



> ARCHITECTURE NEWS

Royal Gold Medal 2015

Architects Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey, received on Tuesday 3 February 2015 the Royal Gold Medal, the world's most prestigious architecture award at a special event at the RIBA at 66 Portland Place, London. Given in recognition of a lifetime's work, the Royal Gold Medal is approved personally by Her Majesty The Queen and is given to a person or group of people who have had a significant influence "either directly or indirectly on the advancement of architecture". Ireland's last Royal Gold Medallists were engineer Peter Rice (1993) and architect Michael Scott (1975).

Speaking at the Gold Medal ceremony, RIBA President Stephen Hodder praised Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey as "the epitome of the architect's craft". Gold Medal nominator and distinguished architectural critic Joseph Rykwert said: "Irish architecture has flourished and is the envy of this island." Niall McLaughlin, who also nominated Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey added: "everything they do speaks of the best of us". A tour de force in contemporary Irish and British architecture, Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey co-founded their practice O'Donnell and Tuomey in Dublin during 1988, having previously worked together for internationally renowned architects Stirling Wilford Associates and Colquhoun & Miller in London. Their acclaimed Saw Swee Hock Student Centre for the LSE has won numerous awards including RIBA London Building of the Year and the RIAI's Best International Building 2014. odonnell-tuomey.ie

Newenham Mulligan Architects and Grimshaw Architects Design RDS Arena

A consortium of architect firms, Dublin-based Newenham Mulligan Architects and London-based Grimshaw Architects, has won the international design competition for the €20 million redevelopment of the RDS Arena. The RDS, with their partners Leinster Rugby, will work to complete the design of a world class RDS Arena that will host professional rugby matches, equestrian sports, music concerts and other appropriate sporting opportunities as they arise. Managed by the RIAI, the competition saw five designs anonymously shortlisted, with the winner chosen by a five person expert

jury. Michael Duffy, Chief Executive of the RDS said: "The jury was unanimous in their selection of the Newenham Mulligan / Grimshaw entry. Their winning concept represents an exciting design response to a complex brief. Entries had to accommodate professional rugby, world class equestrianism and music concerts, in an already very busy events venue. These three elements were exceptionally well incorporated by the winning consortium who stood out for their understanding of the multi-faceted nature of the development and their vision for the RDS Arena. International juror, the renowned Spanish architect Francisco Mangado, said: "This was a complex brief and the question of the arena's scale and its relationship with the local context was very important. Irish architecture is internationally known for its capacity to be contextual."

New Urban Primary School Architectural Design Competition

Registration is open for a two-stage open architectural design competition for a 24-classroom primary school with Special Needs Unit, of approximately 4,850m², at Harcourt Terrace, Dublin. The competition is being organised by the RIAI on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills and the competition brief is asking for: An exciting, functional, stimulating and modern educational environment for pupils, staff, and all other school users. A sustainable, energy efficient and environmentally friendly design consistent with the standards which the Department is currently achieving in school design. A design solution which addresses the important historic context of the site and embodies the principles and objectives of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009 -2015; meets the principles set out in the Department's Design Team Procedures and can be constructed within the cost parameters set out by the Department for primary school buildings. Stage 1 submission deadline is 30 March 2015 and further information is on riai.ie

Irish Architect James Hogan Wins AJ Writing Prize

The London-based Irish architect, James Hogan, has been announced as joint winner of the prestigious annual AJ Writing Prize. The Award, which included Joseph Rykwert on the judging panel, is a celebration of new architectural

criticism and this year called for entries that explored architectural craft and the effect that carefully composed man-made spaces can have upon our senses. James' essay on Berthold Lubetkin's 1935 Penguin Pool at London Zoo, was described by the judges as "An erudite and rather cerebral discussion of Lubetkin and Tecton's penguin pool [at London zoo].... eloquently expressed with a touch of humour." Originally from Waterford, where his father Bill Hogan also works as an Architect, James moved to London in 2012 shortly after completing his RIAI Professional Practice Exams. He now works for Stiff+Trevillion Architects in West London. You can read James Hogan's essay on his blog.

Jane Drew Prize for Yvonne Farrell and Shelley

Founders of Grafton Architects, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, have been awarded the AJ's Jane Drew Prize for their 'massive influence' on the architectural profession. The AJ reports: "The award was given to the Dublin-based duo in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the status of women in architecture". The pair, who set up Grafton Architects in 1978, were described by the jury, which included Norman Foster and Patty Hopkins, as 'extremely impressive and hardworking'. The judges commented: "They are not afraid to speak in a language that is feminine yet they produce buildings which are robust and full of conviction. Grafton's buildings are consistently high quality. Their approach is solid. They are business-savvy." The practice is currently working on the construction of a new School of Economics for the Université Toulouse 1 Capitole, a new campus for UTEC University in Lima, Peru, and its first UK project – a new building for Kingston University in south-west London. graffonarchitects.ie



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