



Action on Architecture



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,
Gaeltachta agus Oileáin
Department of Arts, Heritage,
Gaeltacht and the Islands

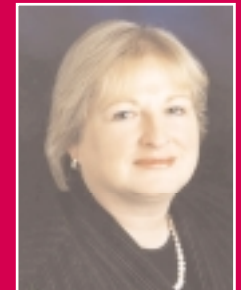
2002 - 2005



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Foreword



Everyone experiences architecture, whether we think consciously about it or not, and the quality of our built environment profoundly affects the quality of our lives. Because of its pervasive nature, architecture is arguably the most evident physical registration of our culture and our values. It is vital Government recognises the social and cultural importance of architecture in society and promotes the achievement of a built environment of good quality. I am delighted, therefore, to publish this programme, restating the Government's commitment to, and actions to advance, its policy objectives for architecture.

The development of this programme has been assisted by an inter-departmental working group and three task-groups which brought together a wide range of architectural and related expertise. I would like to express my gratitude to the chairpersons and members of those groups for the considerable time and energy given to consideration of the issues.

Architecture by its nature is interdisciplinary and spans many areas of responsibility. A prerequisite for successful implementation is that the objectives for architecture we espouse and the measures employed to raise the quality of our built environment have broad consensus and commitment.

With the publication of this action programme, I am identifying specific steps which the Government is confident will adhere to that criterion and which it will undertake to advance its stated policy objectives for architecture. The selection of specific areas for action is made acknowledging there are other and complementary Government actions on behalf of architecture already underway. The achievement of all these objectives on behalf of architecture in general is a long-term task that requires patient but determined effort ; this action programme represents a step along that road.

I look forward to seeing the implementation of these actions and to the continuing development of our architectural policy with a view to progressively enhancing our architectural environment.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Síle de Valera'.

Síle de Valera T.D.

Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands

April 2002



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Explanatory Foreword

The following abbreviations have been used throughout this document:

GCC	Government Contracts Committee
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
OPW	Office of Public Works
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RAI	Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland

**Throughout this action programme there are references to “public authority”.
The meaning that has been attributed in this context is:**

- (a) a Minister of the Government
- (b) the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland
- (c) a local authority for the purposes of the Local Government Act, 1941
- (d) a regional authority within the meaning of the Local Government Act, 1991
- (e) a harbour authority within the meaning of the Harbours Act, 1946
- (f) a health board established under the Health Act, 1970, as amended and the Eastern Regional Health Authority, established under the Health (ERIHA) Act, 1999
- (g) a board or other body established by or under statute
- (h) a company in which all the shares are held by, or on behalf of, or by directors appointed by, a Minister of the Government
or
- (i) a company in which all the shares are held by a board, company, or other body referred to in paragraph (g) or (h) of this definition



1 Introduction and Context

1.1 What is architecture?

The architecture of a people is an expression of its culture and an integral part of its identity, as well as being a response to the requirement for shelter. At its highest level it takes its place among the arts as an expression of the human spirit. Architecture and design run from the scale of the building detail, such as a door handle, to the building, to the street and even to the scale of a landscape, town or city. Good architecture and design can be large or small, lavish or simple, traditional or contemporary in origin. Architecture has a character unique among the arts in that it is the setting for the everyday life of society and as such, a high quality environment is not a luxury but an essential of civil society. The realisation of architecture is a matter of meeting social needs, of business and commercial relationships and of the operation of one of Ireland's major industries, as well as being the expression of cultural and aesthetic values.

Advancement of the art of architecture is a responsibility the Government shares with various sectors of society: the design and building professions, financial institutions, the building industry, the clients who commission buildings and the community itself. The architecture of the past which lifts our spirits, and upon which we now place such value, was the result of creative and often adventurous collaboration between client and designer, pushing forward the frontiers of what was possible in their day. The architecture we choose to build now is the architectural heritage of the future.

1.2 Why does architecture matter?

The built environment influences every aspect of our lives – through the houses we live in, the schools we learn in, the offices or factories we work in, the public buildings we enter, the places where we spend our leisure time, and even the streets in which we move about. While few people think consciously about architecture, everyone experiences it. Poor standards of design and construction represent a waste of effort, energy, materials and opportunity. They debase our quality of life now and are a liability for the future. Good architecture contributes to our sense of well being, both as individuals and as a community and has a positive role to play in mitigating social exclusion.



Due to its all-pervasive nature, architecture is arguably the most evident physical registration of our culture and its values. It forms a critical part of how we and others understand our identity and, at the same time, it constitutes a kind of collective memory – a set of landmarks providing a means of mapping both our physical and spiritual geography. What we build now is a tangible expression of who we are and will be the legacy we leave our children.

1.3 The reasons for having a Government Policy on Architecture

Government Policy on Architecture aims to place architecture higher on the political and cultural agenda and in so doing to remove impediments to the achievement of a built environment of good quality. While a Government Policy on Architecture cannot, by itself, deliver good architecture, it can:

- recognise the social and cultural importance of architecture in society
- promote improvement in the quality of the built environment, by fostering conditions conducive to the production of good architecture and the protection of the architectural heritage, and by stimulating improved practice in both the public and private sectors
- promote the concept of sustainability in design, construction, operation, maintenance and improvement of buildings
- set an example for the community at large by the quality of what the State builds, and the care it displays towards the buildings it inherits
- promote high standards of environmental provision in local government, semi-State and private sectors through legislation, regulation and financial measures as appropriate
- help to create and sustain an ethos that values quality in buildings through education and encouragement.

1.4 The Government policy statement on architecture and action programme

In May 1997 the Government adopted the following policy statement in relation to architecture:

In pursuing its Policy on Architecture, the Government will:

- 1 promote high standards of design and construction in building works for which it is responsible and support the pursuit of high standards of building
- 2 develop an organisational framework that facilitates the application of knowledge and skill concerning the built environment



- 3 ensure that the architectural heritage is conserved and maintained to a high standard
- 4 foster the demand for high quality architecture in the community as a whole
- 5 promote the concept of sustainable development
- 6 encourage innovation in architecture.



In pursuance of its policy objectives on architecture, the Government has now adopted the following specific proposals for action, while acknowledging that the objectives in this statement are also being met by Government actions already taken in a wide range of other areas. For example, significant steps have been taken in the context of implementing the National Sustainable Development Strategy with the the inclusion of sustainable development objectives in the new consolidated Planning and Development legislation and the establishment of Comhar.

A more comprehensive and effective mechanism for the protection of the architectural heritage has also been established through the placing of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage on a statutory basis and the introduction of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999 (as consolidated in the Planning and Development Act 2000) with the associated programme of grant-aid and financial support for the provision of conservation expertise. The report of the Strategic Review Committee (SRC) on the Construction Industry – Building our Future Together – was published in 1997. The SRC contained 86 recommendations, of which 84% had been implemented by the end of 2001. Issues covered by these recommendations included guidelines for clients commissioning construction projects and best practice in the procurement of design and construction services. Steps are being taken to implement the recommendation for the registration of the title of “Architect”.

The objectives set out in the Government's policy statement on architecture span many areas of responsibility, are long term and have no single resolution. The development and implementation of architecture policy is a long-term project and will continue over time. In the context of action already being taken, Government has selected to advance its objectives for architecture further over the next three years with emphasis on three central themes:

- Promoting awareness and understanding of architecture
- Leading by example
- Strengthening architectural input in the planning process

1.5 European context

In November 2000, the Council of the European Union adopted a resolution on architectural quality in urban and rural environments. This resolution calls on the European Commission as well as Member States to take a number of actions. The actions set out in this action programme will meet with the Council's objectives for Member States, which are to:

- Intensify their efforts to improve the knowledge and promotion of architecture and urban design
- Make contracting authorities and the general public more aware of and better trained in the appreciation of architectural culture
- Improve architectural quality by means of exemplary public building projects
- Foster exchange of information and experience.





2 Action on Architecture 2002-2005

2.1 Promoting awareness and understanding of architecture

2.1.1 Why does public awareness of architecture matter?

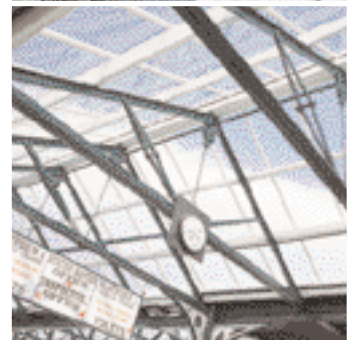
Good architecture is more likely to be achieved in a society where people are aware of the practical, psychological and cultural role of the built environment. The achievement of a high quality built environment is a responsibility we all share: the Government, the design and building professions, financial institutions, the building industry, the clients who commission buildings and the community itself. Without an interested, demanding and well-informed public, it is difficult to achieve the level of quality to which we are entitled.

Building Regulations set standards for structural safety, fire safety, drainage, ventilation, stairways and similar matters. However, a building can comply with every regulation and still be ugly, inefficient and depressing. It may make poor use of the space, which has cost so much to build or may degrade the landscape or cityscape in which it sits. Having an understanding of what makes good architecture, the ways in which our environment affects us and the words to express our views, makes it possible for us to have a confident and effective involvement in creating the environment that surrounds us.

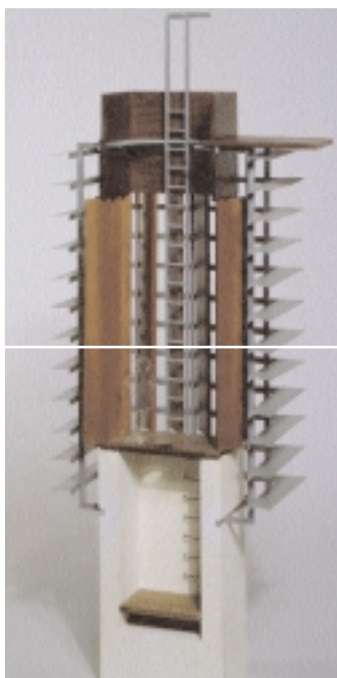
2.1.2 Architecture and the school curriculum

The role and value of architecture as a resource in the education curriculum at all levels should be recognised and support provided for the continuation and development of subject areas where architectural issues are included

Elements of architectural studies are already incorporated into the school curriculum to some extent. However, public awareness of architecture in society would be greatly enhanced through a more comprehensive inclusion of the “built environment” as a teaching



resource in the school curriculum at the different levels. At second level there are specific subjects such as Architectural and Construction Technology and Design and Communication Graphics, which foster an understanding of the built environment, how things are designed and developed in three dimensions, and how the quality of the whole depends on the quality of the detail. To a lesser extent architecture-related subjects are included in the curricula for post primary subjects such as Geography, Art and Home Economics. The introduction of transition year has facilitated a more open curriculum, and the RIAI programme, *Shaping Space*, has been developed to introduce students to concepts which will “give them a stronger sense of what makes good architecture and of how they themselves can influence the quality of the built environment”. The “Heritage in Schools” programme, developed by the Heritage Council in partnership with the INTO, facilitates visits by heritage specialists to primary schools. The “school’s show”, a touring architectural exhibition commissioned by the Arts Council, underlines the artistic potential of excellent architectural design. The show was launched in February 2000 and will tour indefinitely throughout the country. By introducing issues relating to the built environment through as wide a range of subjects as possible, students will develop an awareness of the immediate and inescapable impact of the built environment on the everyday lives of us all.



Action 1

The Department of Education and Science, in co-operation with The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands will commission a review of resource material relating to architecture currently available to teachers at primary, secondary, Post Leaving Certificate, vocational/apprenticeship level, and make recommendations for further development of existing material or for new material. This study will also examine resource material which has been developed abroad in this area, such as the UK, the Netherlands, Finland, the USA and Canada.

Action 2

The Department of Education and Science in co-operation with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, The Arts Council and the Heritage Council will initiate:

- the preparation of resource material on architecture for primary level in response to the new curriculum, which is currently being introduced
- an ‘architect in residence’ scheme within the teacher training colleges and sponsorship for the preparation of resource material for trainee teachers. Such short-term programmes will be aimed at all educational training institutions e.g. teacher training colleges, H.Dip programmes for secondary teachers, National College of Art and Design, Institutes of Technology, Regional Technical Colleges

- programmes for in-service training on architecture for primary and second level school teachers
- the preparation of resource material on architectural awareness and architectural history for inclusion in construction apprenticeship courses.

Action 3

The Department of Education and Science will provide sponsorship for the necessary follow-up support for the effective implementation of resource material such as the current “Shaping Space” programme and proposed programme for primary level.

Action 4

To encourage architecture studies within schools, an annual award (for school and student) for an architecture-related schools project will be established. The Department of Education and Science with The Heritage Council and The Arts Council will make this award.

Action 5

In order to highlight the excitement and creativity of good architectural design, the Arts Council will introduce an ‘Architects-in-residence’ scheme, aimed at primary and post primary schools.

2.1.3 Fostering the demand for quality

The role of existing State agencies and programmes in relation to the promotion of public awareness of architecture should be strengthened

Promoting public awareness of architecture is a long-term project that requires a committed and co-ordinated programme of action. A number of State bodies and agencies already have responsibility for the promotion of public awareness of architecture in different ways, such as the Arts Council, The Heritage Council, Dúchas the Heritage Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands and the museums and galleries throughout the country, and their roles should be recognised and strengthened. Although the following recommendations focus on the public sector, it is an objective that, where practicable proposals should be implemented in partnership with the existing non-governmental organisations.



Action 6

In order to carry out its responsibilities in relation to architecture, the Arts Council will appoint a full-time Architecture Officer.

Action 7

The Arts Council will work with planning authorities to organise a series of initiatives to promote best design practice and excellence in architecture and urban design.

Action 8

The Arts Council will organise a series of initiatives, lectures, seminars – on architecture to promote innovative concepts and exemplars of excellence in contemporary architecture and urban design to the public.

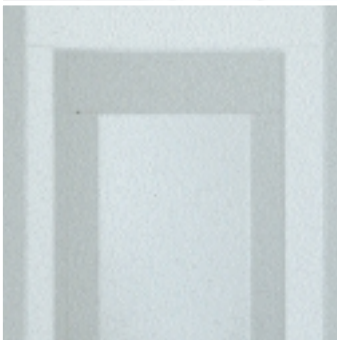
Action 9

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands will examine, in liaison with the range of appropriate cultural institutions, whether and to what extent the promotion of architecture could be further developed as part of their individual briefs. Such institutions will include The National Gallery, The National Museum, IMMA, The Irish Architectural Archive. Consultation will include the Arts Council and the Heritage Council.

Action 10

The brief of Dúchas will be widened to include the promotion of general architectural awareness, such as through:

- the hosting of public awareness events aimed at particular groups such as school children, local historical or civic groups as part of the work of recorders for the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
- extending the current guide service, which is confined to heritage sites in State ownership, to cover other heritage sites e.g. historic Birr or Clondalkin, in conjunction with local authorities and local communities
- extending the scope of existing general educational and awareness raising programmes including National Heritage Week, Departmental websites, Heritage Card, to include events relating to contemporary architecture.



Action 11

Using the Internet a Virtual Architecture Centre will be established, to provide the following services:

- Create virtual exhibitions and interactive programmes in relation to architecture and design.
- Provide a forum for dissemination of information relating to all other actions identified in the architecture policy.
- Provide links with architecture centres abroad e.g. Glasgow, Amsterdam.
- Provide links to all other Irish architecture related websites.
- Provide information on specific themes such as: architectural design issues and the planning process; architecture of arts buildings and performance spaces; contemporary architecture both Irish and International.

The virtual architecture centre will be developed as an all Ireland initiative and public access terminals will be established at all relevant cultural institutions.

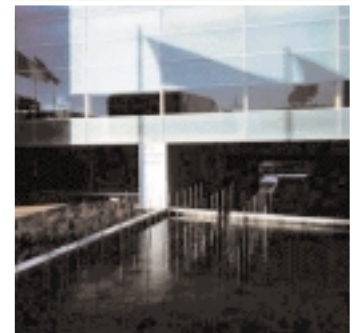
Action 12

ENFO, The Environmental Information Service will continue to expand its role in relation to architecture by:

- Reviewing and extending the existing range of ENFO leaflets relating to the built environment
- Extending its reference library to include a wider range of architecture related material, particularly with regard to sustainable architecture.
- Hosting more exhibitions on the theme of sustainable building and assist in the promotion of any such exhibitions at other venues.
- Providing lecture room facilities for public talks on architectural issues.

Action 13

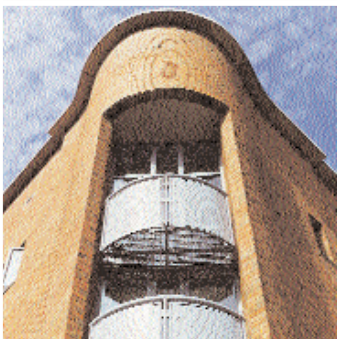
The Tidy Towns Competition, with its network of 700 Tidy Towns committees, will continue to develop its important role in promoting awareness of the built environment. Issues of architectural and urban design quality will continue to be included as a clear component of the judge's report, a copy of which is sent to each committee, in order to raise awareness of these issues at local level.



2.2 Leading by example

2.2.1 The role of Government

The Government, through its policies on environment, tourism and heritage makes a significant contribution to the quality of the built environment. Through the apparatus of State and local government influence is exercised directly or indirectly on every building erected in the country. In addition, the State has a key role as building promoter, client and property owner. In this regard, the achievements in public sector architecture, for example through the work of the Office of Public Works and through much of the public housing programme, should be recognised and built upon. In view of its special responsibility in setting an example for the community at large, the Government must present itself as an exemplary client committed to quality in areas of building procurement and property development as well as in the care it displays towards the buildings it inherits.



2.2.2 The achievement of quality

“Architectural quality” should be included as one of the key criteria to be considered in the implementation of guidelines on public procurement

At the centre of the Government Policy is the objective to improve architectural quality and to create favourable conditions for its achievement. There are a wide variety of issues, which affect the quality of individual buildings and the built environment in general, in particular the housing environment, the urban environment and building in sensitive landscapes. In seeking to meet its objective, Government policy must therefore develop an inclusive definition of architecture relating to the entire built environment and a concept or mechanism through which issues which impact on architectural quality can be evaluated.

Over 2000 years ago Vitruvius identified three elements of architectural quality which still apply:

- **commodity:** the fitness of the building for its intended purpose
- **firmness:** durability of construction
- **delight:** the aesthetic aspects of the building.

Today, these might be expressed in different and more elaborate ways, and, at the start of the 21st century, environmental sustainability and accessibility are key considerations.

In seeking to improve the quality of the built environment, the Government considers it important that greater weight is placed on architectural quality. The pursuit of architectural quality in publicly funded projects is an achievable objective which should be sought as normal procedure. Its value should be recognised publicly, not only as an enhancement to the quality of life, but as a sound investment in the full life-cycle costs of development.

Action 14

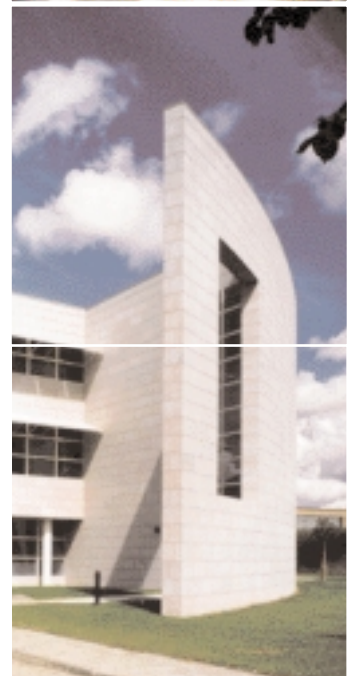
The Government Contracts Committee will communicate to all Government Departments and offices the following directions:

- Consistent with the requirement for maintaining economic advantage, the achievement of high standards of design and construction should be an objective of contracting authorities. Similar objectives should be set in relation to leasing/rental of property and development undertaken through Public Private Partnership.
- All proposals for capital expenditure should take account of full life-time costs (e.g. initial cost, cost-in-use, environmental cost, optimisation of service delivery), in the context of achieving optimum value for money.

Action 15

To assist those public authorities engaged in building and development works, in the consideration of those issues which impact on architectural quality, the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands in co-operation with the Department of Environment and Local Government, Department of Finance, OPW, the GCC, the Arts Council, representative contracting authorities and professional bodies, will prepare and publish a guidance document to outline:

- Those issues and qualities which impact on architectural quality.
- A system of evaluating such qualities (quality indicators).
- The stages of the building process at which such a system of quality indicators should be employed.
- Good practice and procedures in relation to such issues as:



Brief Preparation; Budget Preparation and Review, including evaluation of life-cycle cost and cost-in-use; Consultation with End Users; Procurement Procedures e.g. Circular 11/87, EU Directive 92/50, Design Build, PPP; Design Team Selection, Interviewing; Architectural Competitions; Option Appraisal, Project Review, Post-occupancy Evaluation and Sustainable Development.

Relevant research carried out in the EU or elsewhere will be identified and the results and cost implications addressed in the context of drafting a guidance document for Ireland.

2.2.3 State investment/aid in the built environment

Criteria for State investment/aid in the built environment should include architectural quality objectives

The State provides funding for a large amount of work, which it does not directly carry out. Such support can be through direct capital expenditure, through tax incentives or through grant-aid. There has been increasing awareness of the need to set quality objectives in the provision of funding for such projects. This is reflected, for example, in the provisions of the recent Urban Renewal Scheme, which places much greater emphasis on urban design and architectural heritage conservation. These issues must be addressed in an Integrated Area Plan, the preparation of which is a prerequisite in order for any area to be considered for designation under the scheme. In the case of The Dublin Docks Development Authority, the promotion of high standards of design and construction of buildings with a focus on sustainability in the effective use of tax incentives, is a stated aim of the authority's Master Plan.

A number of State Departments and local authorities also promote the “% for Art Scheme” whereby national and local authority projects that receive Government funding can allocate a percentage of the construction budget for public art. The findings of the Public Art Research Project, in its report to Government in 1997, offers a strategy for the development of public art in Ireland with particular emphasis on the potential of the existing “% for art scheme” as operated by the OPW and Department of the Environment and Local Government. The report recommends that a national approach to public art be developed. It envisages the establishment of an Inter-Departmental Public Art Co-ordination Group to co-ordinate, promote and support initiatives in public art by Government Departments and promote the concept of public art amongst other public bodies.

Action 16

All programmes of public funding, including incentives, for building development will include criteria in relation to those issues which impact on architectural quality.

Action 17

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands will develop a national approach to public art as proposed by the Public Art Research Project published in 1997.

2.2.4 Infrastructural development

The aesthetic quality of infrastructural development should be given full consideration

Public authorities are engaged in the provision of a significant amount of infrastructural development that can have profound impact on the quality of the built environment. Full consideration should therefore be given to the aesthetic and environmental quality of such development. In the case of major road projects advice from landscape architects and horticulturists is generally sought where tree and shrub planting is seen as an essential feature of the scheme. The benefit of such input in recent road developments is notable in aesthetic terms and it should be ensured that such planting schemes take cognisance of environmental and sustainable development considerations. However, it is important that the more fundamental issues of aesthetic and environmental quality are addressed at the appropriate stage. Consideration should, therefore, be given at the early planning stage of large civil engineering works (e.g. roads, bridges, sanitary services, power centres etc.), to the inclusion of architectural design input at the appropriate stages of the project.

Action 18

Government Departments will request all relevant statutory authorities that come under their remit, to ensure that infrastructural development projects are examined when considering design services, to determine the need for appropriate architectural services.



2.2.5 The State as custodian of architectural heritage

Architectural heritage in the care and ownership of the State should be conserved and maintained to a high standard



The Government has taken significant steps towards strengthening the protection of our architectural heritage through the recent introduction of a comprehensive and systematic legislative mechanism for its protection as part of the planning code. The new legislative measures contained in the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1999 (as consolidated in the Planning and Development Act, 2000), are supported by an advisory service at national level, the placing of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) on a statutory basis, financial support for the provision of conservation expertise at local level and a programme of grant assistance for owners of protected structures. As part of the Regional Operation Programmes (2000-2006) the Government has also included provision for the grant-aid of architectural conservation projects undertaken by public authorities. Objectives in relation to the architectural heritage are also being developed in the context of the National Heritage Plan.

The State is also directly responsible for the care and maintenance of a large proportion of our architectural heritage, as a high percentage of buildings of national value has been built by Government Departments, offices or agencies of the State or is now in their ownership. Many public authorities, in discharging their functions, have erected buildings that are treasured today for their heritage value. However, keeping such buildings in on-going use can be difficult while meeting statutory responsibilities relating to the current core functions, requirements such as health and safety regulations, as well as budget restrictions of such public authorities. Government seeks to reconcile such difficulties and to enhance the preservation of the architectural heritage in its care.

In leading by example, the Government wishes to ensure that the architectural heritage in its care and ownership is maintained and conserved to a high standard. As the recognition of what is of value is an essential prerequisite to protection, the first step therefore should be the identification and recording of those elements of public authority building stock which are of architectural heritage importance. The NIAH is carrying out an inventory of the architectural heritage of the country, which will take 12 years to complete, supplemented by the preparation of interim county surveys which will be completed within 3 years. As the NIAH is being prepared on a systematic geographic basis it will not be in a position to provide a body of complete data relating to one particular property owner for many years.

Therefore it would be appropriate for individual public authorities to undertake an inventory of the architectural heritage in their care in order to be able to put in place the necessary strategies for the appropriate management of this element of its building stock.

Action 19

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands and the Heritage Council, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Local Government and all relevant bodies, will prepare and publish a guidance document for the conservation of the architectural heritage in the care and ownership of public authorities. Such a guidance document will also address the issue of disposal of buildings of architectural heritage value.

Action 20

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands and The Heritage Council will establish a public authorities historic buildings forum for the following purposes: to act as a forum for information exchange; to organise seminars; to examine issues of common interest; and to co-ordinate guidance and advice in relation to care, maintenance and financing.

Action 21

To assist the meeting of objectives within relevant public authorities, each authority will be asked to establish an in-house advisory group to oversee the management and maintenance of its architectural heritage building stock.

Action 22

Public authorities will be asked to ensure that their functions and responsibilities in relation to the architectural heritage in their care are carried out with appropriate architectural conservation advice.

Action 23

Public authorities will be asked to compile and maintain an inventory of the architectural heritage in their care, to be carried out in accordance with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage guidelines. Such inventories and assessment of buildings should make clear the functional requirements imposed by virtue of the authorities' prescribed roles.

Action 24

Public authorities will be asked to prepare a conservation strategy for buildings of architectural heritage value in their care and ownership and within this framework will prepare a conservation plan for individual buildings, as appropriate.

Action 25

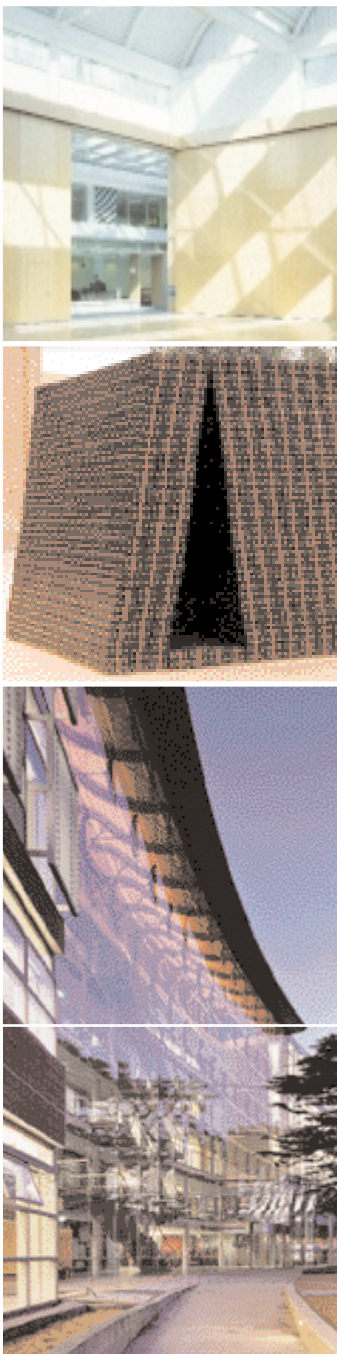
The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands will commission research to examine life-cycle costing with respect to buildings of architectural heritage value.

2.3 Encouraging innovation in architecture

Innovation should be encouraged through the fostering of young designers and through the architectural projects commissioned by the State

Essential to the promotion of innovation in architecture is fostering the skill and talent of young designers and ensuring that young practices have opportunities to participate fully in the market. At present Ireland is internationally recognised for the quality of its young architectural graduates. Under the Arts Plan (1999-2001) the Arts Council runs a number of award schemes which aim to promote excellence in architecture and further the artistic development of architects. Meeting the needs of the future requires continuing support for architectural education and improved access to the profession for persons with the necessary talent and energy. It is also essential that, in order to promote quality in the built environment, skills are widely available throughout the country. In this regard the establishment of young practices should be encouraged, especially in areas where no such practices currently exist. In order to foster innovation, Government aims to encourage contracting authorities to select certain smaller projects for competition in which small and medium sized practices could easily compete. In this way public authorities could promote ease of entry to the market, while continuing to ensure competition on the basis of quality of design and quality of service.

While there is a need for the State to encourage other agencies to build innovative work, it is important that it sets an example by doing so itself. Architectural competitions can provide a forum in which innovative designs can be developed. Where appropriate, architectural competitions for the procurement of public buildings should be considered. In the interests of better communication with the public and to maximise the benefit of design competitions, it should be ensured that the submissions for architectural competitions are brought to the attention of as wide a public as possible through publication of competition entries and winning designs.



Action 26

Public authorities responsible for commissioning architectural projects will be asked to identify selected smaller projects, which could be opened to competition in which small and medium sized practices could participate fully.

Action 27

The Arts Council, together with the OPW, will develop a biennial award specifically aimed at the young practitioner of architecture, with the objective of developing his/her artistic potential. The award will be a composite travel and commission award.

2.4 Planning control and architectural quality

Architectural expertise should be available to the local government planning and development process

Through development control and forward planning, local authorities have a key role in relation to the formation of the built environment. The physical planning system is one of the most important means available for creating a stimulating built environment, providing coherence in development patterns and for linking related goals and frameworks. Current Government policy seeks encourage the role of local government through increased public participation in policy formation and decision-making. This, taken together with the increased architectural and environmental awareness generally, will foster rising expectations for higher standards in the built environment, which in turn will necessitate a strong network of specialist expertise at local level.

In the context of development control and forward planning, an effective working relationship between architecture and planning is central. If architects are to design buildings that are beautiful, humane in scale, give value for money and are expressive of contemporary culture, then the physical planning system should be utilised in such a way as to facilitate good new design while protecting resources and heritage already created. The benefits to the built environment to be gained through the application of architectural skills at the highest level can be evidenced through those authorities which have already appointed posts at city and county architect level. It is an objective of Government that architectural, urban design and planning skills are effectively applied within each local authority. In the context of architectural heritage protection, arising from the introduction of substantially increased protection for the architectural heritage through the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1999 (as consolidated in the Planning and Development Act, 2000), Government has already initiated a programme of financial support to assist local authorities in the provision of architectural heritage expertise. However, in relation to planning generally,



there is also need to ensure that appropriate architectural expertise is available to local authorities and this should be considered in tandem with the measures already in place for the provision of heritage expertise.

Action 28

The Minister for Environment and Local Government will promote the establishment of a local authorities architecture forum comprising elected representatives, representatives from relevant Government Departments, local authorities, the Arts Council, and relevant organisations to:

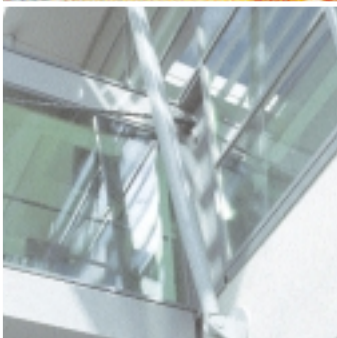
- Foster architectural quality within local authorities through seminars, training initiatives and publications.
- Develop a framework in 2002 whereby a network of architectural expertise will be available to local authorities in order to ensure that such expertise (e.g. in-house architects at senior level) is available to policy forming groups and decision-makers at an appropriately early stage of development projects.
- Promote the deployment of architectural input in the planning and implementation stages of locally-based initiatives.
- Promote greater understanding by the public of the issues
- Promote clarity in the presentation of planning proposals.

2.5 Implementing Action on Architecture 2002-2005

The achievement of the objectives set out in the Government's policy statement on architecture is a long-term task, which requires patient but determined effort. It is essential therefore that a mechanism is put in place to monitor the implementation of agreed actions and to develop proposals for policy and actions in this area in the future.

Action 29

A permanent Inter-departmental committee, serviced by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, will be established to review Government Policy on Architecture on an on-going basis with designated responsibility for overseeing and reporting to Government on the implementation of agreed action programmes.





Appendix A: Schedule of Actions

1	Review resource material relating to architecture currently available to teachers at primary, secondary, Post Leaving Certificate, vocational/apprenticeship level, and make recommendations for further development of existing material or for new material. This study will also examine resource material which has been developed abroad in this area, such as the UK, the Netherlands, Finland, the USA and Canada. Results of the review will be made available to all schools with particular emphasis on specifically relevant subject areas.	The Department of Education and Science, in consultation with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to commission consultancy for review.	Commence 2002
2	Establish programme of curriculum support in relation to architecture Prepare resource material on architecture for primary level in response to the new Curriculum, which is currently being introduced. Establish an 'architect in residence' scheme within the teacher training colleges and sponsor the preparation of resource material for trainee teachers. Initiate programmes for in-service training on architecture for primary and second level school teachers. A pilot scheme will be run at the University of Limerick for teachers training with the new syllabus for Architecture and Construction Technology. Prepare resource material on architectural awareness and architectural history for inclusion in construction apprenticeship courses.	Actions to be initiated by the Department of Education and Science in co-operation with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. Once off project which will take up to three years to complete. Short courses to be run on an annual basis by contract. Short courses to be run on an annual basis by contract. To be determined as a result of review of resource material.	36 months To be initiated in 2002. Programme to be developed and commenced in 2002.
3	Provide sponsorship for the necessary follow-up support for the effective implementation of resource material such as the current "Shaping Space" programme and proposed programme for primary level.	Department of Education and Science.	Provision of one part-time officer throughout academic year.
4	Establish an annual award (for school and student) for an architecture-related schools project.	Department of Education and Science, The Heritage Council and The Arts Council.	To be initiated in 2002.
5	Introduce an 'Architects-in-residence' scheme, aimed at primary and post primary schools.	The Arts Council. This will be implemented in co-operation with the network of Teachers Centres.	To be launched 2002
6	Appoint a full-time Architecture Officer within The Arts Council	The Arts Council.	Requires sanction D/Finance
7	Organise a series of initiatives to promote best design practice and excellence in architecture and urban design through the planning system.	The Arts council to initiate in co-operation with planning authorities.	To commence 2002
8	Organise a series of initiatives- lectures, seminars- on architecture to introduce innovative concepts and exemplars of excellence in contemporary architecture and urban design to the public.	The Arts Council.	To commence 2002
9	Review, in liaison with the range of appropriate cultural institutions, whether and to what extent, the promotion of architecture could be further developed as part of their individual briefs	The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to undertake review by way of consultancy.	12 months

10	Expand the brief of Dúchas to include to the promotion of general architectural awareness.	The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.	3 year programme
11	Develop a Virtual Architecture Centre via the internet as an all Ireland initiative and provide public access terminals will be established at all relevant cultural institutions. Feasibility study to identify full brief, key organisations as well as structure and mechanisms for delivery	The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to initiate feasibility study.	Feasibility study to be commissioned in 2002.
12	Continue to expand the role of ENFO, The Environmental Information Service in relation to architecture	ENFO	On-going
13	Continue to develop the important role of the Tidy Towns competition in promoting awareness of the built environment.	Department of Environment and Local Government	On-going
14	Communicate to all Government Departments and offices objectives in relation to standards of design and construction, including in the leasing/rental of property and Public Private Partnership, in the context of achieving optimum value for money.	Government Contracts Committee to issue circular	Communication by mid 2002.
15	Prepare and publish a guidance document in relation to the procurement of architecture.	Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to initiate preparation of guidance document	Commence 2002
16	Provide that public funding for building developments include criteria in relation to those issues which impact on architectural quality.	Each Government Department to communicate request to relevant divisions within Department or public authorities under its aegis.	Communication by mid 2002
17	Develop a national approach to public art through the "% for Art" scheme as proposed by Public Art Research Project.	Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.	Action to commence 2002
18	Provide that infrastructural development projects are examined when considering design services to determine the need for appropriate architectural services.	Each Government Department to communicate request to relevant divisions within Department or statutory bodies under its aegis.	Communication by mid 2002
19	Prepare and publish a guidance document for the conservation of the architectural heritage (including guidance in relation to disposal of property) in the care and ownership of public authorities.	The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands , in consultation with the Department of Environment and Local Government and other relevant bodies, to undertake preparation and publication of guidance document.	Commence 2002
20	Establish a public authorities historic buildings forum.	The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands and Heritage Council to establish forum.	Initial forum meeting to be convened within 6 months. Programme for further meetings to be developed.

21	Promote the establishment of in-house advisory groups within relevant public authorities. The advisory group proposed should comprise in-house staff members and act as an internal forum for co-ordination of issues in relation to the management of architectural conservation issues	Each Government Department to communicate request to relevant divisions within Department or statutory bodies under its aegis.	Communication by mid 2002.
22	Provide that the functions and responsibilities of public authorities in relation to the architectural heritage in their care are carried out with appropriate architectural conservation advice.	Each Government Department to communicate request to relevant divisions within Department or statutory bodies under its aegis.	Communication by mid 2002. Implementation of action on-going.
23	Request public authorities to compile and maintain an inventory of the architectural heritage in their care, to be carried out in accordance with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage guidelines.	Each Government Department to communicate request to relevant divisions within Department or statutory bodies under its aegis.	Communication by mid 2002.
24	Request public authorities to prepare a conservation policy for buildings of architectural heritage value in their care and ownership and within this framework prepare a conservation plan for individual buildings as appropriate.	Each Government Department to communicate request to relevant divisions within Department or statutory bodies under its aegis.	Communication by mid 2002.
25	Commission research to examine life-cycle costing with respect to buildings of architectural heritage value.	Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.	Results available 2003
26	Request Public authorities responsible for commissioning architectural projects to identify selected smaller projects, which could be opened to competition in which small and medium sized practices could participate fully.	Each Government Department to communicate request to relevant divisions within Department or statutory bodies under its aegis.	Communication by mid 2002.
27	Develop a biennial award specifically aimed at the young practitioner of architecture, with the objective of developing his/her artistic potential. The award will be a composite travel and commission award.	The Arts Council and the OPW	To be launched 2002.
28	Establish a local authorities architecture forum to: * Foster architectural quality within local authorities through seminars, training initiatives and publications. * Develop a framework by the year 2002 whereby a network of architectural expertise will be available to local authorities in order to ensure that such expertise (e.g. in-house architects at senior level) is available to policy forming groups and decision-makers at an appropriately early stage of development projects. * Promote the deployment of architectural input in the planning and implementation stages of locally-based initiatives. * Promote greater understanding by the public of the issues * Promote clarity in the presentation of planning proposals.	The Minister for Environment and Local Government to promote the establishment of forum.	Forum to be established in 2002 and programme determined.
29	Establish a permanent Inter-departmental committee to co-ordinate the implementation of Action on Architecture 2002-2005 and to review Government Policy on Architecture on an on-going basis.	Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to co-ordinate on-going inter-departmental review and service committee. Senior Architect (contract) and Executive Officer posts subject to Department of Finance approval.	To be established in 2002

Appendix B: Working Group and Task Groups

In consideration of issues and the preparation of recommended action, the Minister was assisted by a working group under the chairmanship of Michael O'Doherty, Principal Architect, OPW and with the following membership:

Frank Jackman	Dept. Health and Children
Gus Cummins	Dept. Environment and Local Government
Joe Davis	Dept. Education and Science
David Slattery	Heritage Council
Kevin Kieran	Arts Council
Antoinette O'Neill	Arts Council
Joe Hamill	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
Joe Sheehan	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
Rachel MacRory	Dept of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Island
Anita McGlynn (Secr.)	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands

Three task groups were established to assist the working group in its deliberations, as follows:

Task Group on Policy for the Promotion of Public Awareness of Architecture

Marian Finucane (Chair)

Kevin Kieran	Arts Council
Thomas Sweeney	Dept. Education and Science
Angela Rolfe	O.P.W.
Niall Reddy	Bórd Fáilte
Ann McNicholl	R.I.A.I.
Maureen Gilbert	National Rehabilitation Services Board
Gerry Smith	ENFO
Jim Barrett	Dublin Corporation
Sally Starbuck	Architectural Association of Ireland
John O'Regan	Gandon Editions
Sir Charles Brett	
Dave Fadden	Dúchas, Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
Rachel MacRory	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
Anita McGlynn (Secr.)	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands

Task Group on Policy for the Promotion of Architectural Quality in Publicly-Funded Projects

Klaus Unger (Chair)

Joe Davis	Dept. of Education and Science,
Kevin Kieran	Arts Council
John McGinley	Tipperary (North Riding) County Council,
Brian Brennan	South Dublin County Council
Dave Cussen	ESB
Eoin Ó Cofaigh	R.I.A.I
Barry Drinan	Aer Rianta Technical Consultants
Matthew O'Connor	National Building Agency
Richard O'Keeffe	Dept. of Health and Children
Rachel MacRory	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
Anita McGlynn (Secr.)	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands

Task Group on Policy for Historic Buildings in Public Authority Ownership

Loughlin Kealy (Chair)

Liam Egan	O.P.W.
Shay Kirk	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Diarmaid Ó Gráda	Department of Environment and Local Government
Mary Bryan	Irish Georgian Society
Susan Roundtree	Dublin Corporation
John Clancy	C.I.E.
Deirdre McDermott	Historic Buildings Council Northern Ireland
David O'Connor	Fingal County Council
Anthony Abbot King	Irish Planning Institute
Freddie O'Dwyer	Dúchas, Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
Rachel MacRory	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
Anita McGlynn (Secr.)	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands

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