

# Killybegs PlaySpace Architectural Design Competition

Brief and Competition Regulations



**Irish  
Architecture  
Foundation**



16 December 2010

## **Killybegs PlaySpace Architectural Design Competition**

Donegal County Council Public Art Office in partnership with the Irish Architecture Foundation and the RIAI are seeking to make this PlaySpace in Killybegs, Co. Donegal an exemplar play commission. To this end, the IAF has initiated a detailed and comprehensive consultation process with the children, parents and playground committee in Killybegs.

The PlaySpace is an Architectural Public Art Commission made possible by a partnership funding arrangement utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme budget, a disability budget and a budget secured by the Killybegs Playground Committee. The competition is open to architects and architect-led design teams.

### **The story so far**

Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme has been active for over two decades and to date over sixty commissions have been awarded and delivered. The Donegal Public Art website details all commissions to date on [www.donegalpublicart.ie](http://www.donegalpublicart.ie)

A varied and flexible approach to commissioning was established and commissions, both temporary and permanent have been drawn from a range of arts disciplines including visual arts, the performing arts, community arts, music and literature. New, original artwork, created specifically for the local context is at the core of the work of the Public Art Office.

The commissioning of Public Art, utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme gives the public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art in everyday life and provides the artist with the challenge and opportunity of creating work for public engagement and response. Architecture, as defined by the Arts Act of 1973 is one of the many art forms that can be commissioned utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

Commissioning Public Art does not mean merely providing the public with the most obvious and fixed solution, for this would preclude the possibility of truly innovative art. It involves a process of dialogue and expanding horizons in the sense that people cannot express a desire for that which they have not yet experienced.

The IAF has secured a Play Specialist for the project, to mediate access to the end-users of the PlaySpace, the children of Killybegs. A consultation report, available in the Competition Pack provides direct feedback from local children about their aspirations for the PlaySpace.

## **Killybegs**

Killybegs is a small picturesque fishing town with a population of 1,289 (2006 Census) located on the northwest coast of Ireland. The Irish grid reference is G711 767. See map in Competition Pack.

It is believed that Killybegs took its name, in early Christian times, from a group of monastic cells 'Na Cealla Beaga'. Records show that, from the seventeenth century onwards, Killybegs continued to grow into a prominent market and seaport town.

Killybegs remains a prominent force in Europe's marine seascape today, its position, at the tip of a deep fjord-like inlet, makes it one of the safest, most sheltered, deep-water harbours on the Irish coast. It has a natural, deep water harbour with a minimum of 12m of water at all times and a new €50 million pier completed in 2004. The harbour is home to many of the largest Irish-registered fishing trawlers, but it also handles many other types of shipping. These include passenger cruise liners and mixed specialist cargoes, such as parts and containers for the oil industry and parts for windmills. The harbour is important to Irish bulk fishing and the fish processing industry. In the summer, there is a street festival celebrating the fish catches and incorporating the traditional 'Blessing of the Boats'. Strict enforcement of EU fishing quotas has led to redundancies in the fish processing industry, in which the fish factory workers have been the hardest hit.

The area has always been well provided for. The first school, the Commons National School, opened during the reign of King James I and a national school was established in 1838. Today the town is home to the Tourism College Killybegs, the only dedicated tourism institute in Ireland, offering courses in hospitality and culinary skills. The college has been academically integrated with the Letterkenny Institute of Technology since 2001.

Killybegs is beside the sea and is popular for water sports like surfing, canoeing, windsurfing, diving, kite-surfing and also water skiing. A new dive centre opened last year. The local GAA club is Na Cealla Beaga. They previously played their home games at McDevitt Park, Fintra. The club moved to a new ground, the Eamon Byrne Memorial Park, in May 2010. The local soccer club is St. Catherine's FC and they play their home games at Emerald Park.

### **PlaySpace Objectives**

The PlaySpace should cultivate a greater understanding of place, allow children the fullest play experiences, and benefit their families and the wider community. The PlaySpace must be valued and loved by the community. The PlaySpace should accommodate children from 0-12 years.

The PlaySpace contains innovative objects or play structures or installations (designed and natural) that expand our notions and understanding of traditional play equipment and play areas, and incorporate local materials and people creatively.

The PlaySpace utilises the ability of the architect to understand the requirements of the brief and develop an exemplar project. The design must deliver on imagination, innovation, visual impact and engagement.

The PlaySpace promotes positive socialising for young people, active age, parents etc. PlaySpace users are primarily children, however, all members of the general public should be considered as users of the PlaySpace, for example; parents, grandparents, child minders and teachers.

The commission promotes enjoyable and safe play and must adhere to the European RoSPA Health and Safety Guidelines. [www.rospace.com/leisuresafety/playsafety](http://www.rospace.com/leisuresafety/playsafety)

**What could the PlaySpace be? An amazing place to be**

The PlaySpace should not be restrictive, but can contain unstructured elements that rely on the individuals to interact in different ways and provide a wide range of play experiences .

The PlaySpace may build positive associations with seafaring traditions, local heritage, environment and history.

The commission should include thoughtful consideration of context and location, of history, local fishing industry and local heritage. It might also give consideration to the 'Big Tree' on site.

The PlaySpace might change and adapt to seasons, weather and plant growth. The PlaySpace can change and evolve through time, it can age, decay and renew.

The PlaySpace must be accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children.

The PlaySpace is easily maintained.

The PlaySpace can contain areas for activity and resting.

### **PlaySpace Site**

The PlaySpace Site is a small green rectangle area (size .278 acres / .1126 hectares) surrounded on all sides by a low boundary wall and is located on your left-hand-side as you enter the town of Killybegs.

See maps in Competition Pack.

Side 1: Public road

Side 2: Small 10-bay car park

Side 3: Public road and harbour

Side 4: Big Tree and the White House (see additional information below)

### **Monument**

In one corner of the site is a free-standing monument which was erected by locals and details the names of all the fishermen who have lost their lives at sea. This plaque will remain onsite.

### **Big Tree**

The Big Tree was originally part of the gardens of the Killybegs 'White House', now demolished. It is now a significant part of the PlaySpace and must remain onsite.

In the mid-1970s, a tree surgeon reported that the Big Tree at the White House lawn is over 400 years old and should last for another 200 years. The Big Tree was destined to be felled by the local authorities in the 1970s to make way for a new road. The local people protested and the tree was saved.

The tree is still at the entrance to Killybegs on the Donegal Road, standing proud as a testimony to the efforts of the local community.

## **PlaySpace Requirements**

### **Entrance and Exits**

There are currently two small entrances into the site through gaps in the wall: Entrance 1 onto the Main Public Road and Entrance 2 into the Car Park. It is expected that the proposal will include a solution to closing the entrance that leads onto the Main Public Road so that it is safe for small children to play. It is expected that a solution will be provided by means of a type of gate that will allow entrance and exit to the PlaySpace from the car park only. This entrance must be cognisant of disability access.

### **Tree**

The Tree will remain as a major feature in the PlaySpace and provision might be made for additional lighting to highlight this asset. The tree might also be incorporated as part of the overall design.

### **Ground Underfoot**

This must be relatively safe and maintenance free and in keeping with the overall design and aesthetic for the PlaySpace.

### **Boundary**

Consideration must be given to the boundary and making it safe for small children as identified in the Rospa Guidelines. Consideration might also be given to the treatment of the boundary wall in terms of final finish and colour but this is for aesthetic purposes only.

### **Access**

The PlaySpace must be accessible.

### **Budget**

The construction budget for the PlaySpace is €65,000 exclusive of VAT, fees etc.

### **Lighting**

The proposal should make provision for lighting design and installation and lighting should be installed during the construction phase of the PlaySpace. The budget for this element of the project is €8,000 which is inclusive of VAT (this is separate to the construction budget above). It is expected that this lighting would be safe and relatively maintenance free. It is expected that the lighting will be connected into the main Killybegs town lighting system.

### **Visiting the Site**

The site is a public area and unrestricted viewing of the site is possible.



## **Competition pack**

### **Images / Drawings supplied**

#### **Killybegs\_Photos - folder**

- Monument to fishermen - folder
- Point A Panorama - folder
- Point B Panorama - folder
- Point C Panorama - folder
- Point D Panorama - folder
- Point E Panorama - folder
- Surrounding Area - folder
- Tree - folder
- Killybegs Playground Map-Photo\_Key.pdf

#### **Killybegs\_Plans\_Drawing - folder**

- Killybegs on Ireland Map.pdf
- Killybegs Playground C&E.dwg
- Killybegs Playground CE Layout1.pdf
- Killybegs Playground CE Layout2.pdf
- Killybegs Playground CE Layout3.pdf
- Killybegs Playground CE Layout4.pdf
- Proposed Playspace Area on Killybegs Map.pdf

### **Text / Documents supplied**

- Killybegs\_PlaySpace\_Brief\_Regulations.pdf
- Killybegs\_PlaySpace\_Entry\_Form.doc
- PlaySpaceChildConsultation.pdf

## **RIAI Competition Regulations**

### **ARTICLE 1: COMPETITION PROMOTERS**

The Competition Promoters are the Donegal County Council Public Arts Office, County Library, Rosemount, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, tel: +353 (0)74 91 29186, fax: +353 (0)74 91 21740, e: [terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie) w: [www.donegalpublicart.ie](http://www.donegalpublicart.ie) and the Killybegs Playground Committee.

### **ARTICLE 2: COMPETITION ORGANISATION**

The competition is being organised by the RIAI (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland) and all queries in respect of the competition should be addressed in writing to:

**The Registrar**

**Killybegs PlaySpace Architectural Design Competition**

**RIAI**

**8 Merrion Square**

**Dublin 2**

**Ireland**

**Email: [koneill@riai.ie](mailto:koneill@riai.ie)**

### **ARTICLE 3: COMPETITION OBJECTIVES**

The competition is an open, single stage design contest for an architect-led design team. It would be the intention of the promoters to appoint the winning team, but the promoters reserve the right to make separate, individual and different appointments other than that of the architect / architectural practice.

### **ARTICLE 4: COMPETITION PACK**

The Competition Brief, reports, drawings, site photographs and regulations will only be available in the Competition section of the RIAI website; [www.riai.ie](http://www.riai.ie) and entrants will be provided with a password on registration.

### **ARTICLE 5: ELIGIBILITY**

This competition is open to persons who are currently included on the Irish Register of Architects; those who hold a qualification listed in the EU Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC; those who are established in another EU Member State and eligible to

provide services in Ireland; those persons outside the EU/EEA are who are registered with a national registration body.

Please note that the winners of the competition will be asked to begin the registration process (to manage the project in Ireland) if they are not already on the Irish Register of Architects.

For more information on routes to registration please see here:

[www.riai.ie/admissions/architects/](http://www.riai.ie/admissions/architects/)

**ARTICLE 6:**      **COMPETITION JURY**

Thomas Pringle	Chairperson, Killybegs Playground Committee
Terre Duffy	Public Art Manager, Donegal County Council
Shay Cleary	Architect, Shay Cleary Architects
Cian Deegan	Architect, TAKA Architects
Rachel McAree	Education Curator, Irish Architecture Foundation
Jackie Bourke	Play Specialist, Playtime

The Assessors shall have available such technical or other professional advisers as considered necessary, appointed by the competition promoters to advise the jury but these technical advisers may not participate in the assessment of the competition and do not have any voting rights.

In the event that an Assessor cannot act for any reason the promoters shall appoint another assessor whose name shall be communicated to all competitors.

**ARTICLE 7:**      **ASSESSMENT & PRIZE FUND**

The assessment shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the briefing information and competition regulations provided to competitors.

Submissions shall be assessed anonymously in accordance with RIAI Competition Regulations generally and such detailed regulations that the Registrar may issue at the time.

A prize fund of €6,000 will be awarded at the discretion of the jury. The winners' prize will be considered a down-payment on fees for the project.

**ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENTS**

The Assessors may request the winning entrant to make amendments to the design and such amendments shall be incorporated in the design.

**ARTICLE 9: NON-COMPLETION**

In the event of the project not proceeding, the winning entrant will be paid the fee to the appropriate stage of works completed at the time of abandonment as determined in the Conditions of Appointment.

**ARTICLE 10: COMPETITION EXHIBITION**

It shall be a function of the assessors to decide on the projects to be exhibited. The promoters do not undertake to exhibit all entries received.

**ARTICLE 11: PERSON INELIGIBLE**

No members of the promoters' staff or the Assessors or any partner, associate or employee of either shall be eligible to compete or to assist the competitors.

**ARTICLE 12: COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

The competition is organised in accordance with RIAI Competition Regulations as defined by the RIAI.

**ARTICLE 13: COMPETITION REGISTRATION**

1. Competition registration can be made only on the official registration form, which will be available from the RIAI website [www.riai.ie](http://www.riai.ie) from Thursday, 16 December 2010.
2. Each registration must be accompanied by a registration fee of €121.00 which includes VAT at 21%. A registered competitor may withdraw a registration on or before Monday, 10 January 2011 and will be entitled, to a refund of the registration fee. After that date no other refunds can be made in any circumstances whether a valid entry is submitted or not.

**ARTICLE 14: COMPETITORS' QUESTIONS**

1. Competitors may submit questions to the Assessors up to Friday, 7 January 2011. After that date no further questions can be answered. **All queries must be made via email.** An explanatory memorandum based on the questions submitted will be circulated and will form part of the competition brief.
2. Questions should be addressed to: Killybegs PlaySpace Competition, Email: [koneill@riai.ie](mailto:koneill@riai.ie)

**ARTICLE 15: COMPETITION PROGRAMME**

Competition Registration Opens:	16 December 2010
Questions Deadline:	7 January 2011
Withdrawal of Registration and refund of fee:	10 January 2011
Answers Circulated:	19 January 2011
Registration Deadline:	9 February 2011
Submission Deadline:	21 February 2011
Assessment:	March 2011

**All deadlines above are 12 noon.**

**ARTICLE 16: SUBMISSIONS**

**A detailed brief is being issued to entrants and is intended to give complete information on the project. Competitors are to use the brief to inform their design approach to the Killybegs PlaySpace.**

- 16.1 Competitors are required to submit one A1 size sheet of information in a **horizontal format**. There is no specified format for submissions but competitors are required to provide the following minimum information:
- a. Plans, sections and elevations at 1:200
  - b. Sketches to illustrate general proposals

- 16.2 Each competitor shall submit a report, which will deal with the architectural, lighting, functional, environmental and technical factors relevant to the scheme with an Outline Cost Plan.

- 16.3 The report shall not exceed **two A4 pages** excluding a one page outline cost plan. One side only of the page shall be used and **eight** copies of each report shall be provided.
- 16.4 Models are not required and may not be submitted.
- 16.5 Overlays should not be used on drawings and each submission shall be complete with no other additional material, text or sketches, etc. Material in addition to the information specified shall not be shown to the Assessors.
- 16.6 Drawings should be mounted on an A1 sized lightweight board. Material must be protected from damage in transit by the competitor and the organisers are not responsible for any damage to drawings. Insurance of submissions is the responsibility of entrants. Entries will not, in any circumstances, be returned to the competitors so it is advisable to make copies of the entries submitted. Such copies would also be important in the event of loss of an entry by postal/courier service.
- 16.7 There is no restriction on the drawing medium or presentation methods to be used but Competitors are advised that protective coatings should be used for impermanent media.
- 16.8 Framed and glazed drawings may not be submitted.
- 16.9 No entry shall bear any name, mark, logo or motto which identifies the author of the submission.
- 16.10 The official entry form (contained in the competition pack), which will serve as a means of identification, should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked 'Entry Form'.
- 16.11 **Anonymity.** The competitor chooses their own code for their submission. This code is entered in the horizontal box at the top of the entry form. The code consists of 2 letters of the alphabet (a-z) followed by 3 numbers (0-9).

**This code must be included on the top right corner of the A1 panel (minimum size: 50mm in length x 20mm in height) and on the front of every item in the submission.**

16.12 **Entries should be contained in one package marked ‘Killybegs PlaySpace Architectural Design Competition’ and must reach the Registrar, RIAI, 8 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland carriage paid, not later than 12 noon on Monday, 21 February 2011.**

**Submission checklist as follows:**

- ☐ **A1 lightweight board**
- ☐ **A3 unmounted sheet – copy of A1 board (for lodging in Archive)**
- ☐ **CD with submission in JPEG format (for web)**
- ☐ **Report and Cost Plan x 8**
- ☐ **Entry form**

16.13 The submissions package shall include all specified competition information, together with the official entry form with a declaration signed by the competitor that the design is her/his personal work and the drawings have been prepared under his/her supervision.

16.14 Competitors may list on the official entry form the names of any collaborators, consultants, or practice whose participation they may wish to acknowledge in any publication or exhibition.

16.15 The Registrar, or a person nominated by the Registrar, will be responsible for opening the package and will place a number on each of the enclosed documents and the same number on the envelope containing the entry form.

**ARTICLE 17: SUBMISSION DISQUALIFICATION**

17.1 Submissions shall be excluded from the competition if:

- a. The entry is received after the time and date named in these conditions.
- b. A competitor shall disclose his/her identity or attempt to influence the decision of the assessors.

- c. The entry does not comply with any of the conditions for the submissions listed above.
- d. The entrant does not comply with the conditions of eligibility.

17.2 It shall be a function of the Registrar to decide on competition eligibility and exclusion from the competition and the Registrar's decision in these matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into in this regard.

**ARTICLE 18: COPYRIGHT AND PUBLICITY**

The copyright of all competition entries for the purpose of publicity and exhibition rests with promoters. The copyright for all other purposes rest with the entrants.

**ARTICLE 19: DISPUTES**

In the event of a dispute arising out of the competition, the matter shall be dealt with by an Arbitrator appointed by the President of the RIAI.

**ARTICLE 20: ACCEPTANCE OF COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

Submission of the official registration form is an acceptance by the competitors of all rules and regulations of the competition and acceptance by the competitor of any other decisions or instructions issued by the Registrar in relation to the conduct of the competition.

**ARTICLE 21: STANDARD OF ENTRIES**

The Assessors reserve the right not to make any award if, in the opinion of the Assessors, no entry reaches the required standard. The determination of such standard shall be at the sole discretion of the Panel.

**ARTICLE 22: CAPACITY**

The winning competitor(s) will be requested to submit information to the Registrar confirming capacity to manage and complete the project and may be directed to form an association.



**ARTICLE 23:**    **COMPLIANCE WITH PROJECT BUDGET**

Competitors should be aware that compliance with the project budget is a specific term of the competition. Competitors are to supply their own cost plan with their submission. Failure to submit a cost plan will result in disqualification.

**ARTICLE 24:**    **POST COMPETITION**

The role of the RIAI is limited to the administration of the Competition and the RIAI will have no further role once the winner has been selected and competitors informed.

**ARTICLE 25:**    **RETURN OF ENTRIES**

Entries will not be returned but the unmounted A3 sheet will be lodged by the RIAI in the Irish Architectural Archive.

**ARTICLE 26:**    **COMPETITION LANGUAGE**

The competition language is English.