

Welcome . . .

From the Centre Chair
Michael O'Keeffe FCIAT

It's been another hectic couple of months since the last newsletter and I hope this reaches all of our Centre members and affiliates before the Christmas break so you can catch up on all AT news over the holidays!

On 20 October 2023, the Irish took over London at the **AT Awards 2023** where we had winners in two of the three Practice categories, commendations in both Student categories and a Chartered Architectural Technologist of the Year. More on that in the special feature in this issue.

Birmingham was the destination for the Institute **AGM** this year and it didn't disappoint. Members and affiliates enjoyed a relaxed networking event on the Friday evening and there was plenty of discussion at the post-AGM conference on Saturday afternoon.

Back to Ireland and in November, we hosted our **2nd Annual Christmas Gathering** - this time in the Clayton Dublin Airport Hotel following a productive Committee Meeting. We also made an historic step just the last week in holding the first **aspirATion** event in the Centre. Great credit is due to Karol Dempsey MCIAT, Centre aspirATion Chair, for getting matters off to a flying start following his election to the role in August 2023.

There are updates on the **ATR** following Assessment & Admissions Board meetings and the next step in our efforts to secure a **statutory register** for competent architectural technologists.

As we approach the end of another year, I have high hopes for the year to come. We continue to see a growth in membership in the Republic of Ireland Centre and it is encouraging to witness the increased engagement from members. Wishing you and yours a **Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.**

ICAT Conference 2024 & Student Competition

The **International Congress on Architectural Technology (ICAT)** cordially invites industry, academics, and students to attend the **10th ICAT Conference** to be held in **ATU Galway City**.

The congress, which will feature presentations from industry, educators, researchers, and the next generation of built environment students and professionals, takes place on **Friday, 19 January 2024** in ATU Galway. Tickets range from free to €69.00 and are available at the following link: [ICAT 2024 Eventbrite](#)

On **Thursday, 18 January 2023**, we're delighted to be collaborating with ATU Galway City and Unilin Insulation to bring you a **Student Competition**, which is open to all third-level institute students of architectural technology. Entrants will be grouped into mixed teams on the day, with members from different universities and different years collaborating in a friendly and supportive environment to address the ICAT Student Competition Brief.



We're delighted to confirm we have secured the following judges on the day;

- CIAT President, Eddie Weir PCIAT;
- Emma Hayes MCIAT; and
- Mel McGerr FCIAT;

who will be briefed and guided by ATU Donegal lecturer and Committee Member, Karol Dempsey MCIAT.

The student event is free and refreshments will be provided on the day together with a prize-giving that evening. All students must register their interest at the following link to ensure they're inclusion: [ICAT 2024 Student Event](#)

This Issue . . . at a glance

Update on the Architectural Technologists Register (ATR)

Update on progress of the shadow Register and how you can help

ICAT Conference & Student Competition

The 10th ICAT Conference from ATU Galway with the first CIAT Student Competition

CIAT pilots new Podcast

And they're looking for your feedback

AT Awards 2023 Feature

Full summary and all the winners from this years event in London

AGM & Conference 2023

Summary of the Institute's AGM from Birmingham

Planning & Development Bill

Find out more about the recently published Bill

International Construction Management Conference

CIAT are proud co-sponsors of this event with a Chartered Member presenting on the day

First aspirATion Event

Karol Dempsey MCIAT reports from the first Rep. of Ireland aspirATion event

Architectural Technologists (Shadow) Register (ATR) Live - Further Call to Apply

words by Michael O'Keeffe FCIAT, Centre Chair

Since the launch of the AT (Shadow) Register on **1 May 2023**, the Admissions & Assessment Board has received training and convened on five occasions. We're delighted to advise that there are **85 Full ATR Registrants** who have successfully applied, been admitted and are now listed on www.architecturaltechnologistregister.ie.

ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGISTS' REGISTER

ATR

As of 14 December 2023, we have written to Minister O'Donnell and the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage** with a view to meet in the New Year to provide a formal update on progress and endeavour to obtain a timeline for implementation of a statutory register.

We still need to demonstrate demand and viability by increasing the number of shadow registrants and I'm calling on all **Chartered Architectural Technologists** to apply. You may find yourself in a large architectural practice, a Local Authority or even in academia with no requirement to act as either a Design or Assigned Certifier. However, the ATR is much more than this - demonstrating demand now and achieving statutory recognition will put Full ATR Registrants on par with other registered professionals (Chartered Engineers, Registered Architects and Registered Building Surveyors), leading to deserved recognition for competent Architectural Technologists.

The process for **Chartered Members** is **streamlined** having already demonstrated their knowledge, experience and competence to gain Chartership. All that is required is the following:

1. An up-to-date CV (max. 2 pages) and;
2. Payment of the €100 ATR subscription (six-month rate valid until 30 April 2024)
3. Application issued to atr@ciat.global

CIAT will then issue a letter of support confirming your eligibility for registration and this will be added to your ATR Admissions Board submission.

There is no time to delay! Do not assume other members will apply and you can join later when it becomes Statutory.

For over 10 years, CIAT and members and affiliates in Ireland have been campaigning and working tirelessly on behalf of all practicing Architectural Technologists for the introduction of a Statutory Register for competent Architectural Technologists. As previously mentioned, this is not only to allow registrants to act as **Design and/or Assigned Certifier** but to gain **recognition and parity** for the profession in Ireland, and secure the future of the discipline, for those who are studying Architectural Technology in our third-level institutes.

If you require any assistance or support to apply to the Register, please make contact with any Committee Member who will ably assist you.

Centre Committee 2023-2025

The Committee, which is currently meeting remotely every 2 months, is as follows:

Role	Member
Chair	Michael O'Keeffe FCIAT
Vice-Chair	Liam Cotter MCIAT
Secretary	Niall Culleton MCIAT
Councillor	Patricia Mulvey FCIAT
Treasurer	Liam Cotter MCIAT
CPD Officer	Patrick Clarke MCIAT
Practice Officer	Christophe Krief MCIAT
PR Officer	Patricia Mulvey FCIAT
Education Officer	'Vacant'
Membership Officer	'Vacant'
aspirATIOn Chair	Karol Dempsey MCIAT
Committee Member	Richard Burke MCIAT
Committee Member	Jonathan Reinhardt MCIAT
Committee Member	Sean Ryan (Affiliate)
Committee Member	Chao Chen MCIAT
Chair - Technical	'Vacant'

Contact details for members of the **Centre Committee** can be found on the Republic of Ireland page of the CIAT website.

If you would like to become involved in the **Centre Committee**, join / form a sub-committee or positively contribute to any efforts by the Centre, please get in contact with a member of the Committee with an **Expression of Interest** and an up-to-date CV - our door is always open to members, affiliate and students.

CIAT pilots new AT Podcast

It's the podcast that uses technology to talk technology for Technologists! Each episode delves into the biggest subjects facing the built environment and how Architectural Technologists are rising to the challenge.

Two pilot episodes have been recorded which centre around ***Will buying a drone or laser scanner make you a better designer?*** This two-part episode features Dan Rossiter FCIAT, Vice-President Technical, talking to Dr Andrew Evans, Senior Product Manager, Topcon Positioning Systems, on the pros and pitfalls of data driven design.

All that is asked is that you spare some time to listen to one or both parts and then leave your feedback in the comments box or use the thumbs up/thumbs down buttons to leave a reaction on YouTube. This will decide if the podcast series will be launched in 2024.

You can listen at the link here: [AT Podcast Pilot](#)



AT Awards 2023 Feature

with Michael O’Keeffe FCIAT, Centre Chair

It was an evening to remember for the Republic of Ireland Centre at the **AT Awards 2023** on Friday, 20 October 2023. With a number of entries from Irish members, all in different categories and amongst stiff competition, hopes were high for some accolades to return to the Emerald Isle.

The afternoon commenced just after 3:00pm at **The Village Underground** in Shoreditch, London. Some attendees were hampered by the weather, particularly those travelling by train. After a pre-event catch-up over complimentary drinks and refreshments, the always entertaining **Matt Allwright** kicked things off with a relaxed introduction and conversation with **CIAT President, Kevin Crawford PCIAT**.

The first Awards of the evening were the **Practice | Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology - Small to Medium** which was won by MMA Architect’s / Mel McGerr FCIAT for the Irish Life Sciences Global HQ ([click here](#) to discover more).

The focus then turned to education and accreditations were awarded to a number of universities. It then moved onto the **Student | Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology | Report** where Jack Fleming from ATU, Galway received a commendation for his report Hemp Lime Composite as a Natural Building Material for Proposed Walls in Irish Construction ([click here](#) to discover more).

Proceedings returned to **Practice | Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology - Medium to Large** with RKD Architects claiming victory for the Guinness Storehouse Gravity Bar Expansion with members Donal Murphy FCIAT & Stephen Doonan MCIAT present to receive the award ([click here](#) to discover more).

Returning to the Student Awards and this time the **Award for Excellence in Architectural Technology | Project** saw a further commendation. Dylan O’Connor from SETU, Carlow received this award for The Hex Building ([click here](#) to discover more) for it’s technically robust and well considered design.

There were further **Practice Award for the Large to Mega** category as well as the **Emerging Talent in the Technology of Architecture** (Rosie Thirlwell ACIAT, FaulknerBrowns) and the **President’s Medal** (bestowed by the President to Gary Mees PPCIAT MCIAT).

It was finally onto the big award - **Chartered Architectural Technologist of the Year**. For pushing the boundaries of the industry, maintaining a role as critical connector, and most importantly continuing to inspire the next generation of Architectural Technology talent, Craig O’Halloran FCIAT was the recipient of the coveted award ([click here](#) to discover more).

While that concluded the formalities for another year, attendees retired to **The Devonshire Terrace** for the official after-party which extended into the night. The presentations to the winning practices were made recently and photos will be published in the next AT Journal.

The **AT Awards 2024** open on **5 February 2024** and anyone from the industry can enter.



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1. Irish Life Sciences HQ, MMA Architects | 2. Hemp Lime Composite as a Natural Building Material for Proposed Walls in Irish Construction, Jack Fleming | 3. The Guinness Storehouse Gravity Bar Extension, RKD Architects | 4. The Hex Building, Dylan O’Connor | 5. Craig O’Halloran FCIAT, Gensler

CIAT AGM 2023 | Birmingham

with Michael O'Keeffe FCIAT, Centre Chair

The **AGM and Conference 2023** took place in the Park Regis Hotel, Birmingham on 10/11 November 2023. It was a busy weekend with matters kicking off on Friday afternoon with an **International Centre's Meeting** with CEO Tara Page, President-Elect, Eddie Weir PPCIAT MCIAT and CIAT Directors. With members from Europe, Australasia and the America's in attendance, this was a great knowledge and opinion sharing meeting and we hope to build on the strategies to further strengthen CIAT's presence on a global scale.



It was then off to **The Gin Distillery** for a relaxed evening of networking, drinks and a buffet meal. These are always a great opportunity to meet members and affiliates from all over the world as well as CIAT Staff and Honorary Officers in a social environment.

On Saturday morning, the business of the **AGM** was addressed in a very efficient manner. We are grateful to outgoing **President, Kevin Crawford PCIAT**, for his unwavering commitment during his term. From securing a new CEO for the Institute to supporting the Rep. of Ireland Centre in our efforts to gain statutory recognition of the ATR, he certainly has left his mark. In his closing remarks, he welcomed back Eddie Weir PPCIAT MCIAT as President, a first for the Institute. Eddie briefly set out his ambitions for his second presidential term and thanked all members and affiliates for their support and well-wishes.



This years **Conference** focused on the Institute from the Region and Centre Review, Events Review and Strategic Plan to the response to the Building Safety Act and Professional Standards Framework. Over the years, the **AGM Conference** has proven to be a great opportunity to gather members and affiliates into the one space and discuss and share opinions on the direction of the Institute to best serve the membership.

CIAT ROI Centre Social Initiatives

AT WhatsApp Group

The WhatsApp group for like-minded architectural technologists in the Republic of Ireland continues to grow with 58 participants from across the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry in all parts of the country currently contributing. There has been great engagement and some light-hearted banter too!

Members regularly share knowledge and guidance on various issues including planning, building regulations, contacts for lighting assessments, recommendations for structural engineers in particular parts of the country, etc.

This group is informal and separate to CIAT and open to all Architectural Technologists in practice.

If you would like to be part of this group, please email pr.ciatireland@gmail.com.

If you have any other ideas for social initiatives, please forward to the Centre Committee for consideration. CIAT is your Institute and you're entitled to have your say.

Planning & Development Bill 2023

The **Planning & Development Bill 2023** was published at the end of November 2023 and, at over 700 pages in length, Minister O'Brien described the legislation as "the cornerstone for Irish planning for the coming decades".

The Draft Bill was published in January and has undergone months of Oireachtas scrutiny and stakeholder engagement and is the culmination of intensive review lead by the **Office of the Attorney General**.

The current Act, operating since 2000, has undergone a 'complete fitness check' to identify reforms to deliver key infrastructure in housing, transport and renewable energy.

The key reforms include:

- Improved consistency and alignment throughout all tiers of planning;
- Significant restructuring and resourcing of An Bord Pleanála, which will be renamed **An Coimisiún Pleanála**;
- Increased certainty across the planning system through the introduction of statutory timelines for decision-making, including for the first time, for **An Coimisiún Pleanála**;
- New strategic ten year **Development Plans for Local Authorities**;
- Reform of planning Judicial Review, including the introduction of a Scale of Fees and Environmental Legal Cost Financial Assistance Mechanism; improving access to justice whilst regulating excessive legal costs;
- New provisions for **Urban Development Zones**, underpinning key growth areas.

The Bill can be accessed by [CLICKING HERE](#) and an updated guide is available by [CLICKING HERE](#).

13th International Construction Management Conference | ATU Sligo

The **International Construction Management Day Conference**, previously hosted by Dr. Martin Taggart at the ATU, Galway campus (formerly GMIT) for the past 12 years, continues in-person in the **ATU, Sligo campus this year**.

The conference is widely renowned for providing an opportunity where industry and academia meet to network and discuss the current topics facing the construction industry.

This year, **CIAT are co-sponsors** with the CIOB, CIF and SCSl as well as numerous contractors, consultants, and academics in delivering what promises to be a fantastic event. The conference will run alongside the **CIOB Student Challenge** competition this year, which means that there will be several universities on campus taking part, showcasing the talent of tomorrow's construction professionals, and availing of the opportunity to interact with industry.

We are delighted to have **Karl O'Reilly MCIAT, Assigned Certifier Lead at ORS** presenting on behalf of CIAT on the topic of BCAR / Assigned Certifier role.

Topics will include updates on the status and challenges of the construction sector, insights into some key projects and advanced technologies. Registration for the event is essential and you can do so at [Eventbrite here](#).



Universal Design Guidelines for Changing Places Toilets - Public Consultation

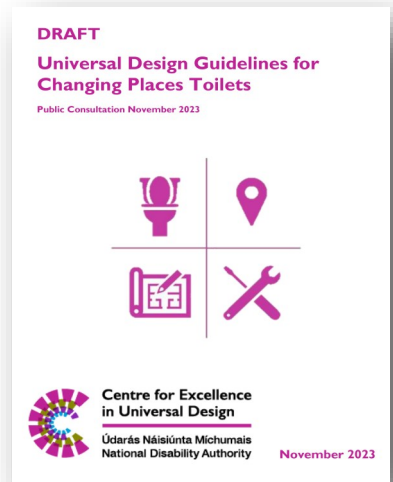
The **Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD)** at the National Disability Authority (NDA) has developed draft Universal Design Guidelines for Changing Places Toilets.

The purpose of the guidelines are to:

- provide good practice guidance on the provision, location, and design of Changing Places Toilets, taking a Universal Design approach
- provide good practice guidance on managing and maintaining Changing Places Toilets
- complement implementation of the Building Regulations (Part M Amendment) Regulations 2022, which make provision for Changing Places Toilets, having regard to the use and size of a building.

The guidelines are aimed at designers, building managers and owners of facilities as well as clients, industry professionals and disability stakeholders. Please follow the link below to access the documents which are provided in a range of different formats:

[Changing Places Toilets Public Consultation](#)



The public consultation period remains open for feedback until **5:00pm on Friday, 12 January 2024**.



Irish Representatives and Winners at the AT Awards 2023 in the Village Underground, Shoreditch, London (from left):

Michael O'Keeffe FCIAT (Centre Chair), David McGourty ACIAT (MMA Architects), Karol Dempsey MCIAT (Centre aspiraTion Chair), Mel McGerr FCIAT (MMA Architects), Stephen Doonan MCIAT (RKD Architects), Donal Murphy FCIAT (RKD Architects), Patricia Mulvey FCIAT (Centre Councillor), Craig O'Halloran FCIAT (Chartered Architectural Technologist of the Year)(Gensler).

CIAT | Events Review - Call for Evidence

CIAT is undertaking a full review of the events hosted and produced by the Institute, including their value, need, purpose, scheduling, and production, amongst other things. This review is focused primarily on the Institute's two annual events:

- **The AT Awards**
- **AGM weekend**

As part of the process, all members and affiliates are asked to complete a [call for evidence](#) (follow link for details). Responses to the call for evidence are anonymous and we would encourage you to participate. The Institute are keen to hear the views of **all** members and affiliates including those who have attended the AT Awards or AGM previously, those who have never attended and those who might consider attending in future.

Over the next few months, you will see other opportunities to give feedback including short online discussion sessions where members of CIAT staff will be on hand to hear your ideas and feedback.

The consultation process will run **until 14 January 2024** and responses will be reviewed in early February 2024 with a view to implementing in the 2024/2025 events calendar.

First Rep. of Ireland aspirATion Event | ATU, Galway

with Karol Dempsey MCIAT, Centre aspirATion Chair

For the uninitiated, **aspirATion** is a community of members and affiliates made up of students, graduates and recently qualified professionals which aims to support aspiring young talent, and to help shape the future of Architectural Technology.

Together with ATU, Galway AT student, Daniel David, and course programme chair, Gerard Nicholson, the first **Republic of Ireland Centre aspirATion event** took place on 7 December 2023, to coincide with the end of term. In the afternoon, I gave a remote 45 minute presentation to the students in ATU, Galway, introducing CIAT and the role of the aspirATion group in Ireland to help support their progression towards becoming a Chartered Member of CIAT. This was followed by a presentation of digital technologies I use in practice with **Karol Dempsey Architects** and within courses at ATU, Donegal.

Refreshments at the presentation were sponsored by the ATU, Galway School of Engineering. Following conclusion of the presentation, Daniel had arranged the first **aspirATion Social Event** in the form of Bowling at Planet Galway with CIAT part-funding the event and refreshments. The initial feedback from this first aspirATion event has been very positive from the students and several industry guests who were in attendance.

If you would like to be part of the aspirATion group, please get in touch by emailing me at Karol.Dempsey@atu.ie.



A selection of photographs from the first Republic of Ireland Centre aspirATion event in collaboration with ATU, Galway.

Upcoming Events

ICAT Conference, ATU Galway

Date:

18/19 January 2024

Location:

ATU, Galway City,
Old Dublin Road, Galway

Time:

Thursday, 18 January 2024
Student Event: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday, 19 January 2024

Conference: 9:30am - 6:30pm

Cost:

Free - €175 available

Information and Registration:

See [Eventbrite](#)

Building Control & MMC

Date:

31 January 2024

Location:

Hybrid Event - Online and In-person
at The Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone

Time:

9:00am - 4:30pm

Further Information & Registration:

Online: [NBCO CPD - Online](#)

Physical: [NBCO CPD - In-Person](#)

International Construction Management Conference

Date:

8 February 2024

Location:

ATU, Sligo,
Ash Lane, Sligo

Time:

9:00am - 5:00pm

Information & Registration:

Register for FREE at [Eventbrite](#)

National ZEB Summit

Date:

21-22 February 2024

Location:

RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin

Time:

Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Workshop: 1:00pm - 5:30pm

Thursday, 22 February 2024

Conference: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Cost:

From €199 (Early-bird) to €349

Information and Tickets:

See [ZEB Summit](#)