**Irish Design 2015 in partnership with Chicago Design Museum presents**

***New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland* at the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial**



*New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland*, a series of presentations of the work of emerging Irish practices in three high-profile venues around the world, opens at Chicago Design Museum on October 3rd and runs until January 3rd, 2016 as part of the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial.

Presented by Irish Design 2015 (ID2015) in partnership with Chicago Design Museum, this flagship exhibition of Irish architecture and the built environment is a key element of ID2015, a year-long initiative backed by the Irish government exploring, promoting and celebrating Irish design throughout Ireland and internationally.

Selected by curators Nathalie Weadick of the Irish Architecture Foundation, and Raymund Ryan of the Heinz Architectural Center at Pittsburgh’s Carnegie Museum of Art, *New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland* will present the work of three practices - A2 Architects (Peter Carroll and Caomhán Murphy), GKMP Architects (Grace Keeley and Michael Pike), and Ryan W. Kennihan Architects - for the first time in Chicago.

Ireland’s Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD said: *"The aim of ID2015 is to bring visibility to Ireland’s dynamic design businesses, supporting them in trading in competitive foreign markets and ultimately creating jobs at home.  As one of the highlights of the ID2015 programme, New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland offers a unique opportunity to promote emerging Irish practices working in the architecture and built environment space to discerning audiences in high profile venues around the world.  Following New Horizon’s presence at the London Festival of Architecture in June, this installment at Chicago Architecture Biennial and a further presence at the Hong Kong/Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture later this year will be instrumental in positioning design at the heart of our creative economy and in growing Ireland’s reputation abroad as a source of innovative design products and services.”*

Informed by the Biennial’s theme, ‘The State of the Art of Architecture’, the three Irish practices have been tasked to make an intervention – part installation, part exhibition – in the Chicago Design Museum. The architects have collaborated on constructing a temporary mirrored canopy, designing and fabricating a generous communal table, and presenting a selection of work from their offices in Dublin.

The practices have planned an elegant intervention augmenting the structure of the Chicago Design Museum, taking inspiration from Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van der Rohe’s geometric modernism. Embracing the Biennial’s theme, the installation shines a light on the art of architecture and specific interests of this new generation of architects. They play with preconceptions of old and new, Ireland and America, labour and pleasure, the room and the city. A programme of accompanying events will explore cultural, social and political connections between Chicago and Ireland.

Karen Hennessy, Chief Executive of Irish Design 2015 said: *"We are honoured to be part of the very first Chicago Architecture Biennial and we look forward to working with the Biennial team and the Chicago Design Museum in promoting Irish businesses working in the architecture and built environment space as one of the highlights of the ID2015 programme. Through this initiative, we are showcasing the work of Irish designers around the world, developing commercial opportunities and establishing strategic partnerships for the ongoing development of this vibrant sector. New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland takes its inspiration from important thresholds in the history of contemporary Irish architecture, where the scope of this work is drawn from both Irish and global design culture. It looks to a better future.”*

Matthew Terdich, Executive Creative Director, Chicago Design Museum said: “*The partnership with ID2015 and the New Horizon exhibition marks our very first collaboration on an international scale in addition to our very first show on architecture. As an institution that embraces a collaborative community-oriented approach to design and education we are thrilled to present this show in partnership with our colleagues in Ireland. This complex and powerful show will explore the architectural legacy of Chicago and its influence on the dynamic, emerging design scene in Ireland."*

The first installment of *New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland* was at London Festival of Architecture in June, where four Irish practices – TAKA, Clancy Moore, Hall McKnight and Steve Larkin – collaborated on two temporary pavilions in Lewis Cubitt Square, King’s Cross, while a fifth architect, Emmett Scanlon, curated a mini-exhibition, *Nine Lives***,** for the Tank at London’s Design Museum. In December, two further practices – Urban Agency and AP+E - will participate at the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture, bringing the total number of practices presented through *New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland* to ten. Each is asked to collaborate and to work within the context of host venues and of host cities.

Chicago Architecture Biennial runs from 3rd October to 3rd January 2016. The practices being presented at Chicago Design Museum as part of the Biennial are:

- A2 Architects: [www.a2.ie](http://www.a2.ie)

- GKMP Architects: [www.gkmp.ie](http://www.gkmp.ie)

- Ryan W. Kennihan Architects: [www.rwka.com](http://www.rwka.com)

The curators are Raymund Ryan, Curator, Heinz Architectural Center, Pittsburgh and Nathalie Weadick, Director, Irish Architecture Foundation and Built Environment Advisor to ID2015.

A programme of events and talks is being developed to accompany the *New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland* exhibition during the Chicago Architecture Biennial. These will include a drop-in talk with the featured architects discussing the installation in the Chicago Design Museum and a talk by co-curator Raymund Ryan, discussing the international profile of Irish architecture and its relationship with Chicago from historic to contemporary times. For the latest information on the events programme, please visit [www.newhorizon.irishdesign2015.ie](http://www.newhorizon.irishdesign2015.ie)

Ends

**For further information, please contact:**

Cristina Belmonte | Sandford PR | cristina@sandfordpr.com

Tom Morton, Jessica Vician or Dzena Dzonlic | Chicago Design Museum | press@chidm.com

**About Irish Design 2015:**

Irish Design 2015 (ID2015) is a year-long initiative backed by the Irish government exploring, promoting and celebrating Irish design throughout Ireland and internationally in order to drive job creation, grow exports and increase competitiveness. The programme for the year includes presenting the work of Irish designers at high profile events in design capitals including London, Paris, Eindhoven, Milan, New York, Chicago and Hong Kong/Shenzhen. ID2015 is being convened by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCoI), in collaboration with partner organisations, on behalf of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Enterprise Ireland. ID2015 partners include Founding Partners – MCO Projects; Accommodation Partners – The Doyle Collection; Venue Partners – OPW; Exhibition Partners – DAA; Technology Partners – IBM; Transport Partners – Bus Éireann Expressway and Construction Partners – Sisk. [www.irishdesign2015.ie](http://www.irishdesign2015.ie)

**About *New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland*:**

*New Horizon* draws its inspiration from important thresholds in the history of contemporary Irish architecture. In 1991 eight practices working collaboratively as Group 91 won the master plan competition for Temple Bar in Dublin City Centre; born in the 1950s, several of these architects have gone on to significant international careers. Between Ireland’s initial Venice Pavilion in 2000 and the most recent in 2014, key architects of the generation born in the 1960s have represented Ireland with flair at the prestigious Venice Biennale International Exhibition of Architecture. The architects participating in *New Horizon* belong to the next generation. Born after the 1970s and educated on the cusp of the new millennium, they commenced practice as Europe’s economy encountered formidable challenges. These new practices have not only weathered that storm, they exhibit resourcefulness and optimism in their profession. Each has found a way to practice critically, to look at what exists in nature and the built environment, to discover potential in previously overlooked situations, to collaborate across disciplines and evolve new modes of practice for the 21st century.

*New Horizon\_architecture from Ireland* is being presented at Chicago Architecture Biennial by Irish Design 2015 in partnership with Chicago Design Museum. Other partners include Alluvial,

Brunner Consulting Engineers, Clune Construction Company, Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago, Culture Ireland, Dream Interiors, Formed Space LLC, Freeney’s Graphics, Glanbia PLC, Graham Foundation, Gurtz Electric Co., James McHugh Construction Co., Jameson Irish Whiskey, Kole Construction Company Inc., Latent Design, One Off Design, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and Wink Lighting. [www.newhorizon.irishdesign2015.ie](http://www.newhorizon.irishdesign2015.ie)

**About Chicago Design Museum:**

The Chicago Design Museum strengthens design culture and builds community by facilitating the exchange of knowledge through dynamic experiences. We are a youthful, collaborative, community-focused organization that brings together volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. Together we produce dynamic exhibitions, workshops, and events that celebrate, define, and explore design. [www.chidm.com](http://www.chidm.com)

**About Chicago Architecture Biennial:**

The inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial, North America’s largest international survey of contemporary architecture, will launch in October 2015. Through its constellation of exhibitions, full-scale installations, and program of events, the Chicago Architecture Biennial will invite the public to engage with and think about architecture in new and unexpected ways, and to take part in a global discussion about the future of the field. The Chicago Architecture Biennial is a vision of Mayor Rahm Emanuel for a major international architectural event and an outcome of the comprehensive cultural plan developed by Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. It is presented through the support of BP, and in partnership with the City of Chicago and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

[www.chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org](http://www.chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org)

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