

Highly Commended

Áras Chill Dara (Kildare County Offices)

Architects: heneghan peng architects in association with Arthur Gibney & Partners

Location: Naas, County Kildare

Jury Citation

The reinterpretation of Local Government administration in the context of contemporary democracy has resulted in an elegantly detailed, bold form and architectural expression commensurate with the transparent and accountable spirit of our times. The building courageously distinguishes itself in the provision of 21st century solutions to transform the work place and, in doing so, undoubtedly facilitates delivery of services. Organisation of discrete departments within the overall effectively gives substance to 'the whole being equal to the sum of the parts' with interconnectivity provided by beautifully designed ramps in a well-crafted and pleasing circulation hub.



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Lewis Glucksman Gallery, UCC

Architects: O'Donnell + Tuomey Architects

Location: UCC, Cork

Jury Citation

Standing aloft in woodland on UCC's campus, a timber perch set above the lawn entered from below as one would a tree house, the Glucksman Gallery takes a radical interpretation of contemporary gallery design, insisting on the importance of location and space, and eschewing the arguable blandness of the neutral white box. The quality of this beautifully crafted building is its very particularisation of site and programme and their architectural resolution. As a venue it produces engaged responses from those curating, reinforcing that place and space are inseparable from the occasion of the appreciation of art – a most memorable addition to University and City.



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SAP Building, Galway

Architects: Bucholz McEvoy Architects

Jury Citation

This building is a typological response to the architectural problem of designing an intensively occupied 'call centre' in a featureless urban location. Working across different time-zones, it is occupied 18 hours a day. The creation of an energised flexible workplace together with environmental sustainability were primary design challenges. The architecture addresses these demands admirably raising practical problems to the level of tectonic delight. The architectural language fuses the functional and environmental in an expression enriched by passive techniques and natural materials. The building atmosphere is inspiring and humane communicating a strong sense of architecture's role as a powerful agency of social betterment.

