

Major new Irish wood awards launched

The Wood Marketing Federation has launched Wood Awards Ireland 2014, a major new competition aimed at Irish registered architects, engineers, designers and woodworkers who feature wood as an inherent medium in construction and design projects. Supported by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, WAI promotes wood as a sustainable material in innovative projects in Ireland and overseas. It acknowledges and rewards practitioners who incorporate wood as an inherent element in their projects.

Submissions are welcome from Irish and overseas based practitioners who complete work for domestic and international markets.

Sustainable timber sourcing and usage is a key element of the project with emphasis on energy efficiency. Wood will be accepted in sawn form, engineered or in composite structures providing the timber has been sourced in sustainably managed forests and conforms to the EU Timber Regulation.

Eligible projects must be completed during the period June 2011 to 30 June 2014. The organisers are allowing a relatively wide time span for projects for the inaugural awards. Submissions will be accepted under the following categories:

1. **Large-scale public buildings** – open to public and commercial buildings, commissioned by public or private clients. Building projects such as schools and universities, hospitals, local government buildings, offices, hotels, restaurants, libraries and other buildings with public access will be accepted
2. **Small-scale private buildings** – to include privately funded projects for private or community clients. Open to residential properties either new build or extensions.
3. **Restoration and conservation** – open to public and private projects that emphasise the creative use of wood in conservation, restoration, renovation and repair.
4. **Structural** – entries accepted for structural projects including timber bridges, boardwalks, shelters, decking, staircases and other internal and external structural projects.
5. **Furniture** – projects will be accepted from designers, furniture makers and other woodworkers or collaborations between designers and makers. Entries accepted for:
 - a) Bespoke furniture – to include one-off pieces.
 - b) Production furniture – single or ensemble pieces, produced in commercial quantities.
6. **Innovation and other** – internal and external functional and non-functional works including:
 - a) **Wood Local** – open to projects that source timber close to their enterprises providing employment and potential markets in that area.
 - b) **Wood Innovate** – projects that explore new uses for wood in construction, design, renewable energy or other aspects of sustainable living
 - c) **Wood Work** – contemporary and traditional wood usage and design including permanent or temporary works (garden, leisure buildings, playground features, craft and sculpture).
7. **New entrants** – aimed at start up businesses where wood is a major element in the enterprise.
8. **International wood award** – for the best international project under any of the above categories.

Closing date for entries: 31st July 2014. Further information including entry forms can be downloaded from the Wood Marketing Federation website (www.wood.ie).

Entries will be short listed in August and these will be assessed by the judging panel who will also make site and project visits. Awards will be presented on 28 November at a gala event in Dublin.

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WAI is organised by the Wood Marketing Federation

Supported by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland



Further information:

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Notes to editors and stakeholders

ORGANISERS AND SUPPORTERS OF WAI

WAI is organised by the Wood Marketing Federation and supported by the RIAI. The project receives funding and sponsorship from COFORD (National Council for Forest Research & Development), Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine, AHEC (American Hardwood Export Council), Coillte, and Enterprise Ireland.

The **Wood Marketing Federation (WMF)** is a non-profit making organisation founded in 1989 to promote wood and wood products, sourced in sustainably managed forests. The WMF audience includes architects, engineers, designers, wood workers State agencies, timber processors, timber preservation companies, researchers and educational bodies. The WMF mission reflects the role that wood is playing in sustainable living and climate change: *To promote wood as a renewable, sustainable and versatile natural material.*

The **Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland** is the national body for the promotion, regulation and support of architecture in Ireland. Founded in 1839, the RIAI engages with government, the profession, industry, clients and the public to promote the value of quality and design in architecture. The RIAI is designated as the competent authority for architecture in Ireland under EU Directive 2005/36/EC. As official registration body under the Building Control Act 2007, the RIAI is committed to discharge its obligations for administration of the Register of Architects in Ireland.

THE AWARDS ARE OVERSEEN BY A WAI ADVISORY GROUP

Members of WAI Advisory Group: Ciaran O'Connor, State Architect and Principal Architect OPW; Dr. Sandra O'Connell, Communications & Publications Manager, RIAI; Belinda Cobden-Ramsay, Assistant Director, AHEC; Paul Harvey, Chairman Wood Marketing Federation (WMF); Des O'Toole, Senior Engineer and Biomass Development Manager, Coillte; Dr. Eugene Hendrick, Senior Inspector, Forest Sector Development Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Simon O'Driscoll, Managing Director, Simon O'Driscoll Furniture; Niall Coulston, Senior Development Advisor, Enterprise Ireland; and Donal Magner, Secretary, WMF.

JUDGING PANEL

Judging panel includes: Ciaran O'Connor, State Architect; Dr. Sandra O'Connell, RIAI; Simon O'Driscoll, Simon O'Driscoll Furniture; Des O'Toole, Coillte; Ruth O'Herlihy, McCullough Mulvin Architects; Dr. Annette Hart, Senior Lecturer, NUI Galway. Facilitator: Donal Magner.

MICHAEL WARREN TO CREATE WAI AWARDS

Michael Warren has accepted a commission to create a sculpture for the winner of the 2014 Wood Awards Ireland (WAI). He is acknowledged as Ireland's foremost sculptor. Born in Gorey, Co. Wexford in 1950, he studied at Bath Academy of Art, Trinity College Dublin and the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, Milan.

Michael Warren has exhibited widely, overseas and in Ireland. Familiar sculptures in wood completed in Ireland include: *Wood Quay*, Dublin; *Tulach a 'tSolais*, Oulart the Ballagh, Co. Wexford; *Antaeus*, Devils Glen Wood, Co. Wicklow; *After Image*, University College Dublin; *De-creation VI*, Ferrybank, Wexford; and *Beneath the 'bow*, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin.

Awards include the Macaulay Fellowship (1978), Mont Kavanagh Award for Environmental Art (1980); Utsukushiga-Hara Open-Air Museum Award, Japan (1989), Medalla al Mérito Artístico, Madrid (1991) and Decoration of Cultural Merit, from the Government of Ecuador (1998). He was elected to membership of the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin in 2008 and received Honorary Membership of RIAI in 2012.

Michael Warren was the obvious choice for creating the WAI award as wood has been the main medium in most of his major works throughout an illustrious career. During the past four years alone he has had four major national exhibitions featuring wood (*Unbroken Line* in the Centre for Contemporary Art, Carlow (2010); *Gravity* in the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork (2011); and *One Foot in the Real World* in the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2013) and *Those who go / Those who stay* in the Limerick City Gallery of Art (2014)) as well as three exhibitions in the Hillsboro Fine Art Gallery, Dublin.