



'of de Blacam and Meagher': PARTICIPATION OF IRELAND AT THE 12TH VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE 2010

'of de Blacam and Meagher' is to represent Ireland at the 12th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice during Autumn 2010. Curated by Tom dePaor, Peter Maybury, Alice Casey and Cian Deegan, 'of de Blacam and Meagher' seeks to communicate the cultural landscape of Ireland through the seminal work of de Blacam and Meagher Architects.

Ireland's participation at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council of Ireland. It is commissioned by the Irish Architecture Foundation under the directorship of Nathalie Weadick.

The Irish pavilion at Venice, in the eighteenth century oratory of Irish monk St. Gall near Piazza San Marco, will address de Blacam and Meagher's built and unbuilt portfolio of the last 33 years and will mark the donation of these documents to the Irish Architectural Archive. The exhibition will take the form of a book unbound, containing volumes of drawings and photographic reproductions from the archive, contemporary photography and readings of the works with commentaries. As both archive and reading room, the space will be furnished with and lit by items from the de Blacam and Meagher archive.

Formed in 1976, this architectural practice has built houses and places of work, commerce, education and worship. In turn, the influence of de Blacam and Meagher has permeated the many facets of Irish life with a distinct cultural presence. The quality of their work has been recognised both in Ireland and Internationally, and the book Architects Today refers to them as "the godfathers of contemporary Irish architecture". Known for their focus on making simple buildings and the employment of beautiful and sustainable materials, some of their best-known buildings in Ireland include Cork Institute of Technology, Chapel of Reconciliation at the Catholic shrine at Knock, Co. Mayo, the Samuel Beckett Theatre Dublin and the restoration of the Dining Hall and Atrium in Trinity College Dublin for the University's 400th anniversary celebrations.

The 12th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia - runs from August 29 to November 21 (preview 26-27-28 August) and is widely regarded as the most important event on the international architecture calendar, attracting more than 130,000 informed visitors from around the globe over 12 weeks.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Royal Institute of the Architects in Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

For more information, see www.irelandatvenice.ie.

media contacts

annette nugent :: annettenugent@iol.ie :: +353 86 6820971

madeline boughton :: madelineboughton@cultureireland.gov.ie :: +353 87 7977827

www.irelandatvenice.ie

EDITORS' NOTES

Ireland's participation at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council of Ireland. It is commissioned by the Irish Architecture Foundation under the directorship of Nathalie Weadick. The exhibition is sponsored by the Royal Institute of the Architects in Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The IAF's continued involvement in the International Architecture Exhibition supports the objectives of Ireland's new Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015: *Towards a Sustainable Future*, in particular those at raising awareness and education within our built environment.

Previous Irish Participation at the Venice Biennale International Exhibition of Architecture:

2008 11th International Architecture Exhibition

Exhibit: *The Lives of Spaces*

Commissioner: IAF under the directorship of Nathalie Weadick

Curators: Nathalie Weadick and Hugh Campbell

Participants: Hasset Ducatez, Simon Walker+ Patrick Lynch, McCullough Mulvin, Gerry Cahill Architects, O' Donnell+ Tuomey, dePaor architects, TAKA, Dara McGrath (in assoc with Robinson McIllwane Architects), Grafton Architects.

2006 10th International Architecture Exhibition

Exhibit: *SubUrban to SuperRural*

Commissioner: Shane O' Toole (For IAF) Deputy Commissioner: Ciarán O Gaora

Curators: Michelle Fagan, Paul Kelly and Gary Lysaght of FKL architects

Participants: Boyd Cody Architects, Bucholz|McEvoy Architects, dePaor architects, FKL architects, Henschion+Reuter Architects, heneghan.peng.architects, MacGabhann Architects, ODOS architects, Dominic Stevens Architects, Constantin Gurdgiev, Frank McDonald, Jennifer Keegan and City Models.

2004 9th International Architecture Exhibition

Exhibit: *Letterfrack - Transformation of an Institution*

Commissioner: Shane O' Toole, Deputy Commissioner: Paul Kelly

Architects: O' Donnell and Tuomey

2002 8th International Architecture Exhibition

Exhibit: Limerick County Hall

Commissioner: Raymund Ryan

Architects: Bucholz|McEvoy Architects

2000 7th International Architecture Exhibition

Exhibit: N"

Commissioner: Raymund Ryan

Architect: Tom dePaor

ENDS

media contacts

annette nugent :: annettenugent@iol.ie :: +353 86 6820971

madeline boughton :: madelineboughton@cultureireland.gov.ie :: +353 87 7977827

www.irelandatvenice.ie