



Press Release
7 January 2008

IRISH FRENCH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DUO WIN ADAMSTOWN PARKS COMPETITION

Foley & Salles, a talented Irish and French landscape architect duo have won an international competition to design the two largest parks in Adamstown. Foley & Salles fought off stiff competition from 12 other international entries including companies from the UK, Europe and the USA to win the prestigious landscape architecture competition. They join a leading group of landscape architects already engaged on various other commissions throughout Adamstown, including Camlin Lonsdale, Gross Max and Brady Shipman Martin Associates. Runners up in the competition were the London office of Californian based Hargreaves Associates and Parkwood Chartered Landscape Architects.

Adamstown is Ireland's first Strategic Development Zone (SDZ). The crucial component of legislation governing the development of Adamstown and other SDZ's is the requirement to phase the construction of housing so that all the necessary services and facilities for the new town are delivered at the same time as the houses. The Adamstown development involves the delivery of an entire town with the full range of social and physical infrastructure including new homes, retail, leisure and civic facilities. Developers of Adamstown – Castlethorn Construction, Maplewood Developments and Tierra Ltd. – formed a joint venture company called Chartridge Developments to undertake the development of infrastructure at Adamstown.

Located in west Dublin just 15 minutes by train from Dublin City Centre, Adamstown provides sustainable, high quality housing, along with public transport infrastructure (new Rail Station opened April 2007), schools (first 2 Primary Schools opened Sept. 2007 – Secondary School to open in 2009), and a Sports & Leisure Centre with swimming pool. A new town centre is also currently being planned, which will host a range of shopping, civic and entertainment facilities including cinemas, restaurants and cafes. (www.Adamstown.ie)

The overall plan for Adamstown provides for approximately 74 acres of open space which includes four major parks totalling 55 acres. After deciding to sponsor a Parks Design Competition, Castlethorn Construction and Maplewood Developments approached the Irish Landscape Institute to run a major international competition on their behalf, to obtain the best possible designs for the two largest parks in Adamstown – Airlie Park (28 acres owned by Castlethorn Construction) and Tandy's Lane (20 acres owned by Maplewood Developments).

The brief for the competition was to design parks of a high contemporary standard and quality which would provide recreational amenities, stimuli and excitement for young and old residents, and visitors to Adamstown. Linkage to existing hinterland, incorporation of existing site features, creation of formal and passive recreation facilities and accessibility and convenience to the exterior circulation system were also important elements included in the brief.

"The parks competition underlined the commitment of the Adamstown developers to select the best-in-class designers and to deliver the key infrastructure at Adamstown. The delivery of infrastructure in tandem with the provision of housing is an inherent component of the Adamstown Planning Scheme. To date a new rail station and two new primary schools have been delivered and the new parks will add yet another high value amenity for the new residents of Adamstown.

The strategy behind the parks competition was to draw in new ideas and designs that would enhance both the visual attraction of the parks as well as their usability for Adamstown's new residents. Partnering with the Irish Landscape Institute (www.irishlandscapeinstitute.com) ensured that the winning design would address the unique requirements at Adamstown and would meet the highest standards in current landscape architectural design practice. " says Jude Byrne, of Castlethorn Construction. Over 30 landscape architects registered for the competition, 13 qualified for Stage 1 and this was shortlisted to a final three entries. The budget for the two parks was €11 million.

The list of features to be included in **Airlie Park** includes the following

- A secured and managed Sports Area containing the following:
 - 2 No. Football Pitches
 - 4 No. Tennis Courts
 - 4 No. Five – A – Side all weather playing pitches
 - Permanent Changing and Shower Facilities
- Education zone – Tober Stream, wildlife / nature area linked to the adjacent school
- One children's playground (3 – 6 years old)
- Opportunities for public art
- Secured multi-use court /active play area to accommodate a variety of games and skateboard facilities for children

The list of features to be included in **Tandy's Lane Park** will comprise the following

- 1 No. Playing Field
- One Children's Playground

Airlie Park will be connected to the new town centre at Adamstown via a tree-lined boulevard and will connect to Tandy's Lane Park via a strong linear "greenway". Foley & Salles designed both parks to be responsive to their outer edges. In Airlie Park, the centre of the park is composed of two public spaces containing playing pitches. The outside edges are quieter with water features, houses and spaces for residents, children and older people. The entrance at the end of the main boulevard forms a combined space with the route to Tandy's Lane Park, to create a busy day and night time zone with café, seating areas and all-weather play areas. The edge of Tandy's Lane Park forms an 'active zone' available (whether the park is open or not) to all ages for exercise and recreation.

Within the parks, variations in density of space and planting encourages different experiences and character. The green infrastructure allows for a wide range of planting diversity. Topography is used to elevate the spatial structure of the large playing pitches to encourage spectator viewing and differing views over both parks, as well as creating elevated walks and sheltered play and picnic spaces.

The judging panel for the competition comprised judges from Castlethorn Construction, Maplewood Developments and South Dublin County Council along with the internationally renowned landscape expert from France Christine Dalnoky and Robert Camlin of Camlin Lonsdale. Chief Architect from South Dublin County Council, Eddie Conroy, comments on why the winning design was chosen:



“The winning scheme showed the largest amount of design development over the competition period and is most in tune with the Adamstown Masterplan. It deploys a clever hierarchy of routes and public spaces with entry points and associated uses linked to the masterplan’s intentions. Its geometry is gentle, but responsive and acknowledges the full variety of routes, uses and residential types around the edges of both parks. The spatial organisation and clarity of the project contains a strong, legible structure, easily understandable and yet diverse. This structure is composed of trees, routes and the manipulation of ground plane – all easily achievable. The strength of the scheme allows for diversity and interchangeability of materials making the project realisable. The developed scheme offers a consistency of design in terms of line, datum and materials which is very reassuring; the consistency of built and planting language allows both parks to be viewed together, but for each to tell a different story “ says Mr. Conroy.

Foley & Salles Landscape Architects is a joint venture between Dermot Foley Landscape Architects and Remi Salles Landscape Architects. Both practices are based in Dublin while Remi Salles Landscape Architects have an additional studio in Bordeaux. Remi and Dermot have also been teaching at the UCD School of Architecture Landscape & Civil Engineering for several years.

Remi Salles worked in Paris in the renowned Michel Desvigne’s office before arriving in Ireland in 2003. He is inspired primarily by natural and authentic landscapes such as mature woodlands, meadows and wetlands. He is interested in recreating contemporary versions of these landscapes within our living and working environments.

Dermot Foley holds a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture from Edinburgh College of Art and during the 1990s he worked in the UK, France, Belgium and Holland before returning to Ireland in 2001. His practice already holds Irish Landscape awards. Innovation, conceptual development and bespoke detailing are a key characteristic of the practice work at all scales from urban design to construction.

“The Adamstown Parks Competition was an ideal opportunity for both practices to form a joint venture. The complementary mix of talent and experience has been used to create an exciting

design for Tandy's Lane Park and Airlie Park, which highlights the unique character of each park and, at the same time, locates and defines the parks in the wider public realm context of the Adamstown Special Development Zone" says Dermot Foley.

Construction on the Parks will commence later in 2008, once Planning Permission has been granted following a period of Detailed Design. "We are delighted with the stunning designs for both parks, which will be an immense asset and source of enjoyment to the new residents of Adamstown." added Michael Whelan Jnr of Maplewood Developments.

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