



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Consultation Report for the National Policy on Architecture 2021

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage
www.gov.ie

The National Policy on Architecture outlines ways to promote and embed quality in architecture and the built environment over the coming years in Ireland.

The policy objectives are supported by a range of actions intended to build towards achieving the policy vision: the power of leadership, creativity and communication to bring about a better built environment for all.

Successful implementation depends on the support and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in public and civil society.

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Cover Photo - George's Place, Dun Laoghaire, by DLR Architects and A2 Architects, RIAI Living - Housing Schemes Sustainability Award 2019. AAI award winner, 2020. Photo by Marie Louise Halpenny.



The National Policy on Architecture will support national and local architectural ambitions to deliver high quality architecture and built environment for everyone.

The National Policy on Architecture will collaborate with central and local government to align its implementation with existing built environment and culture policies.

Introducing a new policy.

National policy context

The National Policy on Architecture sits within a broad national environmental policy context, which includes the National Development Plan, the Climate Action plan 2019 and other national strategies such as the National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021 and Heritage Ireland 2030.

They respond to European and international commitments arising from acute social and environmental challenges. Government and EU initiatives have set strategic objectives for compact growth, strengthened rural economies, urban and regional re-development, low-carbon and climate-resilience, enhanced access to heritage and sustainable mobility. These priorities will require significant investment in adapting housing, buildings, public places and infrastructure.

A principal function of the National Policy on Architecture is to collaborate with central and local government to align its implementation with existing built environment and culture policies and strategies.

International & European policy context

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, by addressing the global challenges of poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. At European level the imperative of climate change is the focus of EU initiatives, stimulus packages and research programmes, most importantly the European Green Deal. The European Green Deal, announced in December 2019, aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent.

The Commission is also increasingly cognisant of the centrality of environment, sustainability and citizens' quality of life for social cohesion. Architecture is therefore an emerging environmental, economic and cultural priority.

The European Commission launched the New European Bauhaus in January 2021. This is a creative and interdisciplinary initiative, involving art, culture, social inclusion, science and technology to collectively imagine and build a future that is sustainable, inclusive and beautiful.

The National Policy on Architecture will promote architectural quality in the design and delivery of built environment plans, programmes and projects at national, regional and local level.

The approach to research, territorial and social funding at a European scale in the Framework Programmes, such as Horizon Europe and the European Structural and Investment Funds, is also inclusive, cooperative and strategic in support of political priorities.

In 2020 the Commission published the New Leipzig Charter – the transformative power of cities for the common good, for an integrated approach to urban development, the broadening of the understanding of culture and cultural heritage as part of the urban agenda as a resource for increasing the resilience of urban centres.

The New European Bauhaus builds on the concept of Baukultur, which translates as 'building culture'. This is an approach to quality in the built environment which is conceived as a common good and a shared responsibility. Many European states and organisations signed the Davos Declaration on Baukultur in 2018, declaring the central role of culture in the built environment.

The New European Bauhaus proposes that the quality of the entire built environment is a strategic imperative, as construction serves artistic, aesthetic, cultural, social and psychological needs as well as economic and technical purposes. Collectively, these priorities are strategic drivers of the multi-billion euro Green Deal framework.

Role and purpose of the policy

The National Policy on Architecture will play a central role in harnessing the energy of the New European Bauhaus and other culture and built environment initiatives.

It will set out how we can best align with the New European Bauhaus culture to 'to design future ways of living, to engage with the Green Deal and to reimagine our living places and to build a future that is sustainable, inclusive and beautiful for our minds and for our souls'.

It will support national and local architectural ambitions to deliver a high quality architecture and built environment for everyone, to wisely use finite resources and to achieve measurable quality in public sector programmes, procurement and project delivery at a national level. For the historic building stock, this is guided by the European Quality Principles for EU-funded Interventions with Potential Impact upon Cultural Heritage (ICOMOS).

National built environment policy landscape

- Strategy or policy
- Standards
- Manual
- Guidelines

Planning policy



Housing & built environment policy



Architecture & built heritage policy



Climate policy



Scope of the policy

During the lifetime of this policy, significant change and transformation is likely to take place nationally, in town and city centres and across urban and rural communities. A new approach will require balancing important relationships, to cooperate nationally and internationally on cultural change and societal behaviour to face the challenges and opportunities of climate change, sustainable urban regeneration and the need to build a fairer and more equitable society.

The continued development and regeneration of our traditional settlements, villages, towns and cities requires a well-considered new architecture, but equally the conservation and re-imagining of our existing built heritage.

This policy will support greater public engagement with architecture and access to knowledge about the importance of safeguarding our built heritage and natural environment. It will promote and support interdisciplinary research and digital innovation as the bases for tackling and informing challenges. It will encourage the architectural community to be at the centre of imagining the sustainable use of resources, the delivery of high-quality architecture, and built environment for everyone.

Societal wellbeing requires places to be designed to encourage healthy and inclusive social interaction, accessibility and movement and cultural engagement. Environmental wellbeing requires the appropriate design of new buildings and landscapes, the repair and adaptation of cultural buildings and their settings and the safe-guarding and restoration of the natural environment to support pressurised ecosystems.

Stakeholders of the policy

The National Policy on Architecture recognises the vital roles that the public, communities, architects and all built environment professionals play in our transition to a more sustainable society. Many stakeholders, whether individuals, large corporations or public bodies, contribute to the development of new buildings and to the creative renovation of buildings, housing and public places. They seek to integrate vibrancy and liveability and foster a sense of place.

The policy will support multidisciplinary collaboration, public engagement and communication to identify users' needs and engage in community-led, co-design initiatives, which translate into tangible designs, spaces and buildings where society and life can flow and flourish, while decarbonising our built environment and accommodating a growing population.

These significant challenges of climate resilience, circularity of materials and energy (to minimise carbon use) require strengthened links and cross-collaboration and motivated leadership.

The National Policy on Architecture will promote traditional skills and expertise to adapt existing buildings and to improve their performance. It will also support new areas of innovation and the potential of SMART digital technologies and advancement to inform better planning and policy outcomes. Therefore, all government departments, sectors, institutions and the construction industry are stakeholders in the successful implementation of this policy.

Developing this policy.



Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht Consultation Workshop 4 March 2020.

This National Policy on Architecture was developed through cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders and Government Departments and through a public engagement and consultation process.

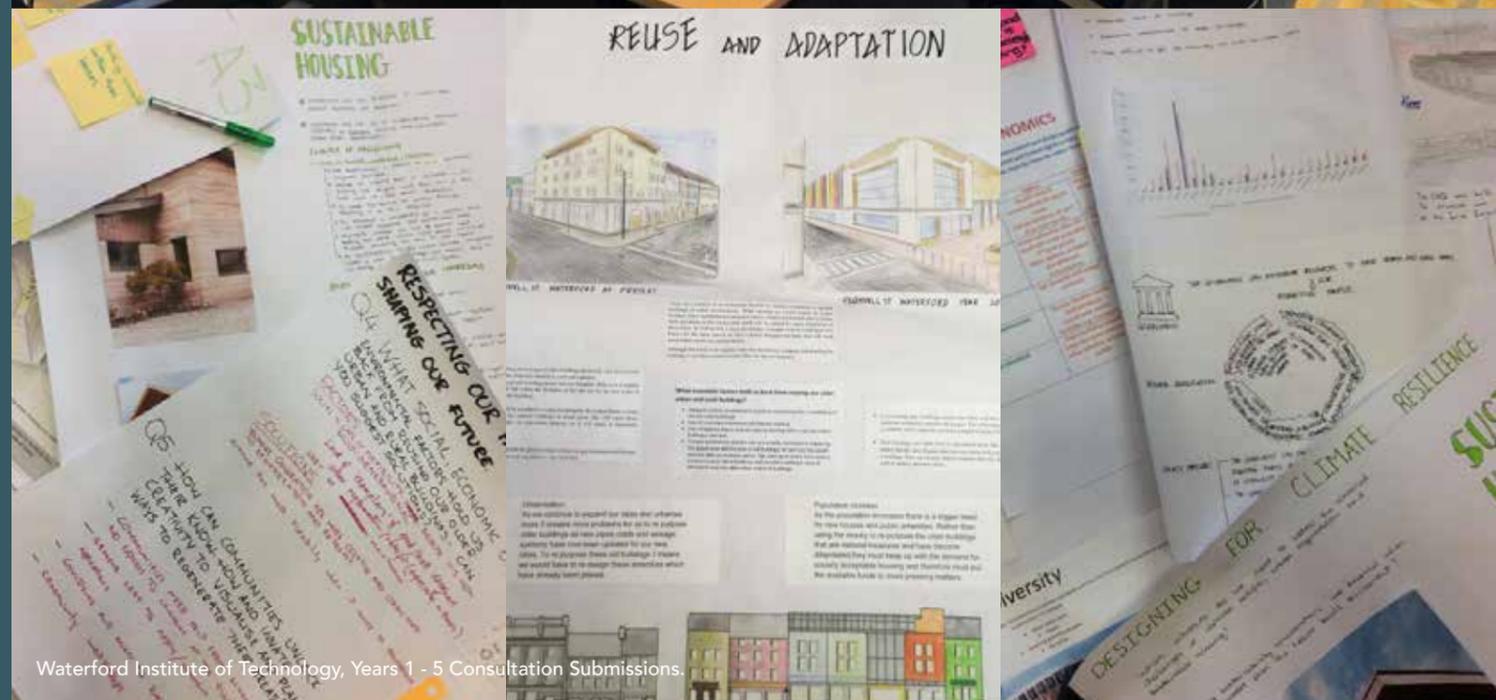
The discussion document, Places for People, set out five themes covering best practice approaches (knowledge and innovation; leadership) and three priority subject areas (designing for climate resilience and sustainability; designing quality places for public benefit; respecting our past, shaping our future).

The public engagement process generated 1300 pages of submissions from 123 individuals and organisations, from local to national level.

The submissions ranged from community organisations, individuals, representative bodies, membership organisations, NGOs, local authorities, architects, designers and heritage practitioners and academic institutions to the public sector.

There were also 11 multi-disciplinary workshops held, an online survey which received 38 responses, 5 videos created by Grangegorman Development Agency and associated media activity. These inputs were analysed and synthesised into briefing reports that were then further examined by an expert advisory group to support the priorities for delivery of the policy.

In addition to the public consultation process, a significant review of national and EU policies was undertaken to ensure alignment, where appropriate, and to maximise the benefit to the architectural community through the objectives set out in this report.



Waterford Institute of Technology, Years 1 - 5 Consultation Submissions.



RKD Architecture Consultation Submission.

National Policy on Architecture Vision.

A simple definition of architecture is that it is the art and science of designing and constructing buildings, however in its fullest sense architecture is about integrating the dimensions of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion in creating, conserving and recreating the built environment.

The National Policy on Architecture proclaims and promotes the extraordinary power of architecture and design to bring about a more sustainable society through leadership, creativity and communication, and generosity and accessibility of space.

The actions of this policy will illustrate the power of high quality built environment design and construction to benefit all of Irish society.

The National Policy for Architecture provides a direct policy link to the European initiative, the New European Bauhaus and the future direction set for the European Union through the European Green Deal.

Both policies are both about building a sustainable future through creativity, innovation and imagination, with an ambition to go 'beyond buildings', to bring benefit to the whole of society.

Three phrases underpin the intent of the New European Bauhaus that are also essential to understanding the vision of this policy:

- necessary can be beautiful
- good design improves lives
- a more beautiful and humane world.

necessary can
be beautiful

good design
improves lives

a more
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humane world

Objectives, action areas and desired outcomes.

The aims for the National Policy on Architecture, which were developed in response to the consultation process, have been distilled into four objectives, namely:

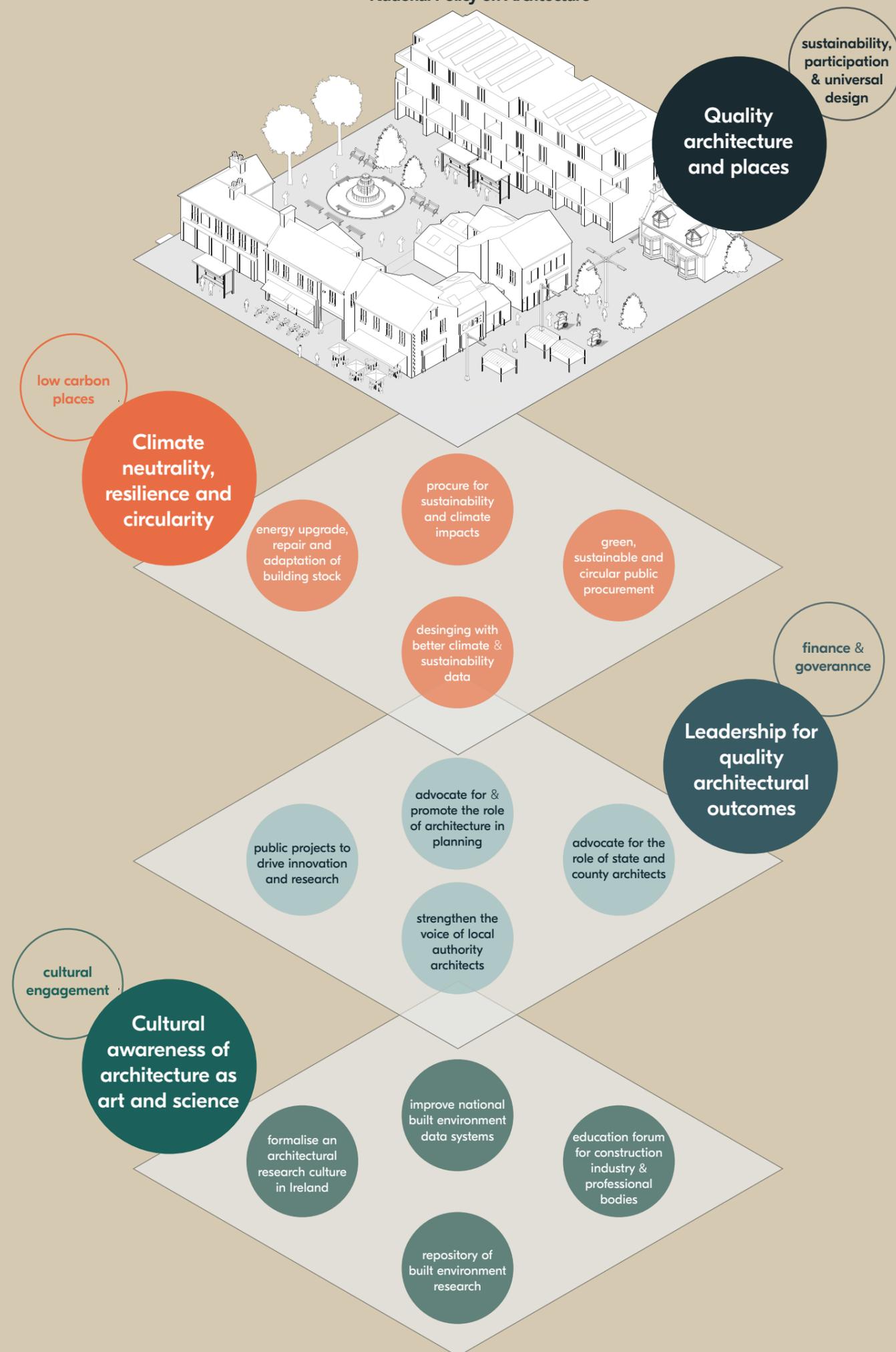
1. Design places for climate neutrality, climate resilience, circularity and sustainability
1. Design quality architecture and spaces for everyone
2. Advocate for leadership to prioritise quality architectural outcomes
3. Foster cultural awareness of architecture as both art and science, which adds value for people, place and planet

A number of action areas sit under each objective, articulating the desired outcomes of that objective. Action areas are like initiatives: ideas which have not yet been defined into specific tasks or projects and may include several projects in order to complete them.

These objectives are not ordered in terms of priority or implementation sequence. In structuring the objectives and action areas in this manner, it is intended that the policy will act as a living document, defining the desired outcomes that must be achieved but providing flexibility with respect to the way in which these are implemented.

Some of the action areas to be delivered under this policy are new, while others build on initiatives commenced or completed under the previous Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.

The objectives, and their associated action areas, focus on embedding quality architecture at all levels of design, facilitating and strengthening connections to achieve quality, and promoting architecture as an art form integral to Irish culture and wellbeing.



Objective 1

Design places for
climate neutrality,
climate resilience,
circularity and
sustainability

The aim of Objective 1 is to prioritise and support the integration of sustainable practices in architecture with respect both to new buildings and reuse, refurbishment and conservation projects, as flexibility and adaptability are essential to environmental sustainability.

In line with our commitments made through the UN Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals, and the EU Green Deal and New Urban Agenda, the Irish Government has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Throughout the transformation to 2050, billions of euro will be invested by government in construction, renovation and refurbishment projects.

These commitments require many changes to our built environment, in terms of housing, public buildings and public spaces but also the wider systems and infrastructure that support these such as transport, water and waste services and cultural activities. Climate neutrality means designing and constructing new buildings and infrastructure with reduced carbon footprints. More significantly, it means working with and repairing well the existing building stock wherever possible, rather than constructing anew, repurposing materials as well as re-imagining buildings for reuse. The design of buildings and public spaces should make it easier for the public to make low-carbon choices, for example in where they live and how they travel.

It is hard to visualise what these commitments will mean: what a zero carbon built environment will look like, will cost, and what the benefits might be. The actions of this policy will provide an aid to understand and put into practice a sustainable built

environment. It will guide users, building clients, built environment professionals and critics – which we all are at some point – to meet this very complex design challenge. Changes in land-use, planning policy, and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and our existing building stock will be key drivers in achieving our climate change goals. The policy actions will integrate perspectives and practices from conservation and renovation of traditionally constructed buildings to show how the materials and skills of our past might help shape future buildings.

Taking a full life cycle perspective

It is important to consider the climate and environmental impacts across the whole building life cycle, as these occur across resource and material inputs, operation and construction and in demolition and disposal. The concept of the circular economy is to use, repurpose and reuse, with minimal reprocessing. The initiatives undertaken as part of the Climate Action Plan, as well as new regulations, will assist in determining whether and how buildings should be refurbished and retrofitted or, only where essential, demolished and replaced by lower carbon options and their materials collected in materials banks and reprocessed or reused. These new processes require training in the right skills, not just for effective energy upgrading – including of traditionally constructed buildings – but also for sorting redundant

elements, and designing, specifying and refitting building components for new uses.

Place-based decarbonisation

The new challenge requires a sea change in the governance of our built environment, as the transition to net-zero carbon requires public acceptance and coordinated action. The design of new buildings and infrastructure must be well considered from an environmental perspective, with a drastically reduced carbon footprint in construction and much longer lifespans.

Local and national architecture and design strategies will prioritise the reuse and adaptation of existing buildings. Where new build can be justified, these strategies may favour “loose fit” structures: flexible, long-life buildings, constructed with sustainable materials that better adapt to future circumstances and changed uses.

The Climate Action Plan details levels and types of governance, structures and processes, targets and budgets, to help achieve such a transformational change. Another part of the challenge is to ensure financial aids and guidance measures support everyone to understand what true sustainability for homes and buildings, public areas and infrastructure really means and requires.

Ireland has committed to a Just Transition in climate action to ensure that the burdens of change are fairly borne by all sectors of society and that no groups or communities are left behind.

These ambitions are core to Project Ireland 2040 and the Climate Action Plan and to the long term revitalisation of our urban centres and historic towns and villages. This policy will support them by increasing public awareness about the role of architecture in the design and delivery of a sustainable built environment.

There is also growing capacity and demand in Ireland for the development of green and blue infrastructure and the integration of native materials and nature based solutions to deal with climate adaptation, including expected sea-level rise, which will threaten coastal settlements.

Significant adaptation of the built environment will be required to cope with increased frequency and ferocity of storms and flood events. Architecture can play a role in ensuring that the design of climate adaptation measures are attractive and well-integrated into infrastructure and the wider public realm, such as through sustainable drainage systems, flood and coastal defences, micro-energy generation or grey-water recycling.

Objective 1 - Action Areas

The National Policy on Architecture implementation plan will prioritise a series of action areas under this objective. The following points are based on analysis of the public consultation submissions. They will be amalgamated with action areas recommended from the review of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.

Provide appropriate guidelines on the energy upgrading, repair and adaptation of the existing building stock and of traditionally constructed and historic buildings

Support green, sustainable and circular public procurement across the built environment through advocacy, regulation, guidelines and training.

Set public procurement requirements for and access to sustainability and climate tools and methods such as whole life-cycle assessment, measurement of embedded carbon, environmental product declarations and post-occupancy assessment templates for building typologies.

Set out the design requirements for a built environment circular economy strategy for incorporation across public authorities.

Develop clear and consistent reporting around EU level frameworks, EU Policies, Programmes and Directives and provide guidance on incorporation of EU Level Initiatives in designing publicly procured buildings.

Support the enhancement of national data sets in relation to sustainability and climate impacts of built environment e.g. embodied carbon, life cycle costing databases, material databases, cultural heritage databases.

Support the Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board to coordinate actions around sustainability across the built environment e.g. a national built environment centre.



Cork Criminal Courthouse, by the Office of Public Works, Wilson Architecture, Bluett O'Donoghue, RIAI Innovation Award 2019. Photo by Ros Kavanagh.

Objective 2

Design quality
architecture and spaces
for everyone

The aim of Objective 2 is to deliver quality architecture, planned and designed with wide engagement and accessible to all, in rural areas and villages, towns, cities and suburbia as an essential element of social sustainability

This policy asserts that architecture is a critical ingredient in shaping our society and ways of life. High-quality architecture creates welcoming, learning and caring spaces that enable creativity, innovation, productivity, research, and wellbeing, buildings and places that possess value beyond the functions required by the client.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underpin the national strategic outcomes of Project Ireland 2040, which support the drive for balanced, sustainable urban and regional redevelopment nationally.

The SDGs and the national strategic outcomes also inform the approach to this policy and its focus on the consolidation of historic urban settlements, their communities and their cultural and natural heritage.

Threaded through this policy is recognition of the important concepts of quality and generosity in the design of our residential accommodation, schools, civic buildings and spaces, including multifunctional play and social spaces.

This policy acknowledges the potential of architecture to enrich the lives of communities and makes them resilient to future challenges and outside forces. Public debate and engagement encourage awareness and increase understanding of architecture from the creative process of design through to more in-depth understanding of the positive experiential effects of good buildings and public spaces. Initiatives by large and small organisations, local authorities, voluntary bodies and communities, expert-fed rather than expert-led, help participants to creatively imagine new places and buildings, interpret heritage sites and to manage and upgrade places and buildings in different ways.

Existing initiatives such as the Creative Ireland Programme support people to realise their creative potential to support individual and community wellbeing and the creative economy, including through placemaking projects.

Increased public participation and involvement in design, planning and development processes delivers positive outcomes, awareness and ownership of projects and pride in place that endures over time.

New governance tools and planning approaches

The challenges of the coming decades such as climate change, emerging technologies, demographic change and new economic models will not be solved using top-down governance tools and planning approaches. Architecture is at the point where these issues converge.

The operational capabilities and culture of public administration must adapt in order to respond effectively. The likelihood of high quality outcomes will be improved and better use of resources gained by sharing spatial and cultural data, insights and evidence through enhanced communication between different branches of government, the public and multiple stakeholders.

Harnessing the digital possibilities of this new approach to spatial and cultural governance involves scaling up digital participatory infrastructure and exchange platforms to enable civic dialogue over and above traditional forms of public consultation.

Participative and valuable methods of work include co-creation and co-design to identify users' requirements at an early stage, the adoption of digital engagement tools and cross-disciplinary, collaborative work. They demonstrate how complex needs and multi-level decisions are transformed into well-designed housing and social infrastructure.

Proven forward planning models such as master plans and conservation plans help to increase public and expert knowledge about the multiple dimensions of an area, to determine the best approaches to retaining what is special about its character and associated values, while accommodating new development or new uses.

A priority of the National Policy on Architecture is to expand the opportunities for the public to engage with the many processes that determine the future of the built environment. This will help to unlock creative responses to complex and systemic challenges and tensions around infrastructure, landscape, housing and place. Success will depend on building trust and cooperation between government, communities and the private sector.

Objective 2 - Action Areas

The National Policy on Architecture implementation plan will prioritise a series of action areas under this objective. The following points are based on analysis of the public consultation submissions. They will be amalgamated with action areas recommended from the review of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.

Provide enhanced support to formal and informal education programmes, including public awareness.

Fund specific initiatives in response to emerging issues e.g. networking through physical and digital platforms, which support cross-sectoral and public engagement, feedback and promotion, and communicate policy programmes and thematic initiatives.

Establish panels and fora to advise on quality, sustainability, universality, participation in architecture and excellence in placemaking, with the collaboration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and other key local and national stakeholders.

Publish guidance on master-planning and conservation planning models and best practices.



Candle Community, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, by McGarry Ní Éanaigh Architects. RIAI Wellbeing Award 2020. Special mention AAI Awards, 2020. Photo by Richard Hatch.

Objective 3
Advocate for leadership to prioritise quality architectural outcomes

The aim of Objective 3 is to encourage leadership within the public sector and across the architectural community, to support the delivery of high quality built environment policies, programmes and projects

Built environment matters and challenges require public debate and acceptance. The ongoing public participation and involvement of key stakeholders (such as architects, engineers, planners and builders) is essential to achieve quality in procurement, planning, infrastructure, urban design, housing, health and education outputs and outcomes. The action areas under Objective 3 will promote leadership in integrated spatial and climate change planning, mitigation and adaptation for environmental resilience. They will promote leadership in designing, re-imagining and conserving the built environment for social well-being and economic viability.

Existing initiatives developed by national stakeholders and the architectural sector will be supported by actions under this policy objective. They will cover topics such as design briefs, quality selection criteria and best practices in the construction procurement framework and the enhanced role and scope of architectural pre-qualification within competitions. In this regard, the focus is on developing a 'stepping stone' approach that allows newer and smaller practices establish themselves and develop their skills in a positive and incremental manner.

The desired outcome of this objective is to complement the ambition of Project Ireland 2040 to promote built environment quality in implementing planning frameworks, regulatory processes and

funding programmes across Government. Public and private organisations which facilitate architectural excellence have a track record of bringing about positive change in the built environment and protecting architectural heritage. Their contribution is essential to achieving the national strategic outcomes of Project Ireland 2040.

Government and public sector leadership and prioritisation of quality

The State is a significant investor in the built environment and commissioner of architecture. Maintaining in-house architectural expertise enables public sector organisations to articulate and achieve their long-term property management and building renewal strategies as well as to design, procure and manage building projects and programmes.

The policy promotes taking a long term view on the comparative costs of design and development, operation, maintenance, demolition and disposal, and the benefits which accrue to the community served by the building or place. The added value of high quality design only becomes fully apparent over time. Public authorities should take a broad perspective on the comparative costs of design and development, operation and maintenance, repurposing or reuse of materials instead of disposal and the quality requirements of the community served by the building

or place. Prioritising a high quality architectural design and specification at the start costs a small fraction of a project's budget but repays the investment many times over both during the project and in realising many use and non-use benefits over the lifetime of operation and repurposing.

Procurement and tendering

Public procurement seeks to manage risk while ensuring fairness, transparency, an open market and value for money. Poor definition of requirements arising from poorly resourced design teams and insufficient identification, and pricing, of risk are two of the principal causes of project overruns. The prioritisation of design quality throughout the procurement and construction phases is an important risk management tool and indicator of success in the operational phase.

Because of the need to obtain long-term value, publicly procured buildings should be assessed across all aspects of utility value and full life cycle costing. Building this evidence base will assist in identifying resource and energy savings and ultimately create better designed buildings. Social and environmental indicators of non-use values, such as public health, inclusivity of access and carbon-equivalence of construction, should be developed into qualitative metrics that indicate design quality. This requires an agreed set of indicators and guidance on use to be developed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and built environment stakeholders.

The use of digital opportunities and innovation to build databases on built environment character and performance is critical to the long term climate change planning strategy. The development of key performance indicators as well as high quality design criteria for the built environment are essential to understand the impact of development on historic sites and buildings and on their cultural significance to communities.

Several current EU initiatives focus on raising awareness of the value of cultural heritage and the opportunity it provides to engage with local communities for heritage-led regeneration projects that retain the best attributes and values of a place which have accrued over decades and centuries. Decisions to reuse, renovate or remove structures of cultural and/or architectural heritage interest, from colleges and hospitals to museums, many of which are owned by the State, should measure these non-use attributes. Multi-criteria analyses are appropriate to such projects, as they more effectively describe the many interdependent, cultural, social and environmental benefits and impacts, which are not captured by cost-benefit analysis.

The National Policy on Architecture will coordinate at Departmental level and with the Office of Public Works to support the work of the Office of Government Procurement to make public construction procurement more efficient and effective for all stakeholders while emphasising all aspects of sustainability.

Objective 3 - Action Areas

The National Policy on Architecture implementation plan will prioritise a series of action areas under this objective. The following points are based on analysis of the public consultation submissions. They will be amalgamated with action areas recommended from the review of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015.

Use public projects to drive innovation and research e.g. through private sector and higher education institute partnerships.

Improve cooperation between sectors and disciplines – set up creative platforms for dialogue and collaboration between the various sections of the architecture, construction and engineering sectors, drawing on the inspiration of the New European Bauhaus.

Strengthen the presence and voice of local authority architects and architectural conservation officers to promote leadership and architectural quality across local authority functions and promote interdisciplinary and inter-authority knowledge exchange.

Review, define and advocate for the role of the State Architect, city and county architects, particularly in terms of delivery and oversight of this policy.

Advocate for and promote the role of architecture in planning e.g. through involvement of local authority architects in forward planning and development management, engagement with private sector stakeholders to promote best practices, awards and initiatives such as architectural policies for major urban centres promoting the objective of the European Urban Agenda to encourage integrated and multidisciplinary projects, exhibitions, publications and online communications.

Ensure that governance and oversight of the policy is transparent and involves key state agencies with a function to manage and promote the use of architectural competitions for public works projects, act as a point of reference and advice in the dissemination of knowledge and expertise, and is a relevant consideration in the preparation of legislation and regulations.

Review effectiveness of current procurement procedures, including the Capital Works Management Framework as well as procurement and contract procedures, including to publish contracts specific to conservation projects, include mechanisms to allocate a percentage of project resources to publication, reporting and exhibiting building projects, review and revise turnover conditions re. architectural practice participation in competitions, support expanded range of built-environment related contracts awarded by competition to promote a design competition culture.



Operation Paris Saclay pour l'Institution Mines Télécom, Palaiseau, France, Winner of RIAI International Award 2020 (Supported by Enterprise Ireland) and AAI Award 2020. Photo by Philippe Ruault.

Objective 4
Foster cultural awareness of architecture as both art and science, which adds value for people, place and planet

The aim of Objective 4 is to promote architecture as an art form and for the contribution it makes to the form, character and health of places, communities and livelihoods. Expanding and sharing knowledge about architecture increases public interest and inspires creativity and innovation.

Culture, at its most fundamental, is about customs evolving from the myriad interactions of people over time, forming the characteristics of places and societies ('the way we do things here'). Awareness that architecture is a part of the culture of all societies helps to crystallise the relationships between people, the places where they live and their cultural values. More than this, the act of architecture is about creation: combining science, technology and art to design practical and beautiful solutions for the environment, human needs and a future which is reliant on the quality of these design decisions.

Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects were named Global Ambassadors for Irish architecture in 2019 as part of the Global Ireland 2025 initiative, arising in part from their curation of the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2018. Grafton's manifesto for the Biennale emphasised the importance of thinking of the earth as client, and of architecture's generosity of spirit and ability to provide free and additional spatial gifts to those who use it. Of the practice of architecture they wrote, "We need to tend to culture, like tending to a garden. In architecture time is not linear. Architecture brings past, present and future together."

This policy supports greater awareness of the role and benefits of architecture within Irish culture. Culture change happens slowly and on many levels, through

awareness of different ways of thinking and doing, motivating people to acknowledge and adapt to change at an individual and organisational scale. The implementation of this policy will, through research, exemplars and guides, increase the integration of architecture within Irish culture. Successful communication of the results of these actions will demonstrate the benefits of architectural creativity and inventiveness.

Cultural support for architectural engagement

Cultural experiences foster identity, vibrancy and community. Cultural experiences and cultural institutions are integral parts of urban development and placemaking. The support of the previous Policy on Architecture helped national and regional cultural organisations such as the Irish Architecture Foundation and the Arts Council to remain deeply involved in communicating the ideas, processes and results of architecture through a range of formats and channels such as exhibitions, festivals, debates, films, co-creation events, and television.

The Creative Ireland Programme works with communities to examine existing physical infrastructure and identify the potential opportunities for communities, artists, children and young people to engage in harnessing creativity and placemaking

in local areas. Well-integrated consideration of cultural, leisure and play activities within architectural and urban design projects brings positive social and economic impacts. Client and public awareness of the important long-term cultural dividend of building projects will be fostered by consolidating and expanding the infrastructure of architectural engagement.

Access to Knowledge

A culture of architecture is underpinned by knowledge and research. This policy aims to increase the pace, breadth and depth of research by and about architecture in Ireland, while increasing the accessibility of this knowledge through digital innovations, educational partnerships, programmes and research strategies.

The policy implementation will support the structuring of interactions between research funding, architecture education, architectural practice and the wider built environment ecosystem for mutual benefit and as a springboard for collaborative innovation. It will include building and sharing knowledge with the public to support wide engagement, dissemination and discussion about architecture.

Architecture in education and cultural institutions

This policy advocates increasing capacity in third and fourth level built environment education and research to support regional and local development

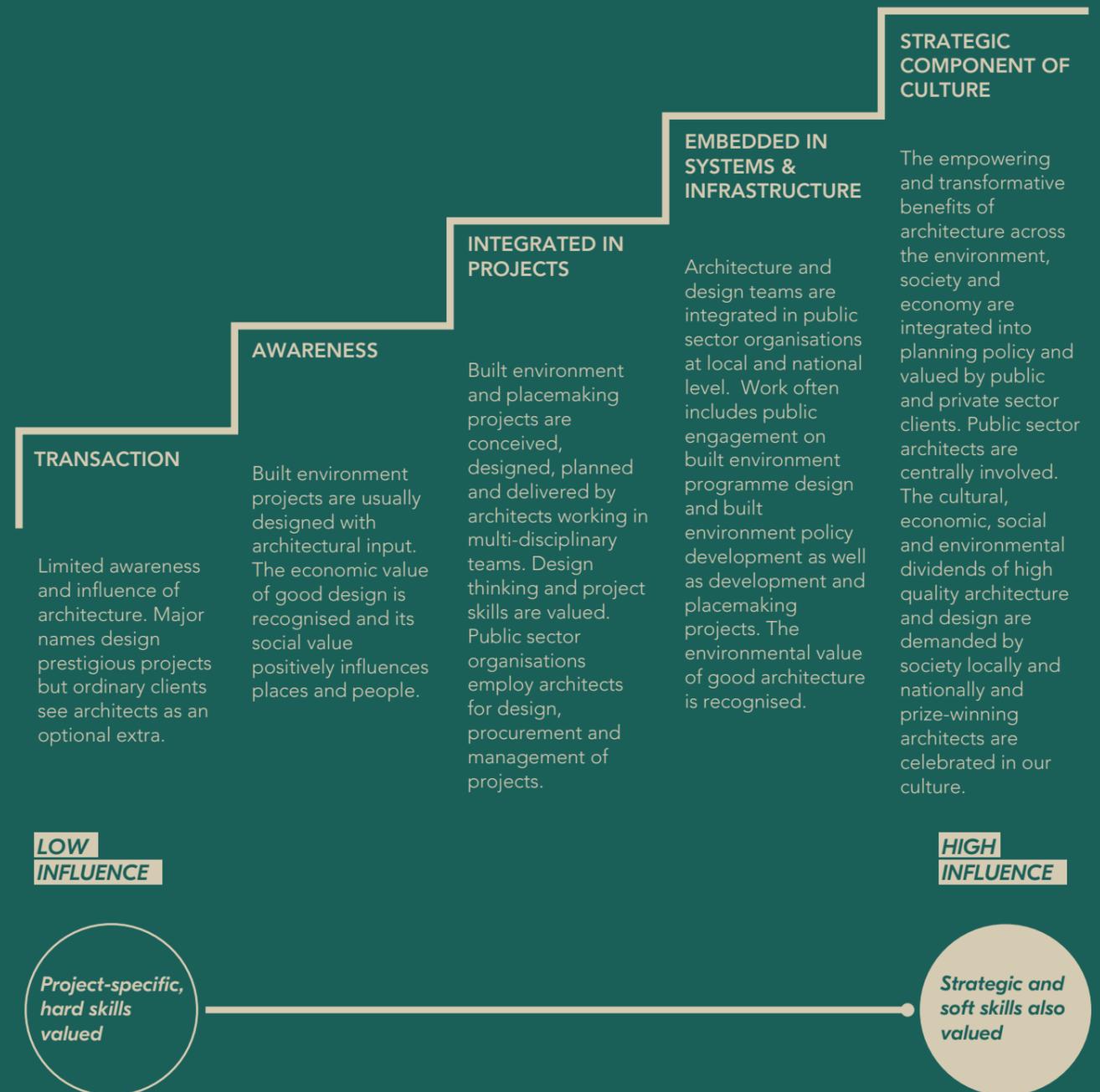
policies, the development of infrastructure and the consolidation of historic towns and villages, as well as to drive and nurture individual excellence. The policy promotes strategic coordination of trades' skills training to include architectural awareness models and to ensure retrofitting requirements embrace traditional building, vernacular and 'green' construction skills.

It also supports strengthening the programmes related to architecture in primary and secondary school curricula and aligning them with teacher and student support programmes. Embedding awareness of architecture and the built environment from early years will assist in future public engagement with climate change design initiatives.

An important aim of this policy is to raise awareness of how architecture impacts on lives, to give people the ability to articulate what high quality architecture means to them and how it can meet their cultural as well as environmental, social and economic needs.

The actions will encourage public and school-age participation and collaboration, and closer engagement with the processes that give rise to quality building projects. The implementation programme proposes a range of initiatives across sectors that will contribute towards this objective of enriching culture through making architectural quality an integral aim of protecting, managing and developing the built environment. It will help people to view good architecture as an important part of Irish culture.

Ladder of architectural integration in culture



Objective 4- Action Areas

The National Policy on Architecture implementation plan will prioritise a series of action areas under this objective. The following points are based on analysis of the public consultation submissions. They will be amalgamated with action areas recommended from the review of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015

Develop, support and sustain the infrastructure of engagement to foster a culture and desire for architecture - this includes through public and cultural institutions.

Establish a repository of built environment research.

Formalise an architectural research culture by establishing a research body e.g. a research council, either independent or embedded in existing research councils.

Develop an education forum for the construction industry, professional bodies and educational institutions.

Enabling and encouraging academic, practice and society partnerships and collaborations, including further engagement with primary and secondary schools to grow awareness. Prioritise and encourage lifelong learning.

Improve national data systems e.g. support and enhance the ongoing National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and Historic Garden and Design Landscape surveys.



SMALL TOWN LIFE



Implementing this policy.

The long term success of implementation of the National Policy on Architecture requires coordination between many sectoral policies and strategies. Deeper integration of architecture is also required in the spatial planning system for the design and management of a quality built environment.

Many national and local organisations will be involved in the design and delivery of the implementation programme.

It will be based on the assembly of a broad architectural alliance representing the complex, interconnected network of built environment education, design and delivery systems and advocacy and communications organisations.

Partnerships and methods of collaboration will be agile, to respond as best fits each circumstance. Oversight will be the responsibility of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and an implementation advisory group.

The structures and processes, roles and approaches that are described here will be set out in more detail in the implementation plan.

The principle of this approach is one of continuous improvement of the body of knowledge and the communication of this knowledge. The outputs of the programme become building blocks, part of a wider process of broadening and deepening the impact of architectural knowledge and expertise for wide societal and environmental benefits.

Governance of this policy.

Effective implementation of the National Policy on Architecture requires appropriate governance models spanning national, regional and local levels in the public sector as well as the mobilisation of various sectors, intermediary organisations, education and training providers and wider Irish society.

This policy strikes a practical balance between international best practice and Irish structures and processes to set out a model of governance that will bridge the gap between the policy vision and its implementation.

The selected form of governance will take into account the structures of public administration; ambitions of national and international policies and programmes; successful models of public engagement with architecture, culture and spatial planning and the mechanics of knowledge exchange between actors which have differing interests.

It will work predominantly through mobilising cooperation between state institutions, private sector and the wider public to learn from one another, increase understanding, forge relationships and operate in partnership to design and deliver the policy actions. Given this relative complexity, it is essential that the governance framework facilitates long-term policy-making by embedding connections to other national initiatives such as Project Ireland 2040, the

Climate Action Plan, Heritage Ireland 2030 and Culture 2025.

The core features of the governance and implementation framework include:

1. Build awareness of the National Policy on Architecture within Project Ireland 2040 and government funding programmes.
2. Build a cross-sectoral consensus around the National Policy on Architecture vision, objectives and goals through agreeing common purpose with key stakeholders
3. Devolve action design, problem-solving and resources to policy partnerships with first-hand experience of issues
4. Create a policy partnership structure using multi-annual work plans under each objective to target and initiate priority actions

Principles for implementing this policy.

Enriching our culture by integrating architecture

- The NPA will articulate the value of architecture as part of Irish culture, as a positive force that mirrors and shapes societies and supports people's identities and values
- The NPA will promote a culture of evidence-based decision-making focussed on the needs of people, place and planet, as designing for environment and society is the only way to bring about a sustainable economy
- The NPA will advocate for the wider user of creative empathy, collaborative approaches, and design and materials expertise to increase understanding of the indivisible connections between architecture, spatial planning and human well-being

Empowering people through architecture

- The NPA will value inter-disciplinary built environment knowledge and will build enduring relationships forged by a common purpose
- NPA implementation will be measured, monitored and reviewed by the implementation advisory group in conjunction with key stakeholders
- The NPA will be implemented in line with European and Irish cultural and built environment and architectural policies that prioritise a

people-centred and quality-driven approach to architectural decision-making

Meeting evolving needs through architecture

- The NPA will be a living policy, adaptive and responsive to needs expressed by existing research and emerging evidence across all sectors and levels, for mutual benefit.
- Implementation will use quality and Lean principles to focus on the architectural needs of environment, society and economy and will deploy efficient and effective processes to work towards meeting them
- NPA priority implementation areas will be revised as built environment stakeholders prioritise, refine, design and collaboratively implement actions, in line with best practices and supporting built environment policies, regulations and requirements
- Each successive phase of NPA implementation will contribute to a knowledge and leadership feedback loop, disseminated in many ways from research papers and guidance to online platforms and social media.

Proposed changes to direction or priority during the implementation period will be assessed against these principles.



Pálás Galway, by de Paor Architects, RIAI Cultural / Public Building Award winner 2019. AAI Award Winner 2019. Photo by Ed Reeve.

Strategy for implementing this policy.

The implementation strategy for the National Policy on Architecture policy takes a flexible approach in line with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Innovation Strategy (2020).

The vision is fixed and objectives are defined. The action areas or initiatives flow from the vision, are grouped by objectives and are implemented in a flexible programme, in which the key performance indicators are the desired outcomes.

The design of the programme is organised around the four objectives. The desired outcomes guide the priorities of each objective and the action areas will include a range of initiatives selected on the basis of their contribution towards the objective. The shape the resulting actions take will depend on each case.

They will be individually important to achieve the set project objectives but will also become building blocks to achieve the wider aims of the policy, to integrate across the objectives.

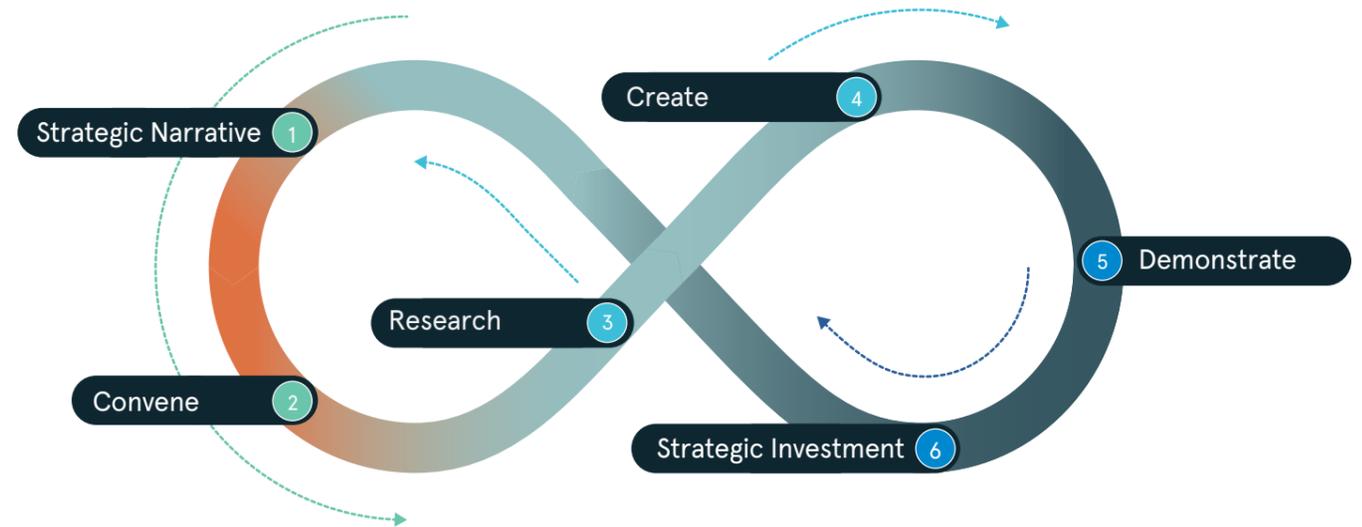
Each action will be categorised as 'learn', 'link', 'lever', 'lead' and/or 'legislate'. These five words are shorthand for describing their essential characteristic. LEARN is about capacity, building the knowledge base through formal education or research, from first to third level and lifelong learning. LINK is about communication, outwards and within the architecture ecosystem of what is known, and to

share stories to help others imagine and innovate. LEVER brings LEARN and LINK together. It is shorthand to describe the cumulative impact of individual projects, the outputs of which will become inputs to more complex or advanced projects to maximise the benefit to the policy aims and to its participating organisations.

The National Policy on Architecture recognises that local authorities lead the implementation of regional and national policy through engagement with the public and private sector. Local authorities are also integral to the adoption of new practice and policies which connect to a diverse range of EU programmes on culture, creativity, urban development, travel and smart specialisation. This informs the fourth category, 'LEAD'.

The policy implementation programme will strengthen connections across the architectural community between local authorities, encouraging leadership and collaboration. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will convene workshops, webinars and other events to share updates, discuss ongoing issues and agree how to handle crossover items.

The structure of the implementation programme will include mechanisms for escalating discussion on structural or systemic issues to central government



level, for example to inform the work of the Construction Sector Group of the Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board. This is the context for the action category LEGISLATE.

The governance structure will allow for ongoing review of progress and design in the capacity to respond to emerging issues and to scale up more high impact actions and initiatives.

All actions that are undertaken will be collaborative projects using a network of stakeholders operating in partnership, with leadership and ownership depending on the specifics of the subject matter, process or methods used, or purpose.

The key elements that define this implementation strategy are:

- **Co-create** and communicate a strategic narrative for each three year work plan that sets out a compelling vision, quantitative and qualitative target indicators and timelines. Include an ongoing strategic narrative that advocates for a mindset open to knowledge exchange, enabling continuous improvement.
- **Convene** regulators, policymakers, practitioners and academics from around Ireland to disseminate the practical skills and knowledge to create better places for people in an ongoing feedback loop.

- **Demonstrate** through exemplars, trials, case studies and pilots how architecture can generate public benefit through real-life applications in areas such as climate, economy, health and wellbeing.
- **Create** common resources including toolkits and guides that help simplify the process of creating great places, spaces and buildings.
- **Research** collective responses to societal challenges through inter-disciplinary collaborations, including supporting architects to generate new insights through research.
- **Enable** strategic investments at scale and of a nature that matches the policy ambition, leverages other national and EU funding opportunities and creates value through civic capital.

Strategy for communicating this policy.

The intent of this section is to indicate the communications approaches the policy will use. It will be further developed as part of the implementation plan. It will draw on the expertise of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage communications unit and the established communications strategies of all partner organisations.

It is envisaged that the initial introduction to and awareness-raising strategy about this policy should be carefully designed with key stakeholders, to promote the National Policy on Architecture vision, objectives and actions. The strategy will highlight the role of the policy to public authorities and communities alike in support of the National Development Plan, the Climate Adaptation Plan, the National Biodiversity Plan and Heritage Ireland 2030 in order to garner their immediate interest and support.

The ingredients of this communications strategy are similar to those used in a change management exercise: to listen, discuss, illustrate, exchange and listen again; to find common ground and interests and reduce fear, to build trust and motivation for first actions such as exemplars, pilots, trials and small-scale initiatives.

The policy will speak directly to the many categories of stakeholder – those whose careers are in the built environment; those who are, have been or may

become clients (public or private) and those who are interested, those with an opinion about architecture or their own local area.

For example, construction and use of buildings and transportation account for a high percentage of energy use in Ireland. Many people wish to live nearer to work (or the opportunities for work) and social life. All wish to have high standards of accommodation. Everyone needs to reduce energy consumption.

These are large-scale dilemmas that require political will, financial heft and a considerable mix of skills. The communications strategy will illustrate the power of design decisions to change where and how buildings are constructed and used, which not only reduce energy, but also increase accessibility, inclusivity and the attractiveness of the surroundings where people live, work and socialise.

The steps of awareness-desire-knowledge-ability-reinforcement, known by the acronym of ADKAR, used in many organisations, will help to communicate this policy's objectives. Using ADKAR, the strategy will focus on the biggest concerns of citizens to explore how architecture can bring about positive changes at local scale, such as town centres first, or the concept of the 15 minute city.

Each category of stakeholder is equally deserving of knowing where they fit with the policy implementation and encouraged to participate.

- **Public / critic:** the information will be general, raising awareness of the value of architecture and design in the built environment through technological media, promotion campaigns, short case studies or participatory initiatives operated with NPA funding (e.g. by the Irish Architecture Foundation).
- **Client:** from those professionally involved in procuring buildings to private citizens thinking about a house extension, the information is informative about the benefits of quality, of engaging competent designers and builders and the approaches to consider to prioritise architectural quality and measure success from the first stages of a potential project to the commissioning of the finished building.
- **Career:** detailed, technical information that clarifies the centrality of spatial design and a holistic approach, the benefits from collaborative working methods between architects and other built environment professionals from the initial stages of options appraisal; the stages of public or other procurement processes and leadership of project management teams.

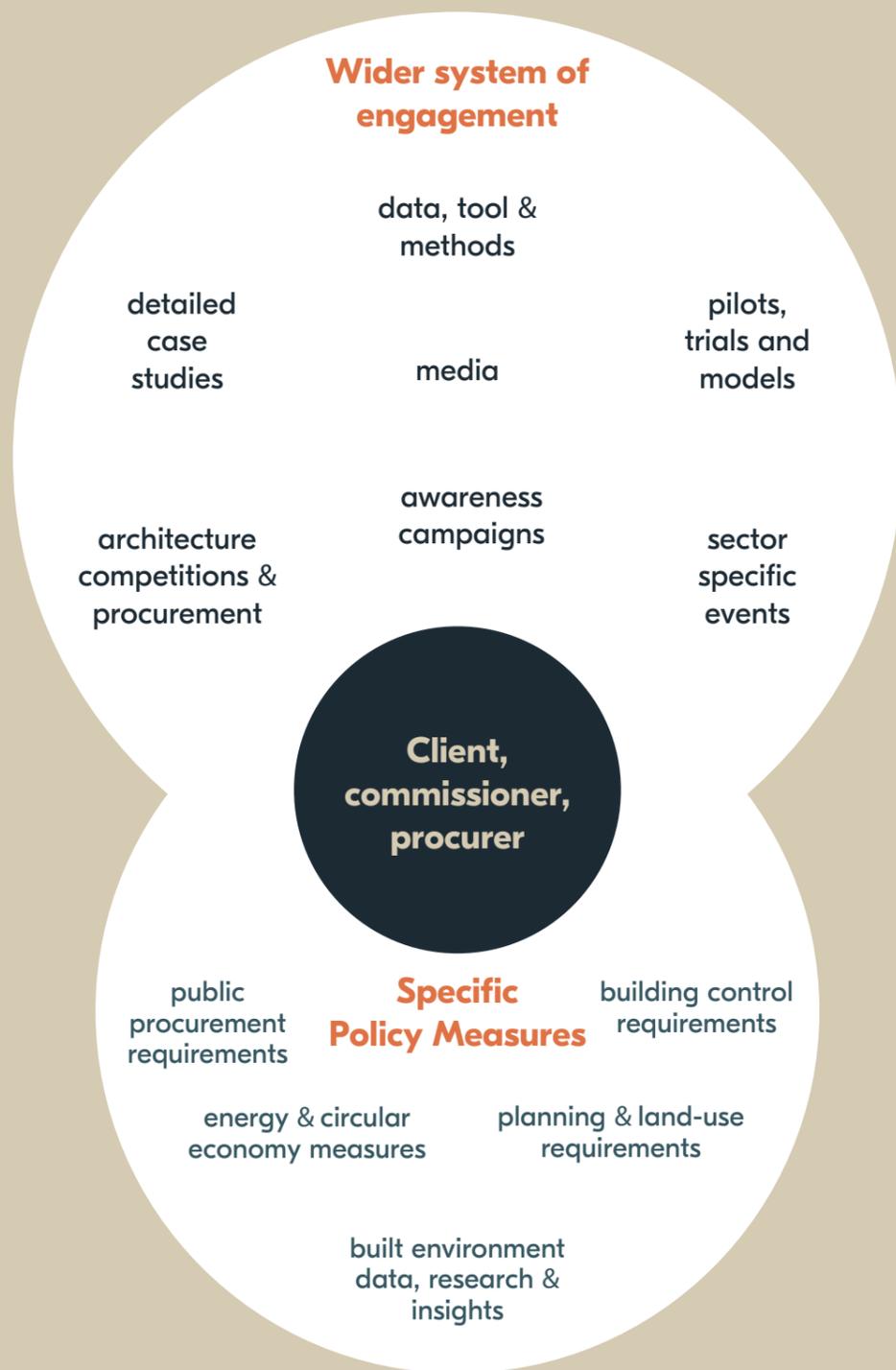
The policy must use a measured, engaging, consistent and participatory approach through print and digital media, to seek suggestions at every stage and illustrate where opinions have been accepted and integrated into implementation.

Transparency about progress will be a cornerstone, to show how actions are progressing and indicate difficulties or barriers.

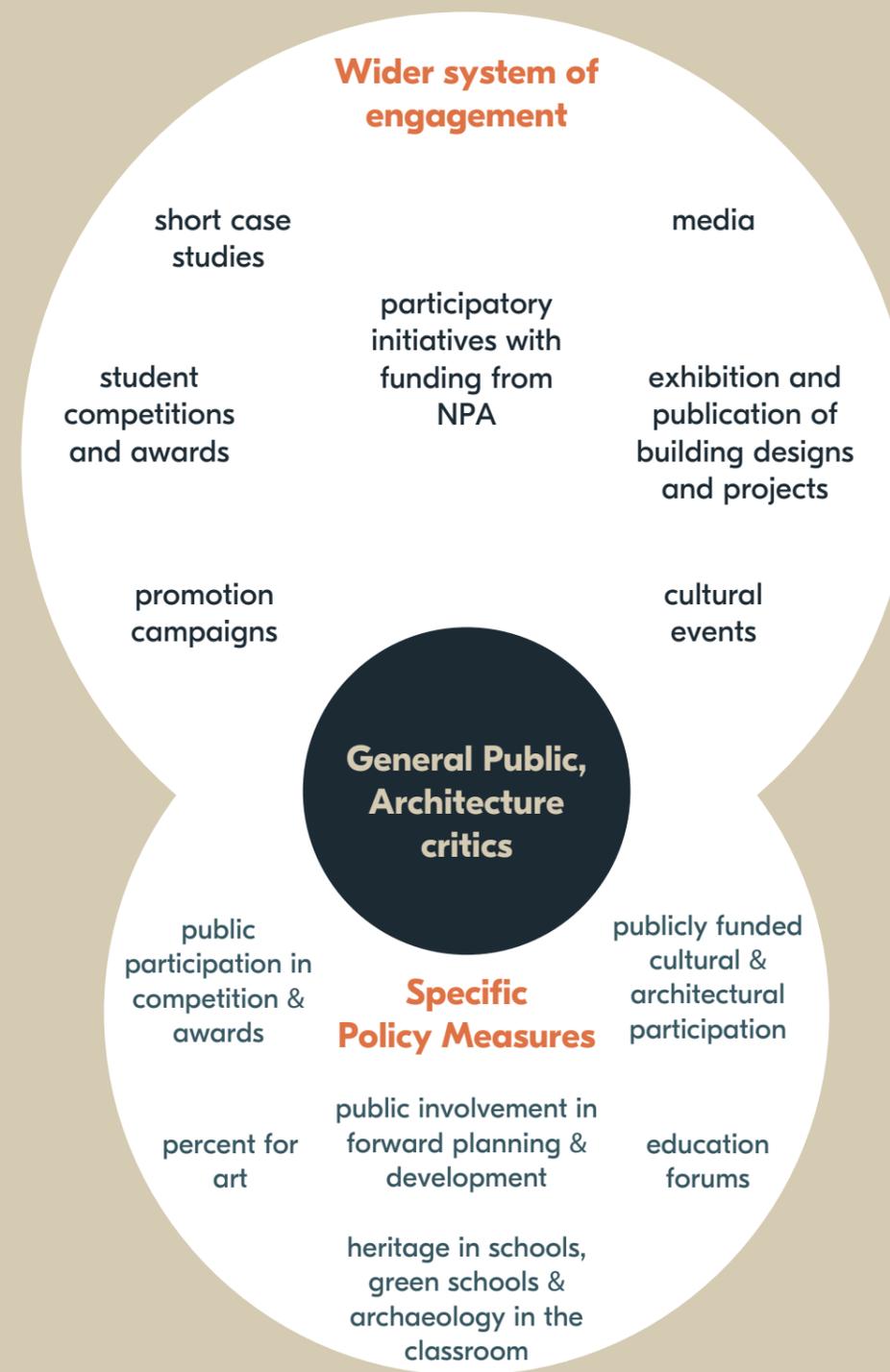
Language must be clear, without built-environment jargon, legible to the public as well as to clients and built environment professionals.

The communications channels should be connected to a knowledge exchange platform, to enable all types of information and documentation to be uploaded, from citizen science / distributed effort projects to reports outlining complex technical research from our leading universities, with listening tools for those who may otherwise feel excluded and feedback hubs for types of interest group.

informing about the benefits of quality, of engaging competent designers and builders



informing about the value of architecture and design in the built environment



informing about technical information, the centrality of spatial design and benefits of collaborative working

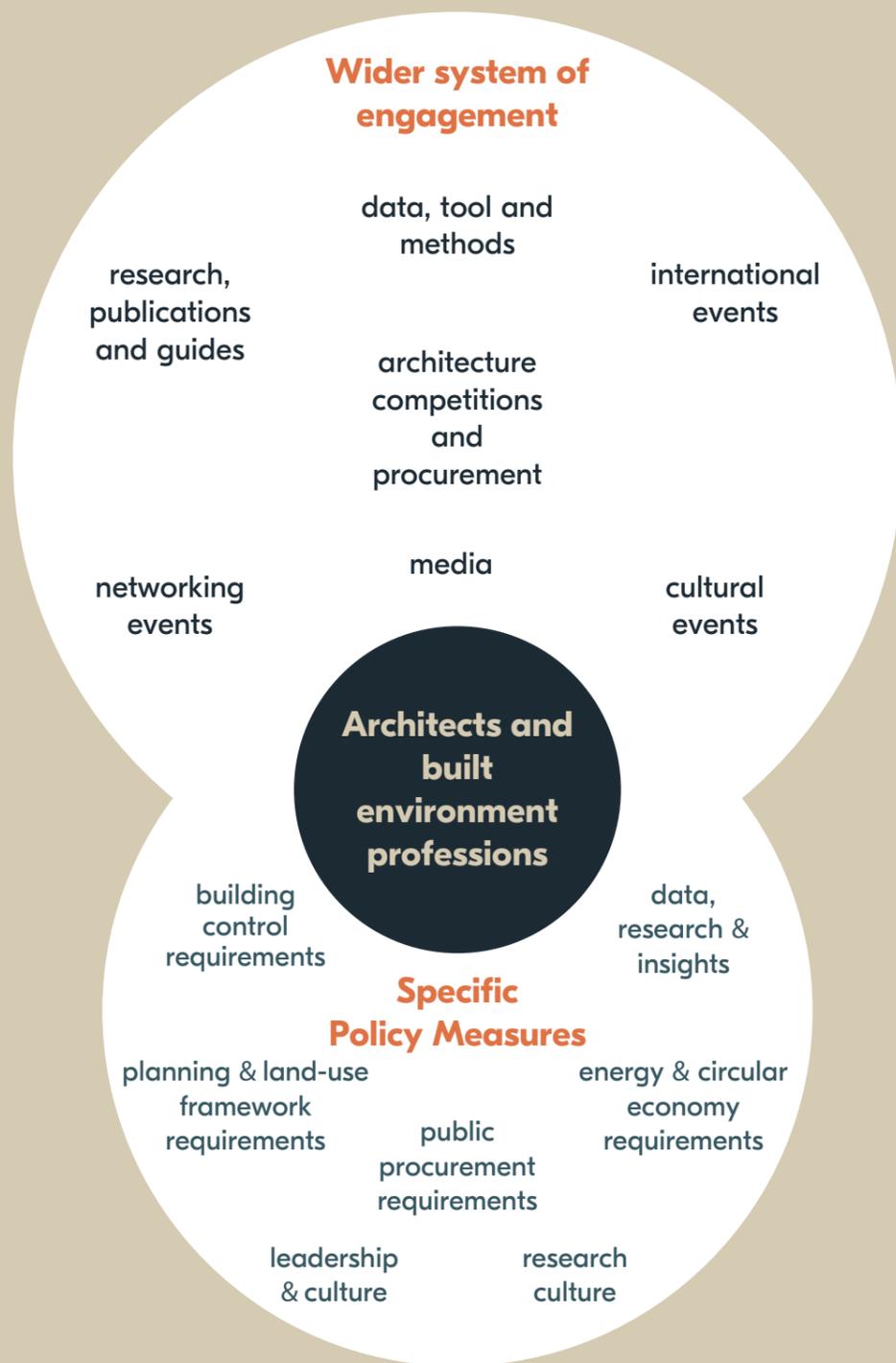


Photo: by Ste Murray (c) Irish Architecture Foundation



Nano Nagle Place - Masterplan for South Presentation Convent, Cork, by JCA Architects. RIAI Urban Design and Masterplanning Award 2020. Photo by Clare Keogh

What we heard when consulting.

The objectives outlined in the document were developed in response to the public consultant submissions. What we heard with respect to each objective is noted below.

Objective 1 - Design places for climate neutrality, climate resilience, circularity and sustainability

In our dialogue with the public and stakeholders, we clearly heard the need to develop a “whole of government” approach that recognises the interrelationships between the National Policy on Architecture and other related policies dealing with climate change, climate action and sustainable development.

Some of the key issues emerging through the responses include:

- **Address sustainability and climate change through design for quality, durability, longevity, retrofit and reuse** - Emission reduction and energy performance can be achieved through better quality design, ensuring durability and longevity of new and existing buildings, scaling-up retrofit where suitable, and considering reuse and refurbishment as an overarching low-carbon strategy.
- **Design for climate adaptation & climate mitigation** - Both climate mitigation and climate adaptation should be addressed.
- **Build capacity across and within education, research and skills development** - For a deeper integration of climate into architectural practice there is a need to build capacity, specific skills and research, particularly across areas such as life cycle assessment and full life cycle costing.

- **Consider people, communities and publics** - The social dimension of climate, sustainability and resilience must be considered. This included “outcome/hardware” perspectives in terms of sustainable communities as well as “process/software” issues in terms of participation, co-creation, behavioural change and enhanced public engagement.
- **Work with and reforming policies, governance, regulations, standards and structures** - There is a need to work with and better align to existing policies, regulations, standards while having consideration to the governance structures that support these.
- **Ensure more holistic consideration of materials, resources & circularity** - Within discussions on climate there is a need to holistically consider sustainable materials, ‘traditional materials’, waste, embodied carbon and circularity.

Objective 2 - Design quality architecture and spaces for everyone

In our dialogue with the public and stakeholders, we clearly heard the need to make Irish architecture play a more visible role in Irish society and for the value of the architects’ roles in design and delivery of buildings and places, but also in helping others to imagine and be creative, to be more widely known.

Some of the other key issues emerging through the responses include:

- **Government and public sector have a leadership role** – There is a clear leadership role for government and the public sector. The different models of leadership can be examined e.g. government as a curator and facilitator, open leadership, partnership approach.

- **Government can create the conditions for change e.g. Setting standards, offering incentives, communicating a sense of momentum** - creating the conditions for change and sending a “strong signal from the top” by advancing standards, intervening with appropriate incentives and creating a sense of momentum behind quality architecture and built environment.
- **Invest in advocacy for and promotion of architecture** - where government and key organisation advocate for and promote the value of architecture to commissioners and the wider public.
- **Build an architecture research culture in Ireland** - Overcoming existing barriers to architecture research in Ireland (research priorities, funding). Establishing a research body.
- **Develop appropriate incentives & advocacy for maintenance, restoration, renovation and re-purposing of architectural heritage**
- **Build capacity in the area of building conservation maintenance and repair**, including through expansion of Architectural Conservation Officer to all local authorities, a historic buildings committee to highlight cultural patterns in the built environment
- **Improve knowledge systems and data** - Improving access to data relevant to architectural research and practice (e.g. inventory of architectural heritage and digital database of architectural details and material culture).
- **Build capacity around construction skills, craftsmanship, conservation work with vernacular architecture** - Building practical capabilities for innovation.

Objective 3 - Advocate for leadership to prioritise quality architectural outcomes

In our dialogue with the public and stakeholders, it was evident that there is an unmet demand for leadership across architecture and the built environment and this leadership will drive the success of a future National Policy on Architecture and other national policies such as Project Ireland 2040, Climate Action Plan 2019 and the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland.

There was no common framing of “leadership” but the responses indicated a need for the National Policy on Architecture to consider multi-level governance (e.g. between central and local government) as well as distributed governance where government and policy plays a stronger coordinating role between public, intermediary and private sector governance i.e. considering the important role of sector representative bodies and intermediary organisations.

A key function of leadership by government should be advancing and improving the systems of procurement, commissioning, architectural competitions, refining and future proofing standards and regulations, providing guidance and oversight, and playing a strong advocacy and promotion role.

Another perspective on the topic of leadership, was the possibility of Irish architecture playing a more visible role in Irish society and for the value of the architects to be more widely understood.

Some of the key issues emerging through the responses include:

- **Invest in advocacy for and promotion of architecture** - Where government advocates for and promote the value of architecture to commissioners and the wider public.

- **Reform procurement, including greater use of architectural competitions** - improving procurement and expressing leadership through improved commissioning of high-quality architecture.
- **Fund specific initiatives in response to emerging issues e.g. Networking, platforms** - supporting delivery through the development, enablement and promotion of key platforms, networks, policy programmes and the thematic initiatives.

Objective 4 - Foster cultural awareness of architecture as both art and science, which adds value for people, place and planet

In our dialogue with the public, national stakeholders and the advisory group, we clearly heard the importance of considering the interrelationship between buildings, structures and space in creating places that are desirable and viable to live, work in and visit.

There was also an awareness of the importance of quality design and architecture in ensuring that quality places have net positive social, environmental and economic impact (even if not always expressed in terms of wellbeing).

The responses suggested that this is contingent on investment in an appropriate regulatory frameworks and planning system alongside political and investor will.

While there was no clear guidance on measuring the “wellbeing effects” of place, there was a clear role for quality places to impact on physical health by enabling active travel, access to green and blue spaces and creating the conditions for social connection and conviviality.

Some of the key issues emerging through the responses include:

- **Develop innovative and long lasting approaches to a resources for participation, co-production and consultation** - providing resources to public engagement and considering the various levels of engagement from consultation, co-production and community-led initiatives.
- **Promote more coherent and integrated definitions of quality places** – There are still a number of interrelated and sometimes conflicting frameworks used to define “quality” in public spaces. Diverse themes and criteria were used to define approaches to quality placemaking e.g. unique sense of place; livability; mobility, accessibility, permeability, transport; viability and vibrancy, use of materials, decluttering, maintenance; collaboration; consultation; masterplanning approach. The National Policy on Architecture can work towards co-creating a shared understanding through a national framework.
- **Enhance the role of local authorities & promoting roles within local authorities** - The critical role of local authorities in terms of being at the front line of national and local policy delivery, investing in and procuring built environment and public realm and the human resources available e.g. Municipal District Architects, Architectural Conservation Officers.
- **Create platforms and networks for knowledge exchange** – The need to create platforms and network for dialogue e.g. between architecture, urban design and planning.
- **Clarify linkages between quality placemaking, climate and sustainability** – The role of nature-based solutions and green infrastructure.
- **Embed principles of universal design and accessibility** - The need to make universal design an explicit consideration.



IAE National Architects in Schools Annual Exhibition Waterford Festival of Architecture 2018 photo by Ste Murray.

Linking to previous policies.

The actions below are categorised as 'learn', 'link', 'lever', 'lead' and/or 'legislate'. Learn actions are about capacity and building the knowledge base through formal education or research. Link actions are about communication, outwards and within the architecture ecosystem. Lever actions bring Learn and Link actions together. Lead actions are about embedding responsibility for quality architecture at the highest levels. Legislate actions are for situations which require a formal political mandate.

The rows outlining "Government Policy on Architecture 2009 - 2015 Desired Outcomes" are based on a review of this policy and organised under the five themes of the 2019 National Policy on Architecture discussion document.

OBJECTIVE 1 - Design places for climate neutrality, climate resilience, circularity and sustainability			
AIM - To prioritise and support the integration of sustainable practices in architecture with respect to both new builds and refurbishment and conservation projects			
Government Policy on Architecture 2009 - 2015 Desired Outcomes	Targeting built environment fiscal interventions to needs of climate and society	Enabling local and regional structures and steps to support resilience in place-making and create a circular built environment economy	Demonstrating best sustainability practice in climate adaptation and mitigation for built environment professionals
National Policy on Architecture Consultation Themes	Designing for climate resilience and sustainability		
Government Policy on Architecture 2009 - 2015 Desired Outcomes	Resourcing public sector architectural heritage personnel, structures, databases and guidance that support sustainable decision-making by public and private sector	Improving knowledge and best practice in working with traditional buildings by producing technical guidance documents	
National Policy on Architecture Consultation Themes	Respecting our past, shaping our future		
National Policy on Architecture Action Areas	Provide appropriate guidelines on the energy upgrading, repair and adaptation of the existing building stock	Learn	
	Support green, sustainable and circular public procurement across the built environment through advocacy, regulation, guidelines and training	Link, Legislate	
	Set public procurement requirements for and access to sustainability/ climate tools and methods	Lever, Legislate	
	Set out the design requirements for a built environment circular economy strategy	Lever	
	Develop clear and consistent reporting around EU level frameworks, EU policies, programmes and directives	Lead	
	Support the enhancement of national data sets in relation to sustainability and climate impacts of built environment	Learn	
	Support the Project Ireland 2040 Delivery Board to coordinate actions around sustainability across the built environment	Lead, lever	

OBJECTIVE 2 - Design Quality Architecture and Spaces for Everyone			
AIM - To deliver quality architecture, planned and designed with wide engagement and accessible to all, in rural areas and villages, towns, cities and suburbia as an essential element of social sustainability			
Government Policy on Architecture 2009 - 2015 Desired Outcomes	Supporting consistently high quality architecture and place-making outcomes using collaborative processes and practices	Demonstrating the multiple benefits of architectural leadership for environment, culture, society and economy	Making sustainable structures and networks that lead and support information generation and exchange and showcase quality
National Policy on Architecture Consultation Themes	Designing quality places for public benefit		
National Policy on Architecture Action Areas	Provide enhanced support to formal and informal education programmes, including public awareness	Learn & Link	
	Fund specific initiatives in response to emerging issues e.g. networking through physical and digital platforms, which support cross-sectoral and public engagement	Link, Lever	
	Establish panels/fora to advise on quality, sustainability, universality, participation in architecture and excellence in placemaking	Link, Lead	
	Publish guidance on master-planning and conservation planning models and best practices	Lever, Lead	

	OBJECTIVE 3 - Advocate for leadership to prioritise quality architectural outcomes			
	AIM - to encourage leadership within the public sector and across the architectural community, to support the delivery of high-quality built environment policies, programmes and projects			
Government Policy on Architecture 2009 - 2015 Desired Outcomes	Integrating architectural quality drivers within public procurement	Strengthening roles, functions and effectiveness of public service architects	Strengthening public sector leadership capacity through collaborative information exchange and design and placemaking tools and guides	
National Policy on Architecture Consultation Themes	Leadership (regulatory change, policy and guidance)			
Government Policy on Architecture 2009 - 2015 Desired Outcomes	Designing sector-led, interdisciplinary, public sector architectural and built environment lifelong learning and continuous improvement, through CPD, upskilling training and award schemes	Operating a circular feedback loop between knowledge generation, practice and innovation – also relates to Objective 4	Designing public procurement to support best quality and sustainability standards in the built environment and broaden routes to architect participation	Coordinating programmes supporting architects in creative learning and critical practice – also relates to Objective 4
National Policy on Architecture Consultation Themes	Knowledge and innovation (regulation, guidance and knowledge exchange for developing best practices)			
National Policy on Architecture Action Areas	Use public projects to drive innovation and research e.g. through private sector and higher education institute partnerships			Lever, Lead
	Improve cooperation between sectors and disciplines			Link
	Strengthen the presence and voice of local authority architects and architectural conservation officers to promote leadership and architectural quality across local authority functions			Lead
	Review, define and advocate for the role of state and county architects, particularly in terms of delivery and oversight of this policy			Lead, lever
	Advocate for and promote the role of architecture in planning			Link, Learn
	Ensure that governance and oversight of the policy is transparent and involves key state agencies			Lead
	Review effectiveness of current procurement procedures, including the Capital Works Management Framework			Legislate

	OBJECTIVE 4 - Foster cultural awareness of architecture as both art and science, which adds value for people, place and planet			
	AIM - to promote architecture as an art form and for the contribution it makes to the form, character and health of places, communities and livelihoods. Expanding and sharing knowledge about architecture increases public interest and inspires creativity and innovation			
Government Policy on Architecture 2009 - 2015 Desired Outcomes	Creating a collaborative, sector-wide architecture research body, enhancing stem research and integrating design culture to advance innovation objectives	Including architecture and built environment curricular content and delivery capacity at first and second level education	Developing and running architecture schools' design challenge programmes	Enhancing construction site training and architectural awareness in apprenticeships
National Policy on Architecture Consultation Themes	Knowledge and innovation (research and formal education / training)			
Government Policy on Architecture 2009 - 2015 Desired Outcomes	Providing national and local physical and virtual facilities for raising awareness of architecture	Applying architectural and built environment cultural and creative thinking to innovation	Spreading interest in architecture and the built environment	
National Policy on Architecture Consultation Themes	Knowledge and innovation (promotion / public awareness)			
National Policy on Architecture Action Areas	Develop, support and sustain the infrastructure of engagement to foster a culture and desire for architecture, this includes through public and cultural institutions			Link, Learn
	Establish a repository of built environment research			Learn
	Formalise an architectural research culture by establishing a research body e.g. Research Council, independent or embedded in existing research councils			Learn
	Develop an education forum for the construction industry, professional bodies and educational institutions			Learn, Link
	Enable and encourage academic, practitioner and society partnerships and collaborations			Lever, Lead
	Improve national architectural and cultural heritage data systems			Learn, Link

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Photo: BMX Skate Park Ballyfermot Co designed by Relational Urbanism and Local BMX Group, Irish Architecture Foundation and Dublin City Council (c) Irish Architecture Foundation 2020

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