

Press Release January 2008

Line To Surface: Urban Void / Extended City Exhibition

Office of Public Works (January 22nd – February 6th)

University of Limerick (February 14th – 28th)

Ballymun Civic Centre (March 6th – 28th)

The potential of Dublin's urban void is being explored in a new exhibition 'Line to Surface: Urban Void / Extended City', which will be opened on January 22nd at 7.30pm in the atrium of the Office of Public Works by Mr. John Tierney, Dublin City manager. The exhibition will run until February 6th and will subsequently be on display at the University of Limerick (February 14th-28th) and Ballymun Civic Centre (March 6th-28th). The exhibition is sponsored by the Arts Council and is part of the Councils touring experiment.

'Line To Surface: Urban Void / Extended City' was the Irish entry to the inaugural Lisbon Architecture Triennale, held in the summer of 2007, an international architectural festival which had the objective of bringing together professionals and the general public to debate the questions that urban spaces face today and the broader role of contemporary architecture in the making of our cities.

The exhibition itself, a collective response from eleven multi-disciplinary practices to the theme of the 'urban void', attempts to examine how the city of Dublin is presently being made while simultaneously posing the question to us, How do you make a city? It revolves around the potential remaking of the abandoned spaces of our city. And establishes an alternative reading of the urban form, one based on a network of small and large-scale interventions that are stitched into the existing fabric, adjusting and redefining its expanding footprint.

The project was curated by Peter Cody of Boyd Cody Architects and Peter Carroll of A2 Architects and is supported by the Arts Council, Irish Architectural Foundation, Culture Ireland, Dublin Docklands Development Authority, The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd., Dublin City Council and Tegral Building Products Ltd.

“We hope the exhibition will reach a broad audience and be seen by members of the public with a view to generating discussion about the city and its present and future development. Also we wish to propose another, alternative vision of the city, by asking how urban sprawl can be curtailed and contained and the city consolidated, its social and cultural and physical fabric improved” said curator Peter Cody.

The exhibition openings in each of the venues will be preceded by a series of discussions, presented by the participants, in conjunction with the Architectural Association of Ireland, relating to the broader theme of the exhibition, ‘Urban Void’. ‘Consolidation and Intensification’ is the first talk in the series and will be followed by ‘Landscape and Infrastructure’ in Limerick and ‘Redundancy and Transformation’ in Ballymun.

The exhibition will include both major projects such as Ballymun Regeneration and proposals for the vast land bank at Dunsink and small schemes such as garden plots – projects that affect the topography of Dublin and its future.

The exhibition in Ballymun will also form part of their 10th anniversary celebrations and an extended exhibition of the work on Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. over this period will accompany the exhibition ‘Line To Surface’.

The Eleven Contributors:

Boyd Cody Architects/ A2 Architects	Grafton Architects
Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.	McGarry Ni Eanaigh Architects
Dermot Foley Landscape Architects, depaor architects	McCullough Mulvin Architects
Dublin Docklands Development Authority	O’Donnell + Tuomey Architects.
FKL Architects	UCD Architecture

Curators’ Comments:

“Our aim is to re-awaken a new examination of the city in its broader context.”

“This is the first time the majority of these projects will be seen in the public sphere. What is perhaps more interesting for ourselves as curators is that they will be seen together, highlighting

the disparity in approaches taken and the different forces in operation underlying how a city grows.”

“We have found an almost unconscious city... ..there is very little knowledge of the scale of change going on out there. What are the City of Dublin’s boundaries? Where does the city begin and end? Is there a centre or centres? Where is Dunsink?”

“We have discovered the phenomenon of density dumping and the increasing influence of organisational mandates on the city’s form. There is no overview of the city today.”

“We have come to realise that the project of the city is continuous. Through the process of decay, rarefaction and urban rapture the city is constantly being remade, re-imagined from within.”

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