



Arts Council of Northern Ireland

# ART FORM AND SPECIALIST AREA POLICY 2007-2012

## ARCHITECTURE



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Awarding funds from  
 The National Lottery®

[www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

## Introduction

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland recognises Architecture as an art form, and has had a formal remit for the promotion of high quality architecture and design for the built environment since 1995. We recognise that architecture and design for the public realm affects all our lives fundamentally, every day and that the quality of our architecture is at some level a reflection of our cultural aspirations. Architectural quality has been at the forefront of awards made from National Lottery funds to new arts infrastructure buildings funded through the Arts Council Capital programme, and awards made for public art projects through various Lottery programmes – and now chiefly through the *Public Art Programme* – have had at their heart the enhancement of the built environment and urban and rural landscapes (cf *Public Art Policy* and *Public Art Handbook for Northern Ireland*).

The Council's *Architecture and the Built Environment: Policies, Strategies and Actions* document was published in January 2003 along with the appointment of a dedicated Architecture and Public Art specialist officer. The Council's Architecture Policy document called for a Government-wide Architecture Policy for Northern Ireland, which was taken up by DCAL and resulted in the publication of the interdepartmental *Government Policy on Architecture and the Built Environment for Northern Ireland* in June 2006. The Council seeks to work in partnership with Government Departments, agencies and relevant bodies in the outworking of key aspects of that policy – chiefly, the development of greater public awareness and appreciation of good design in the built environment through encouraging public debate, interest and involvement; and promoting collaboration between artists, design professionals and clients to encourage the integration of art in the design of public buildings and places.

The Council has been a key supporter of Northern Ireland's built environment centre since 2004, and through it and through partnership with a range of other organizations seeks to support exhibitions, publications, seminars, lectures and public activities relating to architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, infrastructure and public art. The Council ran an Architecture Special Initiative in 2004 which led to several notable architectural projects; the Council wishes to continue supporting these kinds of projects through its main funding programmes.

The Council has also sought to support individual practitioners in the development of their own personal (as opposed to commercial) architectural/design practice through SIAP awards; again this will remain an open channel for artistic support in this area.

The Council has also worked towards promoting and rewarding architectural/public realm work being carried out at exemplary level through supporting a specific national award; the Council will continue to value the benefits and role of awards.

Finally, the Council has worked proactively with universities and schools to build on raising awareness of architecture and the built environment in education, from primary through to tertiary level, and actively seeks to support the release of design creativity in all areas in the educational context.

## Funding Objectives

- encourage applications for individual awards from architects and design professionals under the *Support for the Individual Artist Programme (SIAP)*;
- fund, in partnership with relevant agencies, exhibitions, seminars, lectures and publications on architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and infrastructure, aimed at a wide audience;
- work with partners in education to raise awareness of the built environment and to support the release of design creativity in all areas;
- support the work and role of Northern Ireland's architecture centre to raise awareness among the general public and especially children and young people, architects, politicians, public sector bodies, and private sector clients;
- encourage archive documentation to be made fully accessible to the public across Northern Ireland;
- promote quality of design in the public realm through the making of awards as appropriate;
- actively promote creative approaches to accessibility in architectural design for buildings and in the public realm generally;
- foster and promote our architectural heritage;
- work closely with government departments on the effective outworking of the inter-departmental policy on architecture and the built environment.

## **Additional Information**

### **'Creative Connections' Five Year Arts Strategy, 2007-2012**

[www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/strategy.htm](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/strategy.htm)

### **Corporate Plan, 2007-2010**

[www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/strategy.htm](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/strategy.htm)

### **Art Form and Specialist Area Policies, 2007-2012**

[www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/aboutthearts.htm](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/aboutthearts.htm)

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