integrated ecosystem of business, citizens and the design sector.

6.0 PRESENTATION BY EMMETT SCANLON – NINE LIVES CURATOR, IRISH DESIGN 2015.

Emmett Scanlon is an architect focused on the social purpose of architecture.

His practice includes the design of buildings, academic research, architectural education, policy development, curation and criticism.

In 2015 he was one of ten architects selected to participate in Irish Design 2015's flagship architecture event "New Horizon Architecture from Ireland" where he designed and curated an

exhibition called Nine Lives at the Design Museum, London and at the National Craft Gallery, in Kilkenny.

Based in Dublin and Offaly, Emmett is

- co-ordinator of the Architecture programme at University College Dublin,
- Architecture Adviser to the Arts Council (Ireland) and
- Irish Correspondent for A10 New European Architecture.

Presentation Summary: Emmet provided more detailed information on the New Horizon's programme of international events and the Nine Lives Exhibition.

New Horizon_architecture from Ireland, is a series of presentations of the work of emerging Irish practices in three high-profile venues around the world, opened at Chicago Design Museum on 3 October and runs until 31 January, 2016 as part of the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial.

In response to the Biennial's theme, 'The State of the Art of Architecture', the three Irish practices have been tasked to make an intervention – part installation, part exhibition – in the Chicago Design Museum. The architects have collaborated on constructing a temporary mirrored canopy, designing and fabricating a generous communal table, and presenting a selection of work from their offices in Dublin.

The first instalment of New Horizon_architecture from Ireland was at the London Festival of Architecture in June, where four Irish practices – TAKA, Clancy Moore, Hall McKnight and Steve Larkin – collaborated on two temporary pavilions in Lewis Cubitt Square, King's Cross. In December, two further practices – Urban Agency and AP+E - will participate at the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture, bringing the total number of practices presented through New Horizon_architecture from Ireland to ten.

The Nine Lives exhibition explores the work and craft of nine emerging architects. The exhibition honours the creative and engaged use of homes and schools by their occupants and aims to celebrate the social value of architectural design in our everyday lives. The first presentation of Nine Lives was in June 2015 at the Design Museum, London as part of the London Festival of Architecture. Part of the programme included photographs of how architects saw a space and how people actually choose to use the space highlighting that good architecture is about design and use. The exhibition has provided an opportunity to consider how people engage with architecture using our natural interest in “looking inside other people's houses”.

He considered that architecture had benefited from the collaboration with the other creative activities as part of the ID2015 programme.

7.0 PRESENTATION BY DAVID DUNBAR - FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE 2016

David is a Past President of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland and Chair of the Festival of Architecture 2016.

Presentation Summary: The Festival currently has a budget of £2.5m 50% from the Scottish

Government and 50% from RIAS and sponsors. It is expected that there will be a further £1.5m in kind support. The Festival currently has 85 partners and is working with over 500 artist/creators, a number of local authorities and the national press.

David outlined the Aims of the Festival to:-

- Celebrate Scottish Architecture
- Underpin and complement public policy
- Enhance international reputation
- Reinforce the social, economic and cultural importance of architecture
- To reach the widest possible audience across Scotland

He also explained the Scale and Structure for the Festival, noting the importance of the RIAS Chapters in bringing a diverse series of events to all 32 Local Authorities, with examples such as Architects Ale in Glasgow!

He mentioned a number of key events such as Hinterland, by NVA at Kilmahew / St Peter's; the Ideal Hut Show; Adventures in Space, the Pop up World Cities Expo, Scotstyle and Out of their Heads. He gave us a brief taster of the Finale event which is still being developed.

The Festival has created a strong identity, established an extensive on-line presence and provided a toolkit for communities to get involved.

8.0 KEY POINTS

The following are some of the Key points discerned from the presentations and the meeting discussion:-

- The economic, cultural and social dimension to these type of events, in particular the value of design in bringing economic benefits
- The effectiveness of cultural events backed up with trade initiatives.
- Benefits for architecture of collaboration with other creative industries.
- Necessary to actively address the challenge of connecting people with architecture.
- Providing toolkits to encourage businesses and communities to engage
- The importance of setting realistic targets, recording all activities and producing persuasive clear information on the legacy and outcomes that have been achieved.
- The challenge of the significant cumulative investment and legacy from both these events being translated into a longer term effective benefit.
- Garden sheds can be beautiful!

9.0 CLOSE OF MEETING

Linda thanked the speakers for their insight on the meeting topic and all present for their contributions to the discussion.