

World Landscape Architecture Month



Green Minister opens Exhibition of Contemporary Landscape Architecture in Ireland



Visitors viewing display panels at the exhibition launch, photo by: Ewa Cieslikowska

The Irish Landscape Institute **Exhibition of Contemporary Landscape Architecture in Ireland** enjoyed a well attended and successful launch. The exhibition was formally open by Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; John Gormley.

In his address Minister Gormley stated that; “when it comes to discussion on quality of built environment it sometimes focuses exclusively on the quality of buildings themselves. There is another critical element and that is the quality of spaces between buildings or within which buildings are sited - whether it is the street, square or plaza, garden or park, these elements are also fundamental to our enjoyment of the built environment, and this, I believe, is where the special contribution is made by landscape architecture”.

Minister Gormley outlined new departmental initiatives with regard to landscape and the built environment including; “a survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes - identifying gardens that survive in Ireland and the extent of their survival. The first phase of the survey was published in November 2006 and it includes over 6,000 records of historic gardens and designed landscapes – all in an online searchable inventory”.

Minister Gormley described how the survey sites were identified using 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps which were then compared with current aerial photography to assess the level of survival and change, the results presenting “a fascinating snapshot of how the country has changed over the last 150 years”.

Minister Gormley stated that “the incorporation in the Programme for Government of a commitment to introduce a National Landscape Strategy is clear recognition of the need to protect one of our most valuable natural assets” and “will deliver on objectives of the European Landscape Convention which aims to promote landscape protection, management and planning”.

The exhibition launch was attended by over 120 Institute members and guests, including representatives of The Heritage Council and The Irish Planning Institute. This is the first time the Irish Landscape Institute has held an open public exhibition and the first to showcase the full spectrum of the work of Landscape Architects in the Irish Environment.

Attendees at the launch commonly remarked on the rich diversity



At the exhibition launch from left to right; Minister John Gormley, Deirdre Black; President ILI and Kieran O'Neill Vice President ILI,
photo by Ewa Cieslikowska

of work on display. Landscape architect Dermot Foley described how “such an exhibition would not have been possible 10 years ago and the exhibition represents the significant advancements made by the profession in Ireland”.

The exhibition will run from April 21st-25th and April 28th - May 2nd, in the Atrium of Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin.

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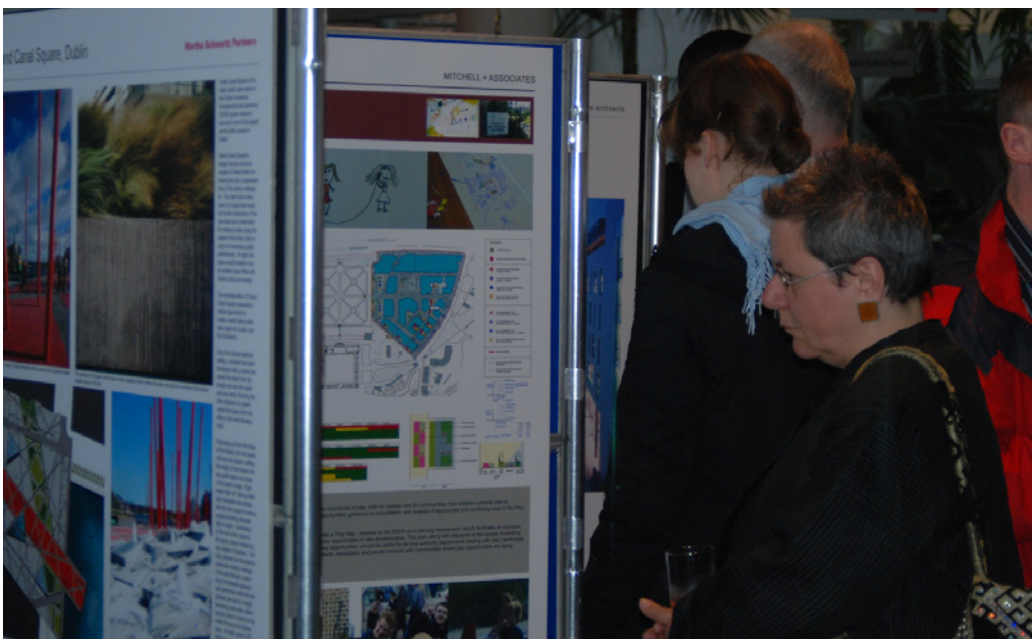
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Accessibility Consultant Maureen Gilbert viewing display panels at the exhibition launch,
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