

Conference programme

The AoU and RIAI present

Ireland 2050: Balanced by Design

*Delivering liveable and successful towns and cities **now***

25 & 26 March 2025, Dublin Castle

This programme is subject to change and will be updated regularly
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A joint event by the

**THE ACADEMY
OF URBANISM**



In partnership with



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

theaou.org/dublin

Day 1: Tuesday 25 March

Vision and Potential: Systemic Challenges

Confirmed speakers for this conference are listed below. More will be added in the run up to the event. Click any red text for speaker bios.

Session 01

Vision and Potential: Leadership and Collaboration

Facilitator

Kathryn Meghen, CEO, RIAI

Speakers

Sean Mahon, President, RIAI

Balanced Island: Urban Growth and Placemaking

Panel

Andreas Markides, Chair, Academy of Urbanism

Alice Charles, Leader Global Strategic Partnerships, Arup

Rapporteur

Seamus Guidera, Director, RKD

Session 02

National Balance Imperative: Challenge + Opportunity

Facilitator

Peter Hynes, A4 Consulting

Speakers

Professor Philip McCann, The University of Manchester

UK Experience, Irish Reality

Matt Cooper, Journalist

Dublin: Engine or Vortex?

Panel

Niall Cussen, CEO, OPR

Rapporteur

Mark Gantly, Greater Galway Forum

Session 03

Design Response

Facilitator

Eoghan Lynch, Senior Planner, Galway City Council

Speakers

Professor Xavi Matilla, Former City Architect, Barcelona

Neighbourhood Exemplars

Tony Reddy, Reddy Architecture + Urbanism

3D Exemplars

Panel

Claragh Mulhern, DHLGH

Rapporteur

Dr Alan Mee, University College Dublin

Session 04

Systemic Challenges: Response

Speakers

Senator Michael McDowell

Conundrum: Options

Frances Ruane

Planning Barriers

Panel

Jerry Grant, Academy of Engineers

Programme continues on next page

Day 2: Wednesday 26 March

Delivery Principles

Confirmed speakers for this conference are listed below. More will be added in the run up to the event. Click any red text for speaker bios.

Session 05

Facilitator

Speakers

Rapporteur

Helsinki: Vision and Masterplanning

Martin Colreavy, DHLGH

[Pasi Rajala](#), Head of Masterplanning, City of Helsinki
[Dr Matti Kuronen](#), Lunden Architecture Company

Tom Watts, Head of Design, DCCI

Session 06

Speakers

Panel

Development: Quality and Design

John Mulryan and Patrick Phelan, Ballymore
Quality, Quantity, and Affordability

Brian Moran, Managing Director, Hines
Quality, Quantity, and Affordability

[Bob Allies](#), Allies and Morrison

Session 07

Facilitator

Speakers

Panel

Irish Opportunity: Neighbourhood and Housing

Charlotte Sheridan, RIAI

Mick Mulhern, Dublin City Council
Housing: Not Just Units

Emmet Humphreys, Galway City Council
Miriam Delaney

Session 08

Speakers

Rapporteur

Key Changes and Next Steps

Professor Wulf Daseking, Former Head of Urban Planning, Freiburg
The Leadership Challenge

David Browne and Jim Coady, Irish Cities Group
Changes Required

Kevin Murray, Director, KMA

End of programme