

City set for Festival of Architecture



WFA 2014 takes place from September 26th to 28th.

The Waterford Festival of Architecture (WFA) is a festival which supports architects and works towards enhancing the understanding and appreciation of architecture among the wider community, including creative practitioners of other artistic disciplines. It produces a high quality programme of events that maximise its unique status in Ireland as the only festival of architecture outside of the capital.

This year's Festival is taking place in association with Focus Ireland.

There is clear synergy between WFA promoting and raising awareness of architecture where the theme is "Walls" and a charity both seeking to break down barriers around the issues of homelessness and to provide shelter, protection and assistance for those that are homeless through the provision of physical structures and services.

With an exciting three-day programme of events to engage local and regional public and specialist audiences, the festival promotes the importance of architecture as an artistic practice. In 2014 the theme "Walls" will celebrate the life of the City through the built environment and encourage the public to engage with the city and its catchment area on a more intimate level, with events tours and walks exploring different aspects of the theme in the city and county.

Through a family and schools programme, specialist lectures and talks, workshops and exhibitions, the Waterford Festival of Architecture continues to grow its profile and audiences by delivering a programme that aims to engage the public with the built environment.

Awareness of architecture as an art form is central to the festival. Through these creative collaborations, the festival can demonstrate the necessity for and contributions of, architecture in our daily lives.

Programme 2014: Our very successful outreach programme, Architects in Schools, ran in two county primary schools in June, and will culminate in an exhibition opening during the festival.

There will be a Schools Heritage Trail, where schools are invited to follow a heritage trail through the city centre, and we are inviting primary school children to take part in the theme for this year's festival, through a drawing competition that can be used as a mural on a wall to be selected in the city.

Contemporary and historic venues within Waterford City will be used actively during the festival to house exhibitions, workshops and artist talks.

Friday is Open Day in the WIT Dept of Architecture, and will feature a keynote talk with Denise O'Brien and Catherine Crowe, presenters of RTE One's "The Design Doctors". Denise and Catherine have valuable advice on how transforming and re-organising our interior spaces can greatly improve our quality of life.

There will be a bus tour departing from the Granary to Mount Congreve and Fairmount house and gardens. The tour will include a guided walking tour of the gardens, lunch and a tour of Mt Congreve House.

Friday evening will also see a public debate and the Official Launch of the Festival, and we are delighted that Robin Mandell, President of the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland will officially open the festival, and deliver the keynote talk in the Granary. 2014 has been a very eventful year for the practice of Architecture in Ireland and the construction industry generally with the introduction of the new Building Control regulations.

Friday evening will see an exciting vertical Studio collaboration between WIT Architecture students and Saw Fest (Sonic Arts Waterford).

Sonic Arts Waterford is an Experimental Electronic Arts festival. The festival was established with the aim of creating a hub in Waterford City for the area of Experimental Electronic Arts, with a cultural exchange between various national and international acts from countries such as Poland, Malta, Italy and the UK. As well as live performances, the aim is to provide workshops and talks in the various fields of experimental electronic and Visual Arts.

Friday Evening finishes with a sleep out / Pillow fight by WIT Architecture students in aid of Focus Ireland.

Saturday sees a varied programme, including City Architectural and Heritage walks, and a Scavenger Hunt, linking several

areas of the city, from the Viking Triangle, through John Roberts Square, to O'Connell St. WFA are delighted to link up with several other arts and community groups for this project, including Animated State, Spraoi, the GIY Project and the Civic Trust. There's also a varied programme of exhibitions and talks in the Granary Waterford. Sunday will feature the annual wreath laying ceremony at John Roberts Grave in Greyfriars, There will also be a Family Funday in aid of Focus Ireland in Waterford Castle.