



gap

gap

Writer
Open Call
2025

Irish
Architecture
Foundation

gap

The Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) seeks a Writer in Residence as part of IAF House on Charlemont Walk, Dublin. The residency will run from 1st October to 30th November, 2025.

This autumn one Writer in Residence will be offered financial, spatial and production support to start new, or further develop existing, writing in and about architecture. The Writer will also be invited to work with the Director of the IAF to curate and produce up to three public-facing events during the residency period. They will also become, for a period of two years, a member of gapLab, the IAF's strategic initiative intended to support new cultural producers in architecture. During the residency, they will be required to submit one completed written work for publication to the IAF.

This Writer in Residence is offered in the IAF's 20th birthday year in recognition of the contribution to architecture criticism by the inaugural Director of the IAF, Shane O' Toole.



Shane O' Toole is Ireland's preeminent architecture critic. He was inaugural Director of the Irish Architecture Foundation, Commissioner for the Venice Biennale and jury member of the Mies van der Rohe Award for contemporary European architecture. He was a founder member of Group 91 Architects. He wrote for The Sunday Times for ten years. A member of CICA, the International Committee of Architecture Critics, he was named International Building Press Architecture Writer of the Year in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Gandon has published two collections of his essays.

1. The Application Process.

To apply applicants should:

- Complete the google form.
- Provide an open link to up to three pieces of writing (published or unpublished) that support their application.
- Identify a mentor they may wish to work with during the residency. If applicants can confirm the interest of the mentor at application stage this is advisable, however the IAF also undertakes to make connections with proposed mentors on behalf of the successful applicant.

Please do not send any other materials as these will not be reviewed or assessed.

The assessment process is as follows:

- Applications will be assessed for eligibility by the Irish Architecture Foundation, and eligible applications will go to selected members of the Assessment Panel. For eligibility please see 'gapLab' section below.

The Assessment Panel is: Karl Whitney (chair) | Jan Carson | Eimear Arthur | Andrew Pasquier | Debika Ray | Stephan Ehrig

The primary aim of the Residency is to support new writers in architecture and find audiences for their work.

- The Assessment Panel will select up to 3 applicants for a 20 minute zoom call to assess final suitability for the residency, following which they will choose one writer.
- The IAF reserves the right to publish the names of the three shortlisted applicants selected for interview.
- The IAF undertakes to offer feedback to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria and are selected for review the Assessment Panel if such feedback is formally requested by applicants.
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of this process.

2. The Timeline.

- 2 July, Applications open.
- 31 July, Applications close, 18:00 Dublin time (no exceptions)
- 1-31, August - Assessment period including online conversation.
- 1 September, Writer notified, development period with IAF.
- 1 October, Residency commences.
- 30 November, Residency concludes.

3. The Award.

There is one Writer in Residence position available for 2025. The Writer will receive:

- A bursary of €4,000, including vat.
- Additional financial support to work with a writing mentor.
- Membership of the gapLab mentoring program for a period of 2 years.
- A space to work in IAF House on Charlemont Walk from 1 October 1 to 30 November, 2025 inclusive.
- An opportunity to publish work as part of the IAF Manual Review publication, the IAF's new annual review of 2025.
- Additional resources to programme up to three public facing events at IAF House, to assist with the development of the Writer's work in collaboration with the Director of IAF.

4. gapLab and Eligibility Criteria.

In 2024 the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) established gapLab, a pioneering graduate-architect programme designed to support early-career architects in their creative and professional development. gapLab aligns with the IAF's mission to grow a desire for architecture in Ireland, with gapLab providing a structured and supportive space for emerging architects to make new work for public audiences. These architects, leaders of their generation, are supported to challenge preconceptions, to experiment, to take risks, propose new ideas and learn from and with their national and international peers.

Members of gapLab engage with architecture in a range of creative ways including site-specific, installations, exhibitions, research, talks, workshops and more. Now, gapLab seeks an additional member whose primary work in architecture is made through words, writing and publication.

This call for a Writer in Residence (WIR) is open to writers in and of architecture who are eligible to be part of the gapLab program. To be eligible to apply and thus to be part of gapLab you must meet the following criteria:

- Have completed a part II in architecture in a recognised school of architecture in Ireland or elsewhere (members do not need to be on the RIAI register of architects)
- Be not more than 8 years post part II (e.g. in June 2025, the latest you can have graduated from university is June 2017).
- Applicants can submit written work from their education for consideration.
- Have a track record in writing about architecture or can demonstrate potential. Samples of writing (published and/or unpublished) must be provided via the google form.

gapLab is an all-island initiative, and graduates from Queens University Belfast and the Belfast School of Architecture are eligible to apply.

All work produced during the residency remains the intellectual property of the Writer. However the Writer must credit the IAF/ gapLab in all references to the work produced during the residency and in subsequent references. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the Writer and the IAF.

5. Open House Dublin

The Writer in Residence will be afforded the opportunity to participate in Open House Dublin. Open House Dublin is Ireland's largest and longest running festival of architecture and will run from 11-19 October, 2025. The Writer may wish to have events as part of their residency during Open House Dublin.

6. The Commitment

The Writer in Residence must:

- Be available to be resident in IAF House, Charlemont Walk, up to 7 days across the 8-week period. That is, you do not have to be already living in Dublin full-time to apply for and receive this award. No costs can be covered by the IAF, it is assumed the €4,000 bursary will cover such costs.
- Deliver one 1200 word new text, to be published in the IAF's Manual Review, 2025 (launching in January 2026)
- Participate in the closing event of IAF House on Saturday 29th November, as part of the gapLab Summit, including reading some further writing made as part of the residency.
- Work with the Director and the IAF team to conceive of and deliver up to three public facing events during the residency period.

7. Culture and Knowledge

For 20 years the IAF has been building culture in, and knowledge, while growing the desire for architecture among audiences. New writing in architecture and its impact on both audience and architecture, enables the IAF to advance both culture and knowledge at the same time. The Writer in Residence will be invited to make new writing in architecture for public dissemination through conversation, dialogue and publication all of which align with the IAF's mission to grow the desire for architecture.

8. Spatial Resources

The IAF intends to realise a new venue for architecture in Ireland. As part of this, the IAF will have a temporary venue in Charlemont Walk, Dublin 2, where it was first housed in 2024. The Writer in Residence will be part of this venue, being offered space to work for a period of 8 weeks, from October to November 2025.

9. IAF

Established in 2005, the IAF (Irish Architecture Foundation) is Ireland's independent organisation that fosters and advances the culture and communication of architecture. With a focus on public audiences, the IAF is principally funded by the Arts Council, and core funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and

Heritage under the auspices of the National Built Heritage Service, the Office of Public Works, and Dublin City Council. The IAF further enjoys support from a range of other government agencies and private individuals and groups. Across an increasingly diverse range of events, programmes and exhibitions, the IAF partners with individuals, organisations, government agencies, education institutions and civil society groups to ensure that for audiences our work builds civic pride and action, is impactful and transformative. Based in Dublin, the IAF has a national remit and delivers annually a range of initiatives and events across Ireland and internationally.

10. Queries and Questions

If you have any questions at all on your application please email:

opportunities@architecturefoundation.ie

If you require any assistance in making this application process please also get in touch at the above address and all reasonable accommodations can be made.

Karl Whitney

Liverpool

Karl Whitney is the author of *Hidden City: Adventures and Explorations in Dublin* and *Hit Factories: A Journey Through the Industrial Cities of British Pop*. His journalism has appeared in the *Guardian*, *Irish Times* and *London Review of Books*. His essays about writing are published regularly in the *Irish Examiner*. Karl has contributed to *The Irish Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The London Review of Books*, and has had essays published in the *White Review*, *Dublin Review* and *Gorse*.

Karl is Chair of the Assessment Panel.



Jan Carson

Belfast

Jan Carson is a writer based in Belfast. She has published three novels, three short story collections and two micro-fiction collections. Her novel *The Fire Starters* won the EU Prize for Literature for Ireland 2019. Jan's latest novel, *The Raptures* was published by Doubleday in early 2022 and was subsequently shortlisted for the An Post Irish Novel of the Year and Kerry Group Novel of the Year. Her short story collection *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses* was published by Doubleday (UK) in April 2024 and Scribner (US) in July 2024. Her writing has been aired on BBC Radio 3 and 4 and RTE. She is the Seamus Heaney Centre Fellow at Queen's University Belfast 2025 and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Her first stage play, an adaptation of the children's classic, *The Velveteen Rabbit* was produced by Replay Theatre Company at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast in March 2025. Her next novel, *Few and Far Between* is forthcoming in early 2026.



Eimear Arthur

Dublin

Eimear Arthur is an architect, writer, and assistant lecturer in architecture. She is Managing Editor at Type and teaches on the Master of Architecture programme at TUD. While at Níall McLaughlin Architects, she was part of the team that produced Ireland's entry to the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale. Her writing has been published in Tolka, Architecture Ireland, house + design, and RIBA Journal, exhibited as part of Open House Dublin 2024, and broadcast on RTÉ radio. Eimear holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia.



Andrew Pasquier

Amsterdam

Andrew Pasquier is a freelance writer and editor interested in politics, culture and design. He is currently Chief Editor of BUTT magazine as well as a contributor to titles such as The Nation, Artforum, PIN-UP, Frieze, Spike and i-D. He holds an MA in Political Communications and Media Studies and a BA in Political Science and Urban History. Previously he was an Editor at 032c Magazine in Berlin and global programme coordinator at the Urban Design Forum, a non-profit gathering designers, developers and civic leaders to debate issues facing New York City.



Debika Ray

London

Debika Ray is a writer, editor and consultant specialising in the arts, with a keen interest in the Global South, diasporic communities, cities and material culture. Over the past 20 years she has written for some of the world's leading newspapers, magazines and websites – ranging from the Financial Times, the Guardian, The Independent and Al Jazeera, to Wallpaper, Kinfolk, Elle Decoration, Metropolis and Architectural Digest. Most recently she was interim programme director of the Global Design Forum, the talks and thought leadership programme at London Design Festival and London Design Biennale. From 2022 to 2025, she was editor of Crafts and head of editorial and communications at the UK Crafts Council. Before that, she was senior editor at Icon and deputy editor at Disegno.



Stephan Ehrig

Glasgow

Stephan Ehrig is a Lecturer in German at the University of Glasgow specialising in East German culture and Urban and Environmental Humanities. He is the author of *The Dialectical Kleist* (Transcript, 2018) and co-editor of *Exploring the Transnational Neighbourhood: Integration, Community, and Cohabitation* (Leuven UP, 2022), and *Entertaining German Culture. Transnational Television and Film* (Berghahn, 2023). His second monograph, *Neubau Atmospheres. East German Cultural Remediations of Modernist Architecture* will be published with Berghahn in 2025.



IAF WRITER IN RESIDENCE

KEY DATES

- 2 July, Applications open.
- 31 July, Applications close, 18:00 Dublin time (no exceptions)
- 1-31, August - Assessment period including online conversation.
- 1 September, Writer notified, development period with IAF commences.
- 1 October, Residency commences.
- 30 November, Residency concludes.

IAF Writer in Residence

Open Call

Closing Date for Applications
Thursday 31 July, 2025