



RIAI IRISH ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2017

CATEGORIES:

The RIAI Irish Architecture Awards 2017 include the following Award categories:

1. Commercial / Retail / Fit-Out *This Award is kindly sponsored by [Lisney](#)*
2. Conservation / Restoration *This Award is kindly sponsored by [Kingscourt Bricks](#)*
3. Cultural / Public / Community Buildings
4. Educational Buildings *This Award is kindly sponsored by [Kingspan](#)*
5. [Future Award](#) – a new talent in architecture, in association with *Architecture Ireland*, the RIAI Journal
6. Health Care Buildings *This Award is kindly sponsored by [Soprema](#)*
7. House of the Year – new houses and houses extensions in Dublin and in Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster (regional category winners)
8. Housing (more than 1 unit) *This Award is kindly sponsored by [Vandersanden Brick](#)*
9. International Award – projects by registered Irish Architects overseas
10. Place of the Year – Places and Spaces in Dublin and in Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster (regional category winners)
11. [Research](#) Award
12. [Sustainability](#) Award
13. [Universal](#) Design Award, in partnership with CEUD



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CATEGORIES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AWARD 5 FUTURE AWARD

This award is eligible to individuals within a 10-year timeframe of becoming a registered architect. Awarded in association with the RIAI Journal *Architecture Ireland*, the award recognises and awards new talent in architecture. The Jury is looking for architects who show exceptional skill and talent in any of the following areas relating to architecture: design, practice, research, public engagement and education. Submissions are sought from individuals who strive for excellence in their work and show innovation in thinking in practice. Practices, Local Authorities and Government Departments who employ architects can also nominate an individual. Those who wish to enter for the award, or are nominated, are requested to complete the 'RIAI and *Architecture Ireland* Future Award' [Download Questionnaire Form](#)

AWARD 2 ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH AWARD

This Award recognises the important contribution made by Irish architects to research relating to the built environment. Practices should submit one A1 Board describing their research project, including a 200-word abstract as well as images, graphics and other appropriate illustrations and also submit an electronic entry. Research Projects must be not older than three years from commencement of research and must demonstrate an innovative response to current issues of the built environment. The research methodology must be explained and research sponsors should be identified.

AWARD 12 SUSTAINABLE PROJECT AWARD

Please download the [Sustainability Checklist 2017](#) guidelines for information about specific documentation required for those categories

Entrants who wish to be considered for the Best Sustainable Project Award must submit a hard copy "[Checklist for Sustainable Buildings](#)", completed in accordance with the guidance notes, giving their own opinion of their project under each heading and adding independent verification or recognised criteria and explanatory notes as relevant. Where the building is normally subject to the requirement for a BER, the BER certificate number and energy / CO2 rating achieved should be recorded. Entrants must also include a hard copy Statement (maximum 300 words in bullet point format) indicating the extent of inclusion of sustainability under the headings of environmental, social and economic quality in the design and any specific measures or innovations applied. The Checklist and Statement should be submitted (labelled with ID Number) as a hard copy attachment with the A1 board.



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AWARD 13 RIAI UNIVERSAL DESIGN AWARD

Introduction

In 2013, the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD) at the National Disability Authority (NDA) entered into a partnership with the RIAI to provide funding for a Universal Design Award category as part of the RIAI's Annual Awards. This development built upon the previous RIAI Accessibility Award category.

CEUD's remit is to promote Universal Design in the areas of the Built Environment, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Products and Services. The Centre is the only statutory Centre for Universal Design in the world. One of the goals of CEUD is to replace the notion that designers may have regarding Universal Design – that it is design for disability. To quote the architect and Universal Design expert Professor Polly Welch, Universal Design is not a euphemism for accessibility as access features such as ramps and lifts are 'potent symbols of separateness'. Universal Design is a pathway to human-friendly and elegant design. Sometimes Universal Design solutions are incredibly simple ideas that make life more convenient for everyone. It places human diversity at the heart of the design process so that buildings and environments can be designed to meet the needs of all users.

WHY YOU SHOULD ENTER?

A building designed using Universal Design principles and guidance can help to improve the quality of life for those using the building, it can also help to reduce or even negate any post occupancy retro-fitting or re-design work as a result of the building user engagement process. This can allow for a building to be future-proofed and can mean a reduction in the cost of the running of these buildings. Any reduction in costs involved with building without the watering down of design quality is to be embraced and this can be done by designing from a Universal Design approach.

All the buildings entered for the previous RIAI UD Award had specific roles to play for their users, the design teams addressed these roles based on a Universal Design philosophy with the result that these buildings allow people using the building's spaces to do so, without having to think about whether the spaces can be navigated easily or not – the spaces just work and that is all that is required albeit spaces that are exciting and enjoyable to be in.

Two of the three buildings awarded the RIAI UD Award have also won the RIAI People's Choice Award. This additional Award leads to publicity for the buildings and the practices involved such as RTE News bulletins and print media. As the fee to enter is waived, is a great opportunity for RIAI members to showcase their work and show how Universal Design can lead to exciting and elegant buildings.

FREE WAIVER

The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD) at the National Disability Authority are supporting the Universal Design Award which will be judged separately from the other awards and will include an international Universal Design expert as Chair of the RIAI UD Award Jury. **The fee for entering this award has been waived due to the support of the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design.** For more information on previous winners, read the PDF [RIAI CEUD Universal Design Award](#)



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WHAT IS UNIVERSAL DESIGN?

Universal Design places human diversity at the heart of the design process. If an environment is accessible, usable, convenient and easy to use, everyone benefits. By considering the diverse needs and abilities of all people throughout the design process, Universal Design creates environments that meet peoples' needs. Universal Design is not a euphemism for accessibility, as access features such as ramps and lifts are potent symbols of separateness.

Entries for the RIAI Universal Design Award will be judged in relation to their achievement of excellence in architectural design that responds to the diverse needs of users, and enables people to access and use an environment with ease and comfort, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of their age, size, abilities or disabilities.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The drawings and photographs submitted should illustrate excellence in architectural design using a universal design approach. (On the A1 board)

In addition to the general requirements, entrants are required to provide a short statement (maximum two A4 sheets to be put on the back of projects board) which outlines the following:

- Why you believe that this project is an example of best practice in universal design
- The approach taken to universal design during the design process (for example, consultation with end-users at different stages of the process)
- A client or end-user statement on how the project responds to the diverse needs of users

*For further information on Universal Design, please refer to:

- [The 7 Principles of Universal Design](#) and 'Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach' <http://universaldesign.ie/Built-Environment/Building-for-Everyone/>
- Universal Design guidance for home design <http://universaldesign.ie/Built-Environment/Housing/> available for download from the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design website.
- [Neil Murphy article in Architect Ireland download PDF here](#)
- [Previous Winners and Jury's Comments](#)

Entrants must ensure that clients are aware that the jury will have to visit the building project should they be shortlisted.

