

Friday 13th January, 2012

Grangegorman Plan is recognised with another top award

The Masterplan for the re-development of Grangegorman has again been recognised by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The Moore Ruble Yudell and Duffy Mitchell O' Donoghue designed plan received the National Honour Award for Regional and Urban Design.

This award is the American Institute of Architects highest recognition of outstanding projects around the world, and therefore is a tremendous achievement for the designers and crucial validation for the Grangegorman Development Agency (GDA).

Speaking about the award Principal designer James Mary O' Connor, who is a native of the Dublin 7 area said that he was hopeful that this prestigious award will help to publicise and further increase the support and momentum for this important project.

He went on "Our goal for Grangegorman is to create a place which will enrich the city fabric, a place full of vitality and architectural value to serve the needs not only the immediate users of the quarter but indeed the entire community".

This great news for everyone on the Grangegorman project comes at a time when they are being urged by the Minister for Education and Skills to make every effort, despite the cut in funding, to keep the project on track and do everything they can to bring the Grangegorman site into use as soon as possible.

To this end the Agency, along with Dublin Institute of Technology, is examining the options available to enable the project proceed in the best possible way. Chief Executive Officer of the GDA, Mr. Michael Hand, believes that despite the difficult circumstances there is a lot of support for the project and it will continue.

He said "We know that we are not faced with an easy task. However, to continue to receive recognition such as we have, with the AIA award, reminds us again that this is a great project. Coupled with the invaluable support from all sectors, we are driven to ensure that the Grangegorman project proceeds. Sometimes one just has to delve that bit deeper to find the way forward, that is what we are currently doing."

The Grangegorman Planning Scheme was the subject of an An Bord Pleanála Oral Hearing in November 2011 and it is expected that a decision will issue on it by the end of February.

Ends

Background information

“The AIA Honour Awards for regional and Urban Design recognise distinguished achievements that involve the expanding role of the architect in urban design, regional and city planning and community development. The award identifies projects and programs that contribute to the quality of these environments.” - www.aia.org

A sample of previous AIA winners for comparison purposes

- The New York Times Building, New York City by Renzo Piano Building Workshop and FXFowle Architects.
- Frankfurt Museum of Decorative Arts in Frankfurt, Germany by Richard Meier & Partners Architects LLP.
- Horizontal Skyscraper / Vanke Center in Shenzhen, China by Steven Holl Architects.
- Millennium Park, Chicago, by Skidmore Owings & Merrill LLP.
- New Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece by Bernard Tschumi Architects.
- Southworks Lakeside Chicago Development, Chicago by Sasaki Associates, Inc.
- National Gallery of Art, East Building in Washington, D.C. by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects LLP.
- Joseph A. Steger Student Life Center, University of Cincinnati, by Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners, with associate architect Glaserworks.
- University Square Master Plan, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners, with associate architect Hughes Condon Marler Architects.

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