

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

Programme version: 12/03/2025

A joint event by the

**THE ACADEMY
OF URBANISM**

RIAI

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



LDA 
An Ghníomhaireacht Forbartha Talún
The Land Development Agency

Day 0: Monday 24 March

Dun Laoghaire tour + reception (optional)

We are running walking tours and an evening reception in Dun Laoghaire the evening before the conference starts. To attend, please book the tour and / or reception as ticket add-ons via Eventbrite.

Following **Dún Laoghaire** winning the Urbanism Award (awarded by the Academy of Urbanism) for Great Town / Small City in 2022, we are delighted to feature guided walking tours of award-winning urban design and housing projects, outlines of future plans for the town, and the Conference Reception in Dún Laoghaire on **Monday 24 March**.

Walking Tours, 16:00 - 17:30

Delegates will be able to experience the award-winning Coastal Mobility Walking/Cycle Route, the redevelopment of the Dún Laoghaire Baths, the historic Metals (now a linear park); the existing and planned Harbour, and the refurbished Coastguard Cottages, Myrtle Square, the Living Streets initiative and much more. Delegates will also see many innovative housing projects such as George's Place Housing and a living-over-the-shop refurbishment at Park House; as well as a THRIVE project reimaging two protected structures at George's Place (currently live at Part 8 planning), and more. All tours will be guided by the dlr County Architects' team, under the leadership of County Architect Andrée Dargan FRIAI, with opportunities to meet project leaders from a range of Council departments at the stops along the way.

Tours cost €10 per person and can be booked as a ticket add-on at: ireland2050.eventbrite.co.uk

Conference Reception at the dlr Lexicon, 18:00 - 20:00

Join us for the Conference Reception from 6 to 8pm in the dlr Lexicon, to be opened by An Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Councillor Jim O'Leary. Visitors will be able to explore the award-winning building and outcome of the RIAI architectural design competition before and during the reception.

This reception is free but must be booked as a ticket add-on at: ireland2050.eventbrite.co.uk



Image credit L-R: Ste Murray, Marie Louise Halpenny, William Murphy

Conference plenary programme starts on next page

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

9:00 - 11:00

Vision and Potential: Leadership and Collaboration

Facilitator

Kathryn Meghen, CEO, RIAI

Speakers

Sean Mahon, President, RIAI

Andreas Markides, Chair, Academy of Urbanism

Alice Charles, Leader Global Strategic Partnerships, Arup

Rapporteur

Séamus Guidera, Director, RKD

Coffee break

11:00 - 11:30

Session 02

11:30 - 13:00

National Balance Imperative: Challenge + Opportunity

Facilitator

Peter Hynes, A4 Consulting

Speakers

Professor Philip McCann, The University of Manchester
UK Experience, Irish Reality

Matt Cooper, Broadcaster
Dublin: Engine or Vortex?

Panel

Niall Cussen, CEO, Office of the Planning Regulator
Dr Clare Mulholland, Queen's University Belfast

Rapporteur

Mark Gantly, Greater Galway Forum

Lunch break

13:00 - 14:00

Session 03

14:00 - 15:30

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

Integrated Planning Exemplars and Urban Development Zones

Panel

Cathal O'Boyle, Cork City Architect
Claragh Mulhern, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Rapporteur

Dr Alan Mee, University College Dublin

Day 1: Tuesday 25 March (continued)

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 04

15:30 - 17:00

Systemic Challenges: Response

Facilitator

[Sean Mahon](#), President, RIAI

Speakers

[Senator Michael McDowell](#)

Conundrum: Options

[Professor Frances Ruane](#), Economist

Planning Barriers

Panel

[Jerry Grant](#), Academy of Engineers

[Conor Sreenan](#), State / Principal Architect, Office of Public Works

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

9:00 - 11:00

Helsinki: Vision and Masterplanning

Facilitator

[Martin Colreavy](#), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Speakers

[Pasi Rajala](#), Head of Masterplanning, City of Helsinki

[Dr Matti Kuronen](#), Lunden Architecture Company

[Dr Anke Jurleit](#), Union Investment

Rapporteur

[Tom Watts](#), Head of Design, Design and Crafts Council of Ireland

Coffee break

11:00 - 11:30

Session 06

11:30 - 13:00

Development: Quality and Design

Facilitator

[Claire McManus](#), Chair, RIAI Housing Committee

Speakers

[Patrick Phelan](#), Ballymore

Quality, Quantity, and Affordability

[Brian Moran](#), Managing Director, Hines

Quality, Quantity, and Affordability

Day 2: Wednesday 26 March (continued)

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 06 cont.

Panel **Bob Allies**, Allies and Morrison
Caroline Timmons, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Rapporteur **Marie Hunt**, IPUT

Lunch break 13:00 - 14:00

Session 07

14:00 - 15:30

Irish Opportunity: Neighbourhood and Housing

Facilitator **Charlotte Sheridan**, Sheridan Woods Architects and Urban Planners

Speakers **John Moran**, Mayor of Limerick
Building Community

Mick Mulhern, Dublin City Council
Housing: Not Just Units

Panel **Emmet Humphreys**, Galway City Council
Olivia Kelly, Irish Times

Rapporteur **Carole Pollard**, RIAI

Session 08

15:30 - 17:00

Key Changes and Next Steps

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

David Browne and **Jim Coady**, Irish Cities 2070 Group
Changes Required

Rapporteur **Kevin Murray**, Director, KMA

End of programme

Tickets and more at theaou.org/dublin