ARCHITECTS OUT!

SPOTLIGHTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EARLY CAREER ARCHITECTS

‘Architects Out!’ spotlights the rich and varied contributions of Early Career Architects across the architectural landscape. From built work and competition entries to photography, illustration and conceptual explorations—this exhibition will display a diverse range of outputs that reflect the multifaceted nature of contemporary architectural practice.

The exhibition is being curated by the RSUA’s Early Career Architects Forum (ECAF) with the support of the RIBA Local Initiative Fund, JP Corry, Ridgeway and S McConnell & Sons Stone.

Contributors:

- Beth Mogey
- Brian Maguire
- Ciaran Magee
- David Magennis
- Fergal Rainey
- Jenny Spiers
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- William Brady
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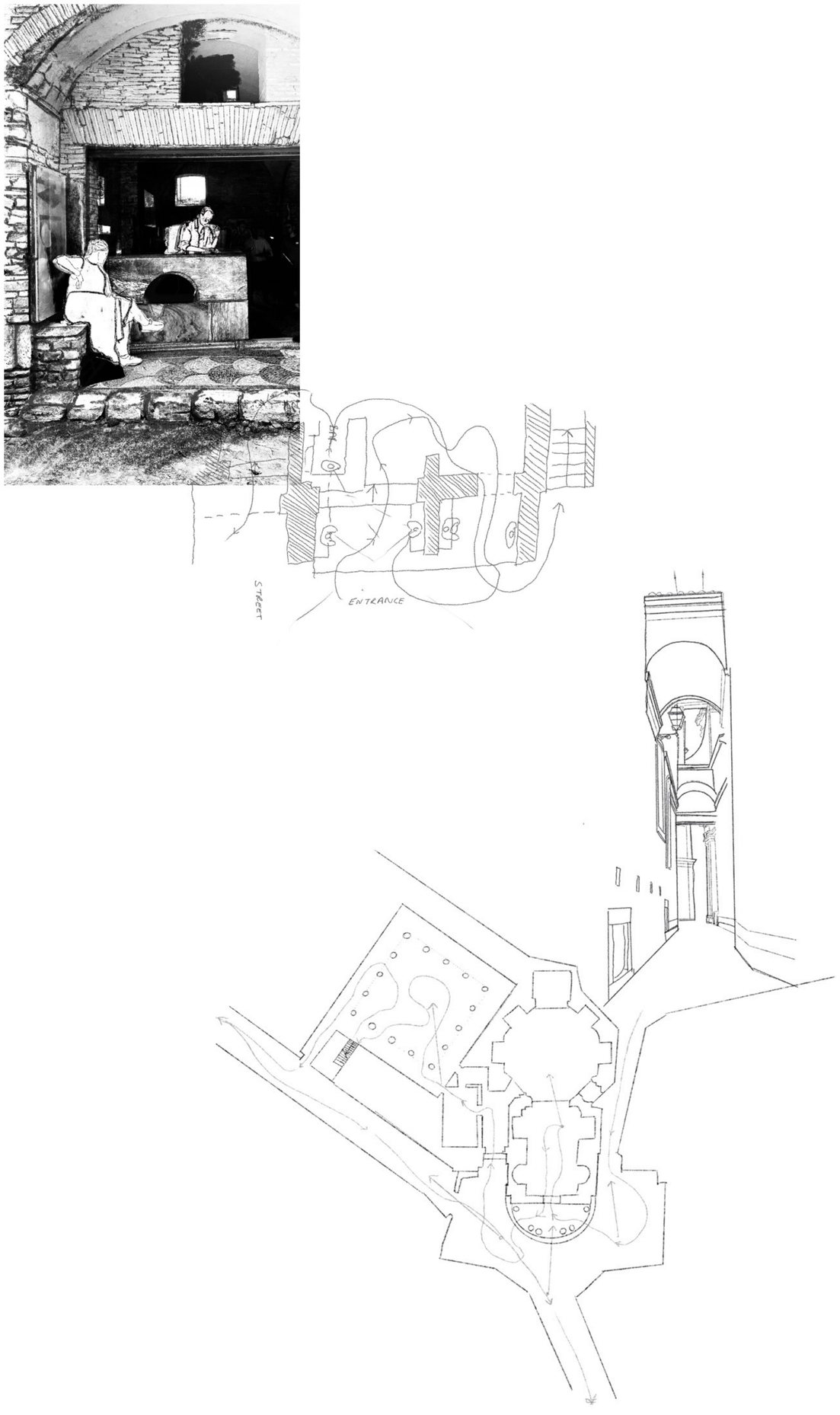

Top: Sketch - A Ruin of a Bar, Ostia
Bottom: Sketch - Church of Santa Maria della Pace by Pietro da Cortona



Model - “A Moment in Rome” watercolour model photographed on the Noili Map

Beth Mogey

Beth Mogey is a London-based architect who graduated with a Master’s in Architecture from Queen’s University in 2022. During her studies, she co-founded QCAN, an initiative focused on promoting climate action. Beth’s professional experience spans both the UK and internationally. Additionally, she has participated in a summer school at the British School at Rome and has also represented Ireland at the European Architecture Student Assembly (EASA)

The work being exhibited is a watercolour model accompanied by photos and sketches, created during a week-long study trip hosted by the British School at Rome and led by architects Sheila O’Donnell and John Tuomey. Alongside twelve emerging designers, I explored Rome’s rich, layered history through daily walks mapped onto the Nolli Plan, investigating the “in-between” spaces of the city. From Borromini’s baroque interiors and the Pantheon’s iconic walls to ancient landmarks such as Ostia and Trajan’s Market, the trip provided a deep exploration of how these spaces have evolved over time. The resulting work, sketches, photos and a watercolour model - reinterprets the city’s complex spatial narratives and the architectural history that continues to shape Rome’s identity.

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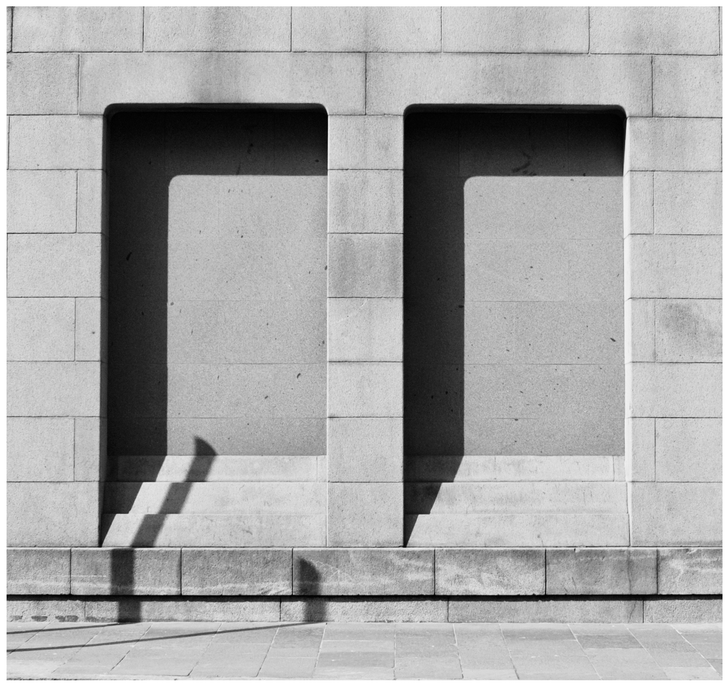
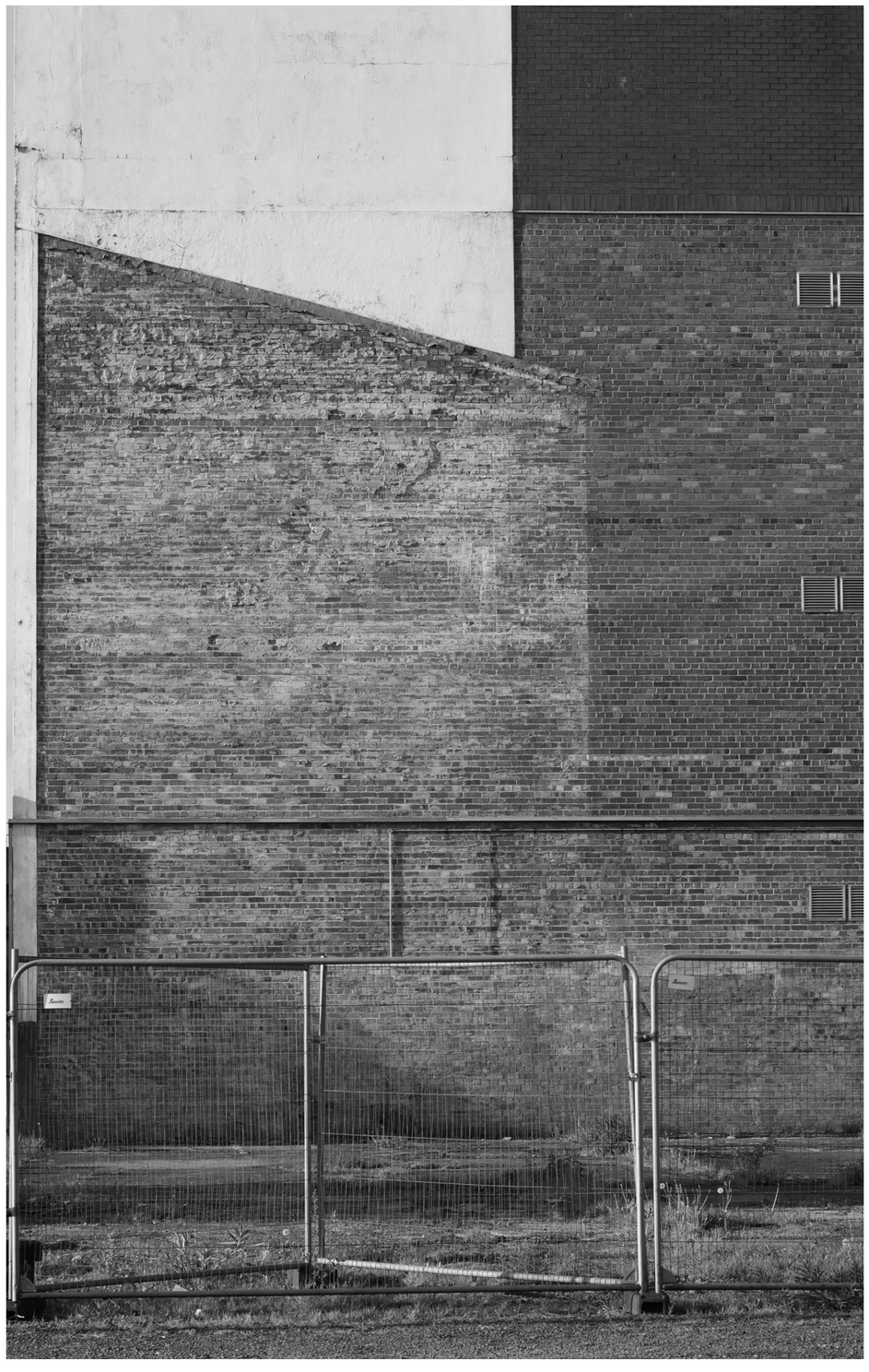




Top to Bottom:

Interior of the old Bank of Ireland Building.
Telephone House Belfast exterior detail.
Interior of Harbour Commissioners Office



Wall textures, Cathedral Quarter



City Hospital Tower

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Brian Maguire

Brian Maguire completed his Part 3 in 2019 and has since worked in a number of private practices of varying scale before joining CPD later that same year. He has been involved in a range of conservation projects across Northern Ireland. Since 2022, Brian has been working within Estates at National Museums NI, leading projects in a client-side role.

The photographs presented are a selection taken by Brian Maguire over the past decade in and around Belfast. His work focuses on documenting places that are often inaccessible to the general public, capturing views from unexpected vantage points and highlighting the overlooked textures and details of the city. His photographic influences include Lewis Baltz and Hélène Binet.



The Millennial Home by Ciaran Magee

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Ciaran Magee

Ciaran Magee is an architect with Hall Black Douglas in Belfast, having qualified in 2023. Working on a broad range of projects, he has a special interest in retrofit schemes.

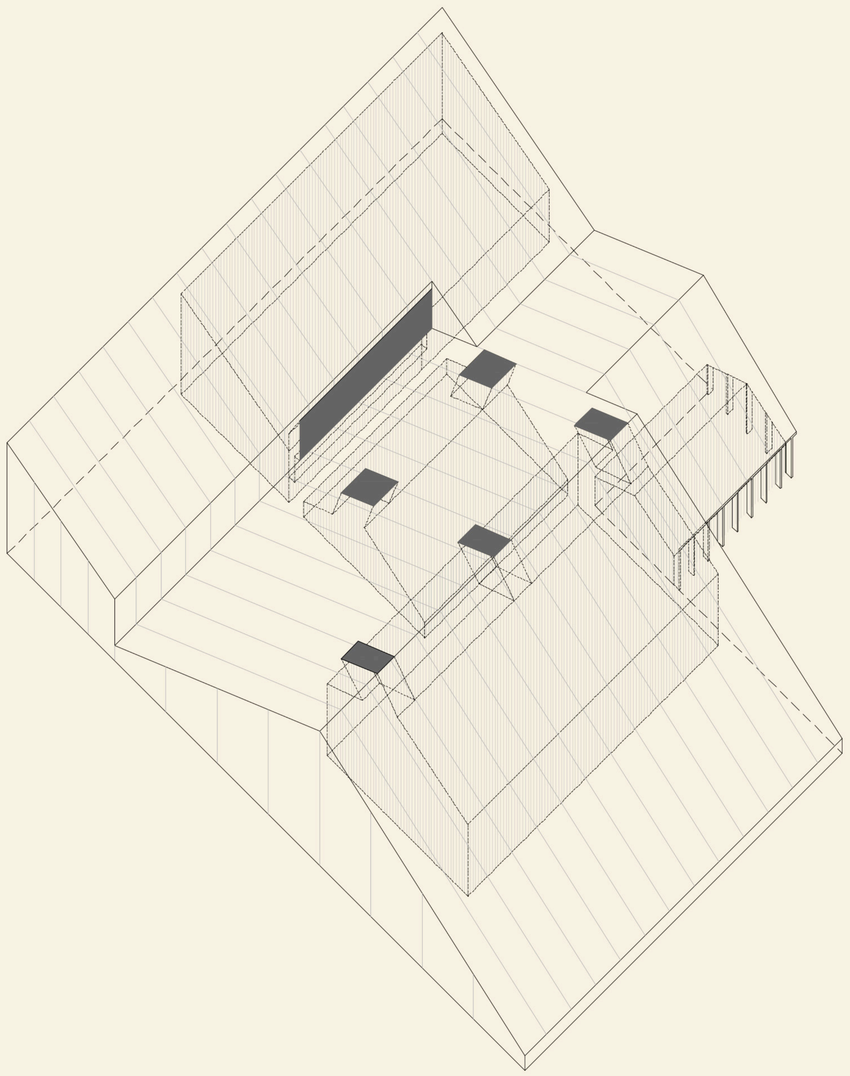
Ciaran's previous experience includes working with Allies and Morrison and Reed Watts Architects in London, and Hall McKnight in Belfast.

The Millennial Home was created as an entry to a competition hosted during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The brief called for a single piece of artwork which imagines how workplaces and homes could be transformed following the pandemic.

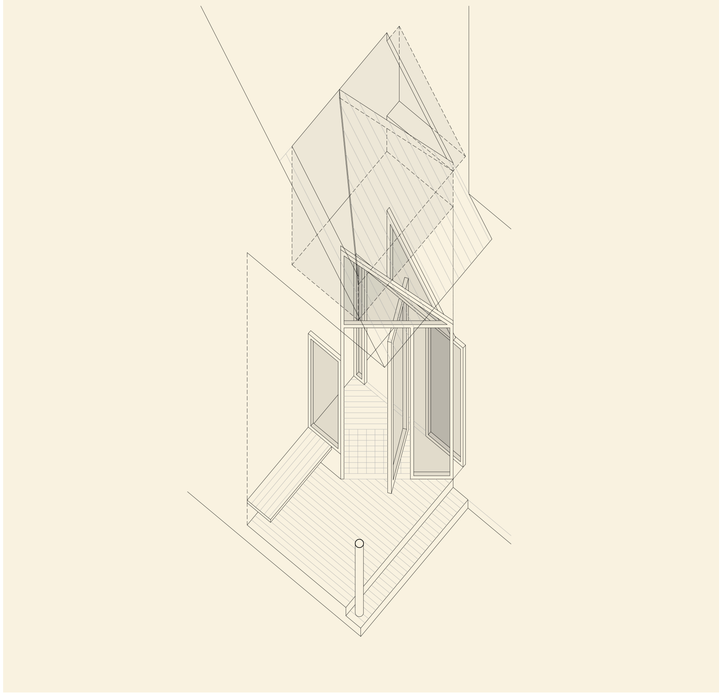
The hand-drawn work was accompanied by a short narrative telling the story of Jack, a millennial living and working under lockdown in a shared flat with no communal or amenity space. To combat their declining mental health, they have sub-divided their room into spaces for work, relaxation, activity, and sleep. As they are renting, the intervention operates as a single piece of demountable furniture, constructed at the scale of the room.

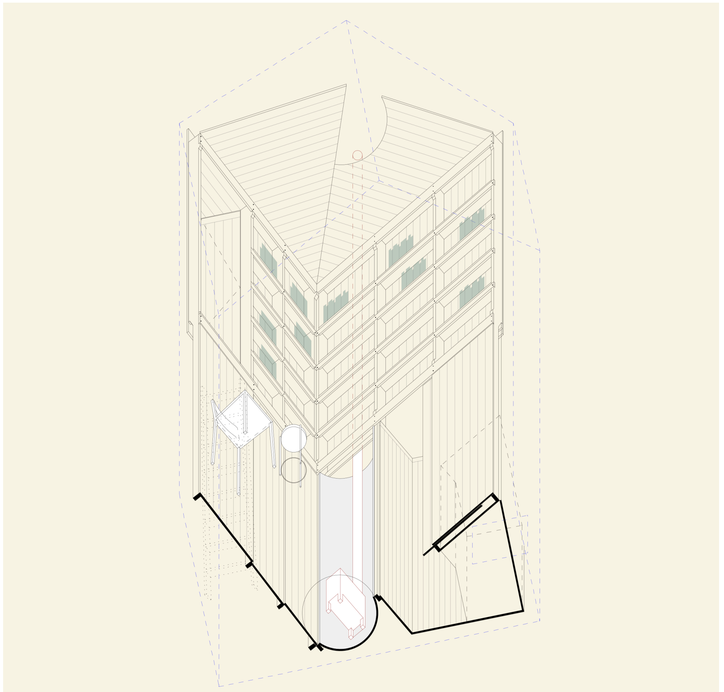
The piece is a reworking of MC Escher's Hand With Reflecting Sphere, while the design of the intervention takes inspiration from sources including Antonello da Messina's St Jerome in his Study, and the autoprogettazione works of Enzo Mari.

The Millennial Home was awarded first prize in the competition.



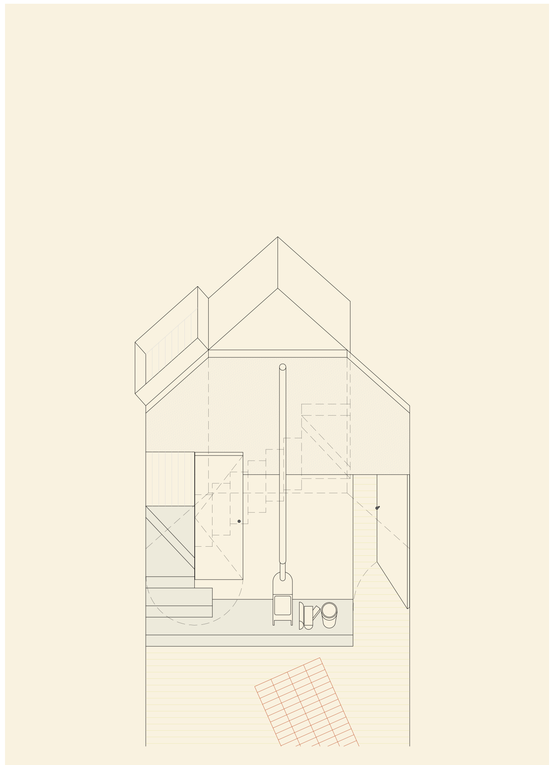
Conversion of commercial warehouse to office space. Utilising found space within the portal frame and composite metal systematised roof to create rooms of light within the deep plan.





Top: The de-constructing of the interior of a porch, creating voids for skylights both externally and internally. Below the geometry of the new is used to create an enclosed porch.

Bottom: A library insertion, site unconfirmed upon a larger complex of farm sheds.



A Staircase in a cupboard, within the space of a lost fireplace. Unlocking the attic and realising the volume of the living space.

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David Magennis

David (b.1991) is an architect and educator. Having trained at Queen's Belfast, David runs GAAN Architects between Ireland and Hong Kong. The work focuses on projects which are deeply engaged with place and construction, this is supported by research and teaching conducted through his role as lecturer in the University of Hong Kong.

The project proposed is a series of axonometric drawings. These explore the idea of finding or carving volume from existing spaces. Our work is often within generic buildings, through carefully deconstructing these we rework the spaces found within. Working to open up the structures, correcting the original.

The drawings presented were all made as a key part of understanding how to unlock these spaces, and are essential to our design process. Presented as design tools. The inherent qualities of the space, its construction and material are all possible to be fully explored and tested through these drawings. Through their abstraction and focused nature they allow for a greater control of geometry and structural logic. This idea of reconstructing found volume is a recurring within our work.

The images included are a small sample, we suggest a number of these are presented on a low surface, collectively in the same format allowing the impact of the methodolgy be understood.



Front Elevation Day Time



Side Elevation Gable.



Side Elevation at Dusk

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Fergal Rainey

Fergal, an Architect with McGurk Architects, blends innovative design with a passion for sustainability and regeneration. Recognised as RSUA Project Architect of the Year 2022, his award-winning retrofit and community projects - like Áras Uí Chonghaile - demonstrate his commitment to impactful, value-driven architecture that enriches lives and environments.

Áras Uí Chonghaile / James Connolly Visitor Centre

Winner of the Liam McCormick Building of the Year Award 2022 – is a transformative reuse of a derelict Victorian twin-terrace on Belfast's Falls Road. Just yards from Connolly's former home, the centre celebrates his legacy through architecture that blends heritage with innovation.

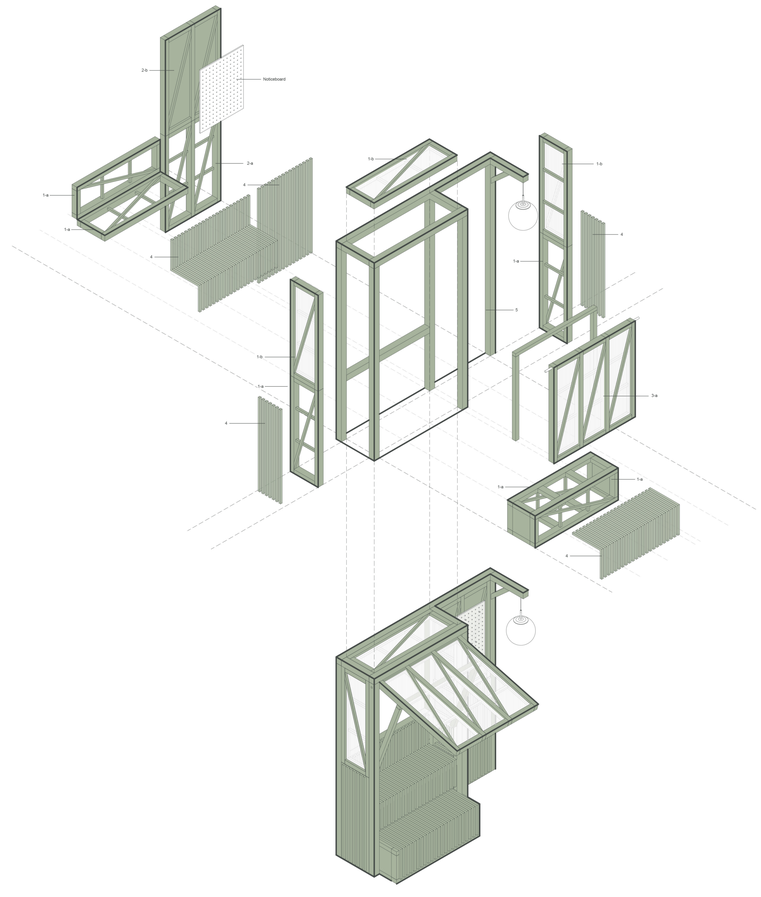
McGurk Architects adapted the existing structure with crafted sensitivity, retaining exposed materials to prioritise a striking corten steel extension, whose perforated surface subtly reveals Connolly's face—echoing Belfast's mural tradition without overpowering the streetscape. This steel references the city's industrial roots and Connolly's fight for workers' rights.

Inside, four exhibition spaces, a bilingual museum, café, library, and conferencing suite provide a rich cultural experience. A stepped section and dappled south light through the corten screen enhance the main gallery.

Completed in just six months on a £760k budget, the centre is now a vital heritage destination and economic asset to West Belfast.







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Jenny Speirs, Adrienne Campbell and William Brady

Jenny Speirs, Adrienne Campbell, and William Brady are architects, joining the ARB Register between 2020 and 2023. Graduates of Queen's University Belfast and based in Northern Ireland, they share a passion for community-driven design and are dedicated to creating thoughtful, impactful architecture that connects people and enriches everyday places.

The Shed - RSUA Design Competition Winner 2024

The brief for the competition was to design a collapsible shelter for one of Belfast's many underutilised alleyways.

The Shed was designed to act as a catalyst for the community-led regeneration of Iris Alley, with the intention of transforming it into a vibrant urban green space.

The final design was developed in close collaboration with local residents, ensuring it reflected their needs and aspirations. As a modular structure, the Shed includes a workbench, seating, a folding canopy, and a noticeboard, encouraging green activity, social interaction, and creative exchange.

The construction process itself became a platform for hands-on skill development, fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and relationships across generations and backgrounds.

The Shed now stands as a replicable and sustainable model for community-led regeneration in underused shared spaces, proving that even overlooked areas can inspire connection and new traditions







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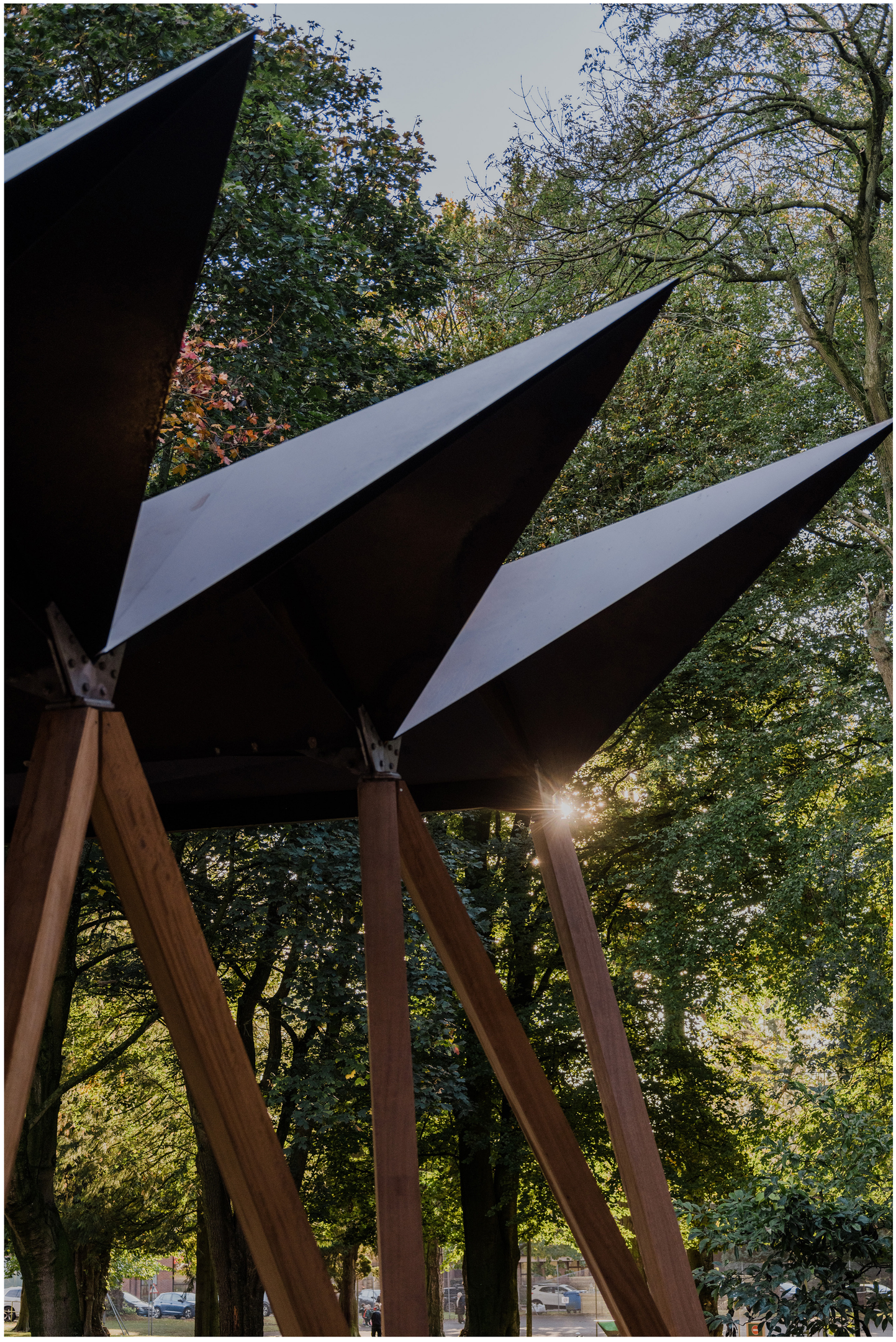
Joel Jamieson

Since joining Doherty Architects in 2022, I've focused on refining my design voice and pushing creative boundaries. Having designed Moneymore Nursery as a student, to seeing it completed in 2025 as a qualified architect was a defining experience that deepened my passion for thoughtful, user-focused design rooted in context, purpose, and detail.

Moneymore Nursery is a modular unit designed with the key design objective to challenge the conventional aesthetic commonly associated with modular buildings. While modular construction offers clear advantages, i.e. rapid assembly, reduced on-site disruption, and minimal noise pollution to the school environment, its standardised form can often result in buildings that feel temporary, utilitarian, and disconnected from their community context.

This project sought to reframe that perception by demonstrating that modular construction need not come at the expense of architectural quality, identity, or a sense of place. A key example is the use of white render to counter the temporary appearance often associated to modular buildings. Research-informed colour choices include cladding panels that transition into louvres at the covered play area, making it a playful, engaging architectural element that not only promotes wellbeing but helps to create a place that aligns with the educational needs and experiences of young children.



Photography images of 1774 Pavilion by Joe Laverty



Photography images of 1774 Pavilion by Joe Laverty

Katie Stringer

Katie is an architect in Belfast. She graduated from the University of Bath and earned her MArch with First Class Honours from Queen's University Belfast. Joining Studio idir in 2019, she has since delivered residential, education and community engagement projects, and won the RSUA Rising Star Award in 2025.

1774 Pavilion, Friends' School Lisburn

This outdoor performance and learning space for a Quaker grammar school emerged in the post-covid, outdoor learning landscape. The client wished for the structure to be both functional and an artwork in its own right. Our team collaborated with the school, conducting initial workshops with students to engage their imaginations and understand their preferences. A competition and factory site visit was also arranged, for technology students, during the manufacturing stage.

The pavilion design draws inspiration from the school's Quaker heritage; deconstructing the 8-pointed Quaker star into its constituent parts and tessellating them back together to form the distinctive roof profile. Corten steel provides a weatherproof, zero-maintenance finish with its characteristic rusty appearance that can be enjoyed from all angles, including above, from adjacent school buildings. Iroko-clad angular steel posts rise from six base points and fold together to support the roof structure.

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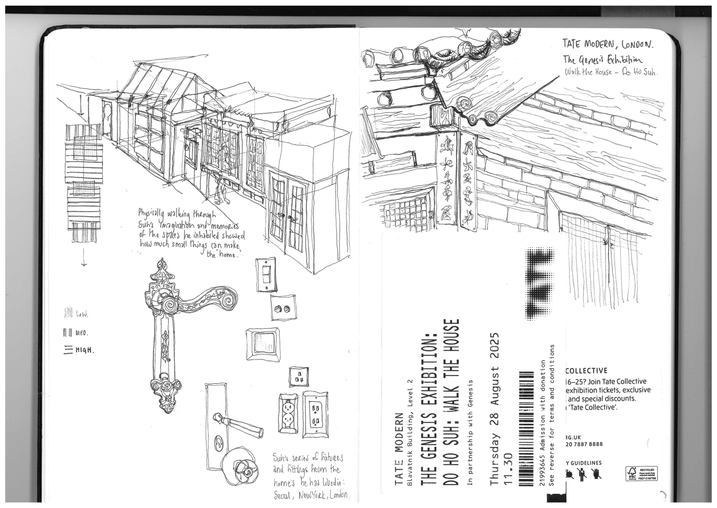



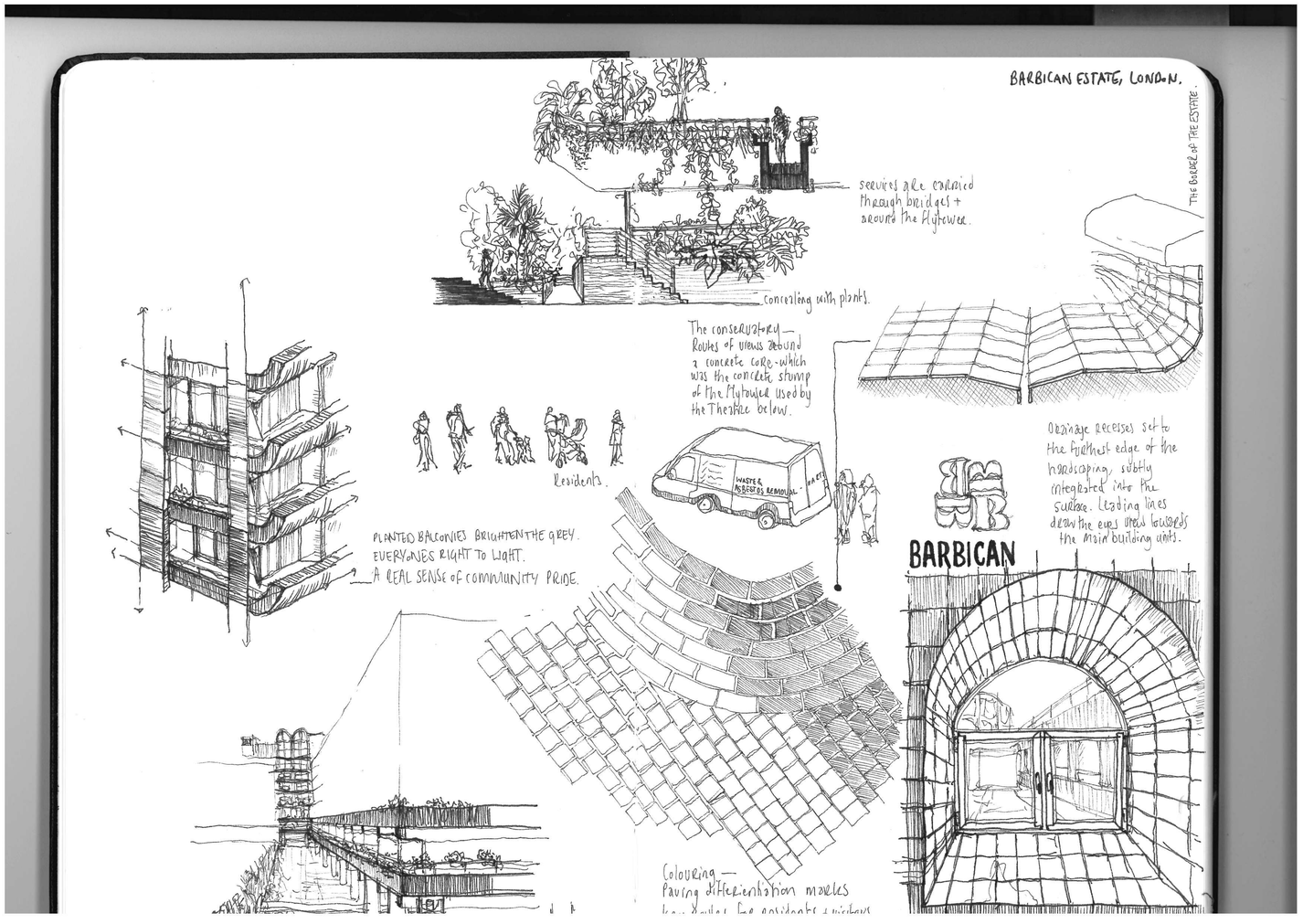

Lara Magee

Lara Magee believes that both people and architects grow through lived and learned experiences, with her own shaped by time spent in Belfast, Madrid, and beyond.

Recently qualified as an architect, she is currently enjoying the opportunity to slow down and reflect—finding value in the quieter moments spent with a sketchbook, a pen, and the surrounding spaces.

This project is an ever-evolving and deepening exploration for Lara Magee, renewed with each opening of the sketchbook. Whether in a new city, an unfamiliar place, or somewhere well known, the sketchbook holds a permanent place in her bag offering a continual opportunity to review, learn, and reflect.

The most recent collection of works emerged from a series of city breaks over the summer, capturing the charm of Venice's magical islands and discovering fresh perspectives in the familiar streets of London. From sketching in a quiet piazza just steps from a bustling tourist route, to stumbling upon hidden wine bars tucked beneath bridges,,thresholds that reveal entirely new worlds, each drawing is a response to the richness of place.

For Lara, exploring spaces previously known only in two dimensions becomes a layered, tactile experience. This ongoing project serves as an intimate means of connecting with her lived and learned experiences through a medium often overlooked.

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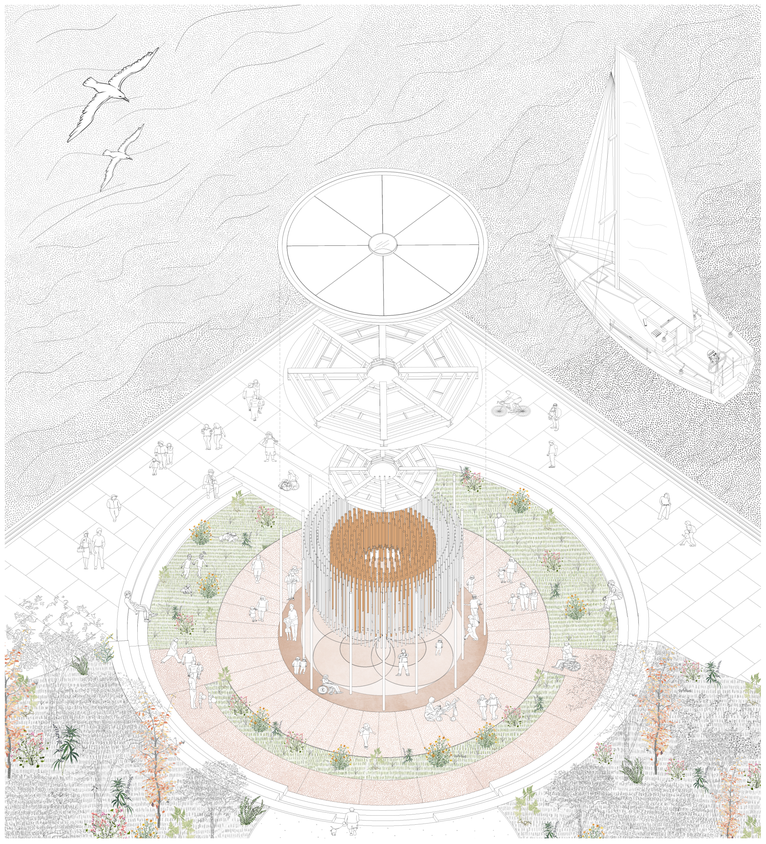
Photography by Joe Laverty



Photography by Joe Laverty



Axonometirc by Matthew Kernan

Matthew Kernan

Matthew is a registered Architect in the UK with ARB & RIBA having completed his studies in Queens University Belfast. During this time, Matthew's work has been published and exhibited internationally as well as winning several awards including the RIAI Master Thesis excellence award & the RIBA Eyeline award.

Professionally, he has gained experience at leading Architectural studios working at a variety of scales, including Foster + Partners, Clancy Moore, and most recently ALWA.

SoundYard was the winning project of the 2019 RSUA Early Career Architects Competition. It was won jointly by Eunan Deeney, Matthew Kernan & Hannah Wilson whilst Part II Students. The Project completed on site in 2021 and has been operational since.

An instrument, a playground, a theatre, a stage, a museum, a sculpture, a room.

SoundYard was conceived as a piece of societal infrastructure offered to the city as a place to gather around and gather within. The installation was designed to encourage collaborative interaction, a place of play, performance and learning.

We drew our inspiration for SoundYard from the industrial nostalgia of Belfast's docklands and the vibrancy of a bygone era. Our response was to create an inclusive play structure which houses a sonic installation to celebrate the legacy of the area and provide a subtle reminder of the harbour's significant industrial heritage.

The installation is located on the sunken grass area adjacent to the Odyssey along the Maritime Mile within the Titanic Quarter. We felt the particular nuances of this location offered us the opportunity to create an installation that would connect the edges of the city, forming a visual and sonic interaction across the River Lagan. Working along the periphery of the Abercorn Basin Marina allowed us to form a very modest part of Belfast's skyline.

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Photography by G.G Archard

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Niall McAleenan

Niall studied Architecture at Queens University Belfast and the University of Bath, graduating with a BSc First Class Hons, a Masters degree and a Certificate in Professional Practice.

After graduating in 2013, Niall worked with a number of design-led practices, delivering large scale masterplans with Stirling Prize winning Architects McCreanor Lavington and award winning one-off houses with McLean Quinlan Architects.

Established in 2020, Niall McAleenan Architects has a strong focus on domestic architecture, crafting homes which respond to vernacular traditions, local materials and actively engage with their surroundings

Warren View House

Warren View is a two-storey family home located in rural Hampshire.

Built in the 1930s, a series of previous extensions and alterations had resulted in an inefficient layout, unconducive to modern family living.

The client's brief sought to improve spatial fluidity, relocate the front entrance, increase the size of the main living spaces and enhance the connection between the house and its rural context.

To the south, a new single storey extension was introduced. Here, a reconfigured living/kitchen/ dining space exploits stretching views of the Hampshire countryside, while bespoke oak framed sliding doors grant access to a raised brick terrace overlooking the garden.

On the first floor, a hip to gable conversion provides a vaulted ceiling to the master bedroom suite, with new timber windows framing views of the rolling hills.

The precast concrete parapet of the extension warps to the east where it forms a new canopy over the repositioned front door. Internally, the relocation of the staircase to the centre of the plan improves circulation, allowing axial routes to align with glazed doors and slot windows, providing stretching views and filling the space with natural light.

To the rear, a new two storey extension accommodates a wellness suite on the ground floor and an ensuite bedroom at first floor level, both overlooking a mature wood to the north.

The choice of external materials was informed by the local palette. The existing 1930s brickwork was lime washed and new tumbled red bricks set in lime mortar were used for the extensions. The precast concrete banding has been acid etched to expose aggregates which reference flint coursing, a prominent feature on buildings in the nearby village of Sparsholt.

Internally, every detail was considered. Warm oak flooring, minimalist hardware, soft furnishings and a muted colour palette come together to create a calm and comfortable environment.







Top: An Apology to the West - Shankhill Regeneration
Middle: Armagh Mall - Gaol Connection
Bottom: Bangor - A Seaside City



Derry Central Waterfront Regeneration Project.

Paul McCreanor

Paul McCreanor is an architect and urban designer with six years of post-Part 3 experience at McCreanor Company Architects. Educated at Queen's University Belfast, he is currently pursuing a Master's in City Planning and Urban Design. His work focuses on the design of streets, squares, and public spaces that foster connection, support sustainability, and enrich community life.

Paul McCreanor's work brings together five masterplans, each rooted in the same fundamental question: how do we make places better? Each project responds to the unique cultural, economic, and historical context of its setting, while being guided by a clear vision for its future.

These masterplans balance design ambition with rigorous analysis. Demographic and socio-economic data uncover trends in population, age, employment, and migration, while statistical modelling is used to forecast future needs in housing, infrastructure, and economic development.

Alongside this evidence-based approach, Paul's designs place a strong emphasis on creating greener, healthier environments and fostering a sense of belonging. Walkable streets, accessible green spaces, and civic gathering points are integral to each proposal—strengthening community life and encouraging social connection.

At their core, these masterplans seek to shape places that are not only resilient and sustainable, but also vibrant, inclusive, and deeply human.

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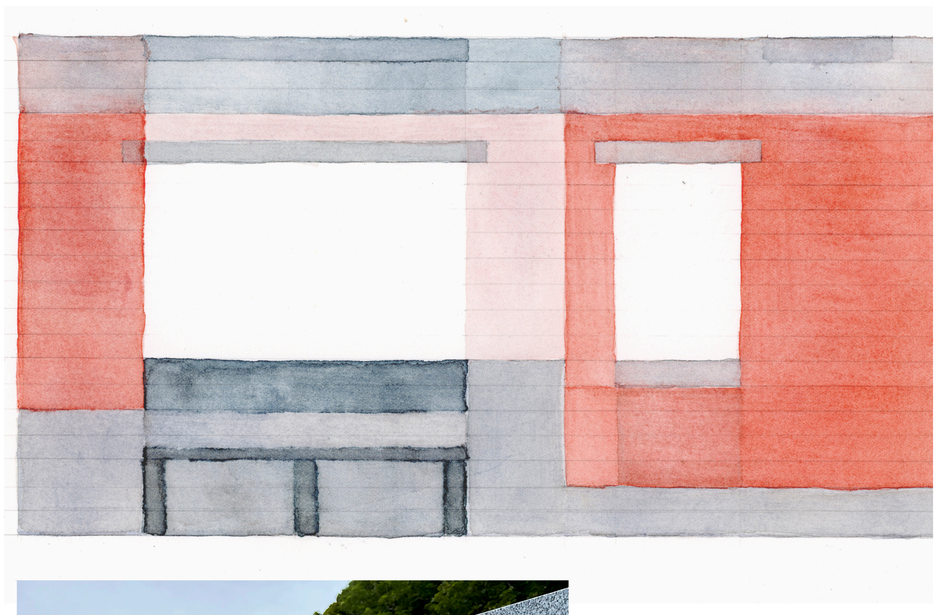
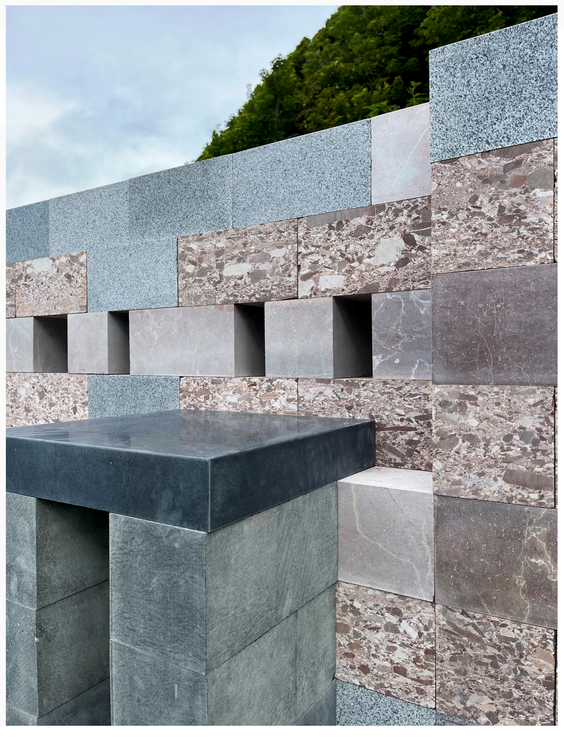
Drawing, film still of the stone prototype at S McConnell & Sons, Kilkeel.
Drawing, film still collage by Rachel Delargy. Photography by Trevor Ferris.

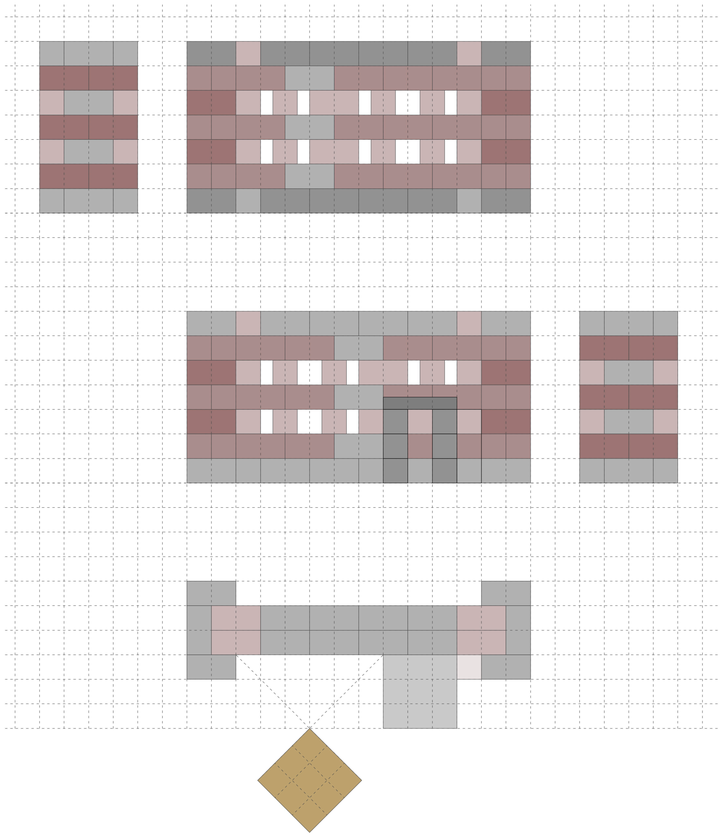


Time-lapse of the assembly at S McConnell & Sons, Kilkeel.
Time-lapse by Trevor Ferris.





Conceptual watercolours reimagining the stone block in a housing proposal.
Photograph, watercolour collage by Rachel Delargy.



Stone Type / Finish

- Kilrea basalt - honed
- Kilrea basalt - saw cut
- Ballymagreehan granite - split
- Ballymagreehan granite - saw cut
- Armagh limestone - split
- Armagh limestone - honed
- Armagh limestone - saw cut
- Drumarg conglomerate - honed
- Dramarg conglomerate - saw cut
- Glenbane sandstone - honed
- Glenbane sandstone - saw cut

Rachel Delargy

Lecturer in Architecture following involvement in award-winning practices in London and Belfast. I acted as Project Architect on residential projects at McGonigle McGrath mainly involving the sensitive repair and reconfiguration of various periods of building, including Light House which received a RSUA Design Award 2025 and House of the Year.

Stone Strategies: An investigation into a local, sustainable product for a circular economy. Future Island-Island Design Fellowship in collaboration with S McConnell & Sons

Stone Strategies initiated an examination into a building product that can help decarbonise construction and improve its recyclability. A practice-based research approach was undertaken, involving sampling and 1:1 prototyping in collaboration with an industry partner, to examine the design and technical challenges of manufacture and assembly.

Locally sourced modular stone offers an advantage over kiln fired clay brick and concrete block because its production does not require heat.

Inspired by Irish dry-stone walling, a prototype composed of standardised natural stone units was constructed and exhibited on Rathlin. Outcomes included raising awareness of geological resources, stone standardisation and the aesthetic qualities of local stone.

The project adapts a traditional building material for an environmentally friendly future in the form of a modular stone demountable system.

Stone Strategies reveals how Northern Ireland is resourced in a material to decarbonise construction with the potential to help support the local economy.

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Future Island Island









Vincent McIlduff

Vincent McIlduff began his career at 12, working in his father's marble business Craigavon Marble Products, founded in Northern Ireland, now retired. He later spent seven years working for the world renowned Architect Rem Koolhaas in Holland, designing Prada's architectural projects, including a museum for the brand in Milan. At 28, he founded his own Architectural firm in Hong Kong, now specializing in signature residential projects.

Jozankei Villa

Jozankei Villa, nestled in Hokkaido Japan, reinterprets traditional Japanese architecture through a modern lens, creating a retreat that balances tranquility, nature, and contemporary living. Designed for an international family, Lord and Lady Wu, the villa embraces dualities: it shields itself from a bustling road while opening to a ravine with expansive glass facades, inviting light and stunning views.

Hokkaido's dramatic seasons inspired the design. In summer, the villa opens with covered walkways and natural breezes, while gardens hidden under winter snow bloom in spring. In winter, it transforms into a warm sanctuary with fireplaces, and its own geothermal onsen baths.

Constructed from locally sourced timber, the villa reflects Japan's architectural traditions while ensuring sustainability. Overhanging roofs and shaded walkways harmonize the home with its natural surroundings year-round.

Rooted in tradition yet designed for modern life, Jozankei Villa is a serene sanctuary, evolving with Hokkaido's seasons and rhythms of nature.

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