

Welcome . . .

From the Centre Chair and Councillor
Michael O'Keeffe MCIAT

It's the awards season! Every autumn is an inspiring time in the design and construction industry with so many high-profile award events taking place – and none more-so than our very own **AT Awards** taking place this Friday, **22 October 2021 from 16:30hrs BST**. Following the success of last year's event and the easing of restrictions, this year will see a hybrid event with a limited number of guests in attendance and all others joining remotely. Log onto [ATAwards](#) for the live link to watch the event!

The past two months have been eventful with the release of '**Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland**', the government's housing plan to 2030, **Budget 2022** and the publication of Eoin Ó Broin's latest book '**Defects; Living with the Legacy of the Celtic Tiger**'. Being unable to put it down once I started, this is a sobering and essential read for all members of the construction industry. From the personal stories of homeowners effected by building defects in Part 1 to a detailed insight into the protracted development of the Building Regulations in Part 2, the problems associated with self-certification and the need for real reform.

The '**Housing for All**' Plan replaces the '**Rebuilding Ireland Strategy**' launched in 2016. It's primary objective is to address Ireland's continuing housing crisis, requiring the public and private sectors to work together to reach the overall target of 300,000 homes by 2030 with the State intending to spend €4 billion a year to 2030 on various State interventions and capital investments. Since it's release, there have been assessments on the density of developments in Ireland to achieve higher 'dwelling per hectare (dw/ha)' ratios (similar to our European counterparts). However, as well as density, it's about design – well-considered, sustainable design enhances developments and increases desirability as people care about the look, feel and livability of their community together with respect for the environment and our sustainable future.

As always, I hope you find this quarter's Newsletter informative and encourage you to submit any suggestions you have for future content, be that case studies of completed projects, news and updates for our quarterly newsletter, social media content suggestions or other.

COVID-19 | CIAT Information and Advice for Members and affiliates

The health and safety of our members, affiliates, staff and clients is our main priority and CIAT is closely monitoring the Government's advice regarding **COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**. The Institute continues to work hard to ensure its successful operation and supporting the membership and affiliates during this period of uncertainty. In response, all meetings will remain remote/online until the end of October 2021 at the earliest.

It is strongly recommended all members and affiliates regularly familiarise themselves with the information provided by the Government and the HSE. Information on COVID-19, the symptoms and how to protect yourself can be found on the [HSE website](#). Further to the winter newsletter, the **CIF Construction Sector C-19 Standard Operating Procedures** has been updated and **Version 8** is now available to download [here](#).

The management of COVID-19 continues and we recommend all members and affiliates to monitor the Government and HSE websites for the latest and most accurate information. If you require any further information or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@ciat.global – we will continue to do all we can to support our members and affiliates in this period.

Important Update on the Architectural Technologists Register (ATR)



On 25 March 2021, a meeting was held with the **Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage** where they promised to report back and provide guidance on the most seamless route for ATs to gain Statutory recognition to act as **Assigned and/or Design Certifiers**. Following the meeting in March, CIAT were asked to meet with the **Society for Chartered Surveyors, Ireland (SCSI)** who manage the Building Surveyors Register to explore the possibility of implementing an AT Register in collaboration. The SCSI intimated that this could present a conflict with their constitution and we are in communication with the Department and SCSI to conclude the matter and progress the ATR.

Members and affiliates are encouraged to maintain the sustained pressure on the Minister/Department via their local TDs to ensure we can achieve a **Statutory Register** as soon as possible.

The **ATR Code of Conduct** has submitted to the **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC)** as required under Part 6 of the Building Control Act 2007 for review. A response is still awaited.

The number of Architectural Technologists registering on the **ATR** is increasing slowly, with 259 MCIAT members on the Register and 197 applicants having registered their Intention to Register. It is essential that all CIAT members prevail upon their unaffiliated Architectural Technologist colleagues to assist CIAT in gaining the appropriate recognition for our profession by joining CIAT or registering on the ATR. Visit the website; www.architecturaltechnologistsregister.ie.

Please visit our website, ciat.ie for further information on the joining or qualifying process by clicking on the following links: [Join CIAT](#) [Professional Assessment](#)

Centre Committee 2021-2023

The Committee, which is currently meeting remotely 5-6 times a year, is as follows:

Role	Member	Role	Member
Chair	Michael O’Keeffe MCIAT	Practice Officer	Sean Ryan (Affiliate)
Vice-Chair	Liam Cotter MCIAT	PR Officer	Patricia Mulvey MCIAT
Secretary	Paul Condron MCIAT	aspirATion Chair	‘Vacant’
Councillor	Michael O’Keeffe MCIAT	Committee Member	Niall Culleton MCIAT
Treasurer	Liam Cotter MCIAT	Committee Member	Patrick Clarke MCIAT
CPD Officer	Christophe Krief MCIAT	Committee Member	Irene Hayden MCIAT
Education Officer	Andrew Swarbrigg MCIAT	Chair - Technical	Gerry O’Neill MCIAT
Membership Officer	Brian K. Davies MCIAT	-	

Our aspirATion Chair position is currently vacant and expressions of interest in joining should be advised to the **Education Department** at Central Office by emailing education@ciat.global. For more information on aspirATion, see the next page.

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

Be Part of the aspirATion Group

aspirATion supports students, recent graduates or newly qualified professionals entering the discipline, as well as working with CIAT to help shape the future of Architectural Technology. It is a dynamic, forward-thinking and inclusive network, acting as the gateway into furthering your career within the discipline.



We are looking for someone to take on the role of Chair for the **Republic of Ireland aspirATion Group**. To apply, please submit a personal statement outlining why you would be suitable for the role. You can view the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Group here. For further information please contact the **Education Department** at Central Office by education@ciat.global who will be more than happy to provide more information and introduce you to the Centre Committee.

PI Insurance Issues



Following the update in our Summer Newsletter, the challenges associated with securing adequate Professional Indemnity Insurance, primarily in respect of fire safety design, continues for a large number of our members and affiliates as well as other professionals in the wider construction industry. Further to correspondence with insurance brokers and members who have been successful in obtaining adequate insurance cover, it appears to be on a case-by-case basis with the requirement to complete a supplementary risk assessment questionnaire.

What can you do?

If your insurance policy is up for renewal this year, engage with insurers as early as possible (not just weeks ahead but months) and provide as much information within your proposal form to secure adequate PI Insurance, discussing the nature of any exclusions with your insurance brokers in detail. Also, given the potentially substantial change in your insurance cover, you may also need to review your contractual agreements with your clients to ensure that you can still comply with any agreed insurance limits.

ATs are not the only professionals affected by this exclusion policy as engineers, architects and surveyors also face the difficulty of obtaining adequate PI Insurance. We encourage members and affiliates to lobby their local TDs to ensure this issue is addressed as it will only compound the current housing crisis being faced.

New Postgrad Programmes at GMIT

GMIT School of Engineering is offering two new postgraduate programmes for employees in the Built Environment sector who wish to upskill and receive a qualification in the broad areas of the Irish Building Regulations and Leadership in the Circular Economy.



The new [MSc in Built Environment Regulation](#) aims to afford advanced experience, knowledge, and training to fulfil, in part, the onerous and challenging roles, duties and responsibilities associated with the built environment regulations in the Irish Construction Industry. Internationally, this is a unique programme in the postgraduate space.

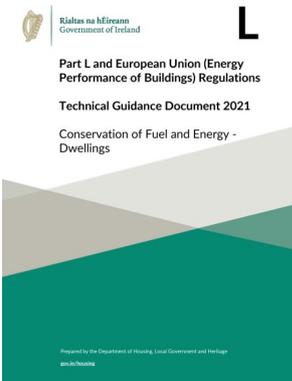
The new [Postgraduate Diploma in Circular Economy Leadership for the Built Environment](#) is the first of its kind in Ireland. It aims to support all built environment stakeholders in transitioning towards a circular built environment.

Both programmes are highly innovative in their approach to teaching and learning, incorporate extensive links to industry, and utilise expert lecturers as guest speakers. Both are suited to working professionals in the construction industry who are interested in an earn-and-learn approach for their further education and continuing professional development needs.

For more information, follow the links above.

Building Regulations - Part L 2021

Further to signature of the European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations (S.I. No. 393 of 2021), the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, has amended [Technical Guidance Document Part L \(2021\)](#) of the Building Regulations. This introduces regulations on **Building Automation and Control Systems and Electrical Vehicle Re-Charging Points** for all new buildings, including dwellings, and for all existing buildings other than dwellings.



In existing buildings other than dwellings with more than 20 car parking spaces, a minimum number of charging points will be required. Certain requirements shall not apply to a building or works where the submission of a Commencement Notice with respect to such works has been lodged on or before the 10th of March 2021. However, it is likely that such buildings would fall under the status of existing building and have requirement to meet the standards specified for existing building other than a dwelling before 1 March 2025, where technically and economically practicable.

The Department have issued guidance in relation to the application of S.I. No. 393 of 2021 which can be found [here](#). Also, in addition to **Technical Guidance Document Part L (2021)**, the **Acceptable Construction Details (ACDs) 2021** have been issued with greater focus on thermal bridging and airtightness - these can be found [here](#).

NSAI seeking CIAT members for Committees

The **National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)** is seeking experts to join their Committees. NSAI have an open door policy for new members and the process is simple - you just need to complete a registration form which will be reviewed by a Standards Officer and is then presented to the relevant technical committee who will make the final decision on if the expert can join the committee.

You can find out more about the various Committees on the [NSAI website](#) and register your interest [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Due to the on-going COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, most events remain effected in some manner, resulting in postponed, online or hybrid events.

The following are the updates we can provide together with some options for online CPD to meet your annual obligation.

AT Awards 2021

Date:

22 October 2021

Time:

16:30hrs

Location:

Online - Remote Event

Further Information:

Log onto [ATAwards](#) for the live link to watch the event!

Ideal Home Show

Date:

22-25 October 2021

Time:

09:00hrs - 18:00hrs

Location:

RDS Simmonscourt, Dublin

Further Information:

Register for Free at [Ideal Home](#)

Building Performance Interactive

Date:

28 October 2021

Time:

14:00hrs

Location:

Online - Remote Event

Further Information:

The first episode, Train-to-nZEB, will focus on the importance of developing hands-on programs to better educate the trades about high-performance building.

Register for Free at [Passive House Accelerator](#)

CIAT AGM 2021

Date:

27 November 2021

Time:

10:00hrs

Location:

Radisson Blu, Manchester Airport & Online

Further Information:

To follow closer to the event

CIOB Academy - Courses & CPD

Date:

Any

Location:

Online - Webinars

Further Information:

See [CIOB Academy.org](#)