

Press Release

# TOP IRISH ARCHITECTS FEATURED AT WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS BIENNALE

Heneghan Peng chosen for Ireland at Venice Pavilion at the 13th International Architecture Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia

Two more Irish firms selected to participate in the international section

(Dublin, Thu Jul 5, 2012) Irish architects heneghan peng - have been selected to represent Ireland at the 13th International Architecture Exhibition as part of la Biennale di Venezia this summer, it was announced today by Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Jimmy Deenihan TD.

Dublin-based heneghan peng are currently working in three continents and are the architects responsible for the new Giant's Causeway Visitors' Centre in Antrim, a bridge at the London Olympics and the new Museum at the Pyramids in Egypt.

Their exhibition, titled 'Shifting Ground' is one of 55 national pavilions and presents Ireland to hundreds of thousands at one of the most important architectural showcases in the world. At the heart of the exhibit, which was coordinated by Ireland at Venice Commissioner, Elizabeth Francis, and Curator, John McLaughlin, is the idea that contemporary Irish architecture has a global identity bound up in transnational collaborations of world-class work.

While Heneghan Peng are the official Ireland at Venice delegation, two more Irish architects - Grafton Architects and O'Donnell + Tuomey - were chosen by the Director of the Biennale to feature in the exhibition's notable international curator's programme. A fourth firm - Clancy Moore Architects - are to be included in the Backstage Architecture exhibition and book, a show presenting work by 56 architects under the age of 40, selected from around the globe.

These four firms represent three generations of work coming out of Ireland and is one of Ireland's largest delegations of architects to feature in Venice.

Speaking at the launch Mr. Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht said: *"Ireland is one of the most globalised countries in the world and Heneghan Peng embodies that in the architectural arena. As an Irish-based practice currently working across four continents on a wide range of competition-winning projects, Heneghan Peng epitomizes the impact that Irish architects can make in the world. It is hoped that the Venice Biennale will assist further in recognition and further success for Irish architecture worldwide."*

John McLaughlin, Curator of Ireland at Venice who selected Heneghan Peng said, *"Heneghan Peng exemplify the globally networked ways of making architecture that are now possible, and as an emerging international practice they demonstrate the direction in which Irish architecture can evolve in the future."*

The 13th International Architecture Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia opens to the public on 29 August 2012 and continues until 25 November 2012.

## **IRELAND AT VENICE 2012**

# **'Shifting Ground'**

Commissioner ELIZABETH FRANCIS

Curator: JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Participants: HENEGHAN PENG ARCHITECTS

Venue: Artiglierie building of the ARSENALE

Dates: Inauguration Monday August 27th 2012 at 5.30pm

Press Preview: 27th – 28th August 2012

Ireland at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with The Arts Council of Ireland. Supported by Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and RIAI, The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and Arup

## **BIOGRAPHY DETAILS**

## **HENEGHAN PENG - PARTICIPANTS**

heneghan peng architects is a design partnership practising architecture, landscape and urban design. The practise was founded by Shih-Fu Peng and Róisín Heneghan in New York in 1999 and in 2001 was relocated to Dublin. We take a multi-disciplinary approach to design and have collaborated with many leading designers and engineers on a range of projects which include larger scale urban masterplans, bridges, landscapes and buildings. Current projects include the Grand Egyptian Museum, at the Pyramids, the Giant's Causeway Visitors' Centre, Central Park Bridges at the 2012 London Olympic Park, a Library and School of Architecture at the University of Greenwich in Greenwich, London and the Palestinian Museum.

## **ELIZABETH FRANCIS – COMMISSIONER**

Elizabeth Francis was born in Co. Donegal, Ireland. She studied architecture at University College Dublin and graduated with honours in 1993. Based in Bologna in Italy, she has studied and worked in Italy, France, Ireland and the UK. In 2010 she founded atelier Francis to pursue her interests in architecture, art and research. atelier Francis cultivates cultural links internationally, curating architectural events and exhibitions. Prior to this from 1994 she was partner in Mario Cucinella Architects (MCA) in Paris and Bologna. MCA is award-winning practice at the forefront of contemporary design whose work has been internationally recognised for its architectural, environmental and technological quality. She developed research and design in the field of renewable energies participating in European Commission funded interdisciplinary projects. She brought this work to an international audience with exhibitions, publications and seminars in Europe, Asia and the USA.

## **JOHN MCLAUGHLIN - CURATOR**

John McLaughlin is a practicing architect who also lectures in architecture in UCC and UCD. His work covers a range of projects integrating architecture with urbanism, landscape and art. He is interested in developing an expanded field for architecture through interdisciplinary work and has collaborated in this with other architects, engineers, landscape designers and visual artists. Before founding his design practice in 2010, John was director of architecture with Dublin Docklands Authority where he directed many groundbreaking projects including the Grand Canal Square development. A graduate of UCD, John has served on many designs juries including European 10 and the RIAI Silver Medal 2011. He was a member of the advisory panel on the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.

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