are cutting next year

tax by 15%

def to high rates of negative eq-

ity homeowners were “locked

into paying tax on something

they cannot dispose of”.

People Before Profits’s Barry
Matrix said it was “morally re-

prehensible to equate cutting pro-
terty tax to cutting services for

homeless".

Brian McGrath (Lab) said

those benefiting most from the
cut had the most expensive

houses, and proposed a 10 per
cent cut. The amount of tax a

householder pays is based on the

price of the home in May

2012.

That valuation remains fixed

until the end of October 2016

even if house prices have risen

in the meantime.

The other three Dublin au-

thorities, Dublin City Council,

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and

South Dublin, argued on Mon-

day to implement the full 15 per
cent cut.

The councillors in all 31 local

authorities across the State can

vary local property tax up to 15

percent next year, and have

until September 30th to tell

the Government their plans.

Six local authorities have yet
to set a date to vote on the issue.
Nine councils have gone for no
change, three will hold meet-

ings on Friday, and two more

on Monday.

Dún Laoghaire, Westmeath

and Mayo have gone for a 3 per
cent cut, Kildare a 7.5 per cent
cut and Cork City and County
Council are cutting by 10 per cent.

The Local Property Tax (LPT)

is being replaced under the

2014 Budget.

"Irish pair win top architecture prize"

Dublin-based couple recognised as being

at vanguard of contemporary architecture

FRANK MCDONALD

Environment Editor

Multiple award-winning Dub-

lin-based architects Sheila

O’Donnell and John Tuomey,

are to receive Britain’s Royal

Gold Medal in recognition of

their lifetime’s work as a “tour-

de force in Irish and British ar-

chitecture”.

Regarded as the world’s

most prestigious architecture

award, personally approved by

Queen Elizabeth II, it is given

by the Royal Institute of

British Architects (Riba) to

those who have had a signifi-
nant influence on the advance-

ment of architecture.

Ms O’Donnell and Mr

Tuomey are only the third

and fourth Irish citizens to win

the Royal Gold Medal, after Mi-

chael Scott in 1975 and engi-


Previous husband-and-wife

winners include Charles and

Ray Eames (1979) and Michael

and Patricia Hopkins (1994).

Awarded since 1848, previ-

ous Royal Gold Medal winners

include American deconstruc-
tion wizard Frank Gehry

(2000), prolific modernist Nor-

man Foster (1983), the extraor-
dinarily influential Frank

Lloyd Wright (1949) and Gothic

revivalist Sir George Gilbert

Scott (1859).

“We're humbled to find our-

selves in such a company of

heroes,” the Irish pair said. “We

believe in the social value and

the poetic purpose of architec-

ture and the gold medal encour-

ages us to prevail in this most

privileged and complicated ca-

reer.”

Riba president Stephen Hod-

der said they were “at the vanguard

of contemporary Irish archi-

tecture.”

Their work was always in-

ventive, striking and well con-

sidered, particular in its place

and brief, beautifully crafted

and ever developing.

They set up O'Donnell +

Tuomey Architects in 1988, a

briefly time in Ireland, having

previously worked together in

London for internationally re-

owned architects Stirling Wil-

ford Associates and Colquhoun & Miller, after grad-

uating from the UCD School of

Architecture.

“Their new practice coupled

Shelley’s quiet, studied

‘rationalism alongside John’s

fluent, aesthetically grounded

constructivism’ and through

their buildings, publications,

exhibitions and teaching they

have forged a confident new

identity for Irish architecture,”

Riba said.

In the early 1990s, O’Don-

nells + Tuomey Architects were

part of the Group B consorti-
um of architects who drew up

the masterplan for Temple Bar

in Dublin.

Their first major project, the

Irish Film Institute in Eustace

Street, won acclaim for its dy-
namic re-working of the Quak-
er Meeting House.

Their early work, from a dis-

aggregated private home in Na-

van, Co Meath in the Ranelagh

Multi-Denominational School

in Dublin showed how public

housing and community build-

ings “provided the canvas for

them to experiment and evolve

their unconventional creative

approach and celebrated style”, according to Riba.

"We're humbled to find ourselves in such a company of heroes, Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey."