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COMPETITION NEWS

Assessors Report: Kyril's Quay Architectural Design Competition

Introduction

Assessors:

- Piers Gough, Architect, CZWG Architects
- Jim Barrett, City Architect, Dublin City Council
- Tom De Paor, Architect, De Paor Architects
- Kelvin Campbell, Urban Designer, Urban Initiatives
- TG Mitchell, Architect, Mitchell + Associates
- Ann Bogan, Senior Planner, Cork City Council

The assessors were generally impressed with the standard of entries.

The assessors were impressed by the wide range of strategies presented by the entrants. Generally the presentations were well considered and well structured.

The assessors noted the complexity of the site, its importance as a link in the city and the difficulty of proposing appropriate urban strategies for such a site in the context of the traffic and orientation difficulties. The assessors noted that a number of competitors did not pay sufficient attention to the Corn Market and the association with Corn Market Re: Kyril's Quay.

The assessors commended Cork City for its initiative and vision in taking this approach to such an important part of the City.

The involvement of architects in this complex site indicated the value of such involvement in testing the plan with building proposals to demonstrate whether their strategy was convincing or otherwise.

Winner – Conroy Architecture

This entry was distinguished by a number of elements;

The recognition of the importance of the river by the provision of a raised river-side walk. The entry was one of the relatively few four schemes to address the river this way.

The proposal opens new routes between Kyril's Quay, the City Wall and the City.

Placing the buildings at right angles to the quay creates new route through the site allows views across the site, links to the river, and improves the permeability of the entire area.

The entrants showed a careful consideration of circulation routes and the use of different levels linking to public spaces. The residential buildings are orientated to maximise light down to ground level retail streets.

The concept and building forms are sufficiently robust to accommodate a range of uses including retail offices, residential, leisure and cultural facilities.

The mass and form of the proposed hotel defines a new urban space and relates well to Corn Market.

The ends of buildings facing the river give a forceful rhythm to the composition along the river, and replicate the scale of existing buildings along the quays.

The assessors noted that the architectural expression of the buildings was under developed, but the strength and flexibility of the strategy will allow for differing architectural forms to be developed.

Second Prize – Christian Carlsen Arkitektfirma

The entrants propose a single seductive idea; the creation of a special place in Cork, a place for shopping.

The concept is that the shopping takes place on green spaces with trees set down in an almost arbitrary, way making interesting spaces which are then treated as green open spaces. The buildings are printed with tree-like imagery to create a total environmental image. The assessors recognised spaces that related to those of Cork and echoed those of Cork City.

The assessors commended the lightness of approach, and the appropriate level of development on the site, which seemed to be much more considered than many other entries.

The building heights were carefully layered from the quayside to the Shopping Centre to create an appropriate building form.

Special Award – Donaghy + Dimond Architects

The assessors considered the urban strategy to be deft, which is facilitated by the removal of the Garda Station. By breaking the rules this architect came up with an interesting scheme.

The proposal extends Corn Market by an internal Market immediately off the existing Market, defined by a town wall building and a peeled building.

Highly Commended – BRE in Collaboration with Matrix Partnership

The judges commended the concept of a simple series of layers based on the historic form of the city and praised the quality of the sketches and the presentation.

Results:

- Winner Conroy Architecture
- 2nd Place Christian Carlsen Arkitektfirma
- Special Award Donaghy + Dimond Architects
- Highly Commended BRE in Collaboration with Matrix Partnership
- Commended Kiosk Architects
- Commended Magee Creedon Architects
- Commended Angus Pond Architects
- Commended Marie-Pierre Avgeri, Theophilos Kizos, Irene Stolidou & Maria Kechrinioti

Entries Selected for Exhibition:

1. Colin Feeney Architect & Architecture53Seven
2. Trevor Skempton Architect & Urban Designer
3. JCMT Architects
4. Mc Garry Ni Eanaigh Architects
5. D. St Architects
6. Emer O'Daly
7. VMX Architects
8. Lafferty Design
9. Boyarsky Murphy Architects
10. Mc Cullough Mulvin Architects
11. Mihalis Kantartzis & Polymnia Tortopidi
12. DHB Architects
13. Building Design Partnership Dublin
14. Carr Cotter Naessens Architects
15. Stride Treglown



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