

2009

Overall Winner & Building Category Award | Visual Centre for Contemporary Art and The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow



The Overall winner was in the Building Category where 7 entries were considered.

This building is sited in the heart of Carlow town adjacent to Carlow Cathedral and other historic buildings where the jury felt that 'the concept of a glass box or jewel in a garden was most appropriate'.

The success of the building is the apparently effortless use of large elements, mainly concrete, in sympathetic scale with the gallery spaces. The concrete elements have a textural scale of their own, such as the heavily ribbed

slab soffits, the OSB board texture to the walls, which reads like wallpaper, smooth bands within the walls and the polished floors. The concrete walls are well co-ordinated and detailed especially at their base where no kickers were used and also at horizontal construction joints.

The use of concrete in many forms and finish demonstrates the flexibility of the material and the appropriateness of its use in such a civic building.

This building has met and overcome many challenges particularly in the use of concrete and is a worthy Winner of both the Building Category and the Overall Irish Concrete Society Award for 2009.

Project Details:	Client:	Carlow Local Authorities
	Engineer:	ARUP Consulting Engineers
	Architect:	Terry Pawson Architects
	Contractor:	BAM Building
	Major Supplier:	Durkan & Ryan

Infrastructure Category Award | River Suir Bridge, Waterford



River Suir Bridge was the selected winner in a category of 7 entries.

The bridge is a cable stayed bridge of total length 465 metres crossing the River Suir upstream of Waterford City. The imposing visual aspect is driven by the 112 metre high concrete pylon in the shape of an inverted 'Y' out of which 19 sets of four cables hang giving an almost symmetrical form extending out from the concrete pylon.

The pylon was constructed using an automatic climbing formwork system while the bridge deck is a horizontal steel frame supporting precast concrete panels.

The jury noted that ‘the design of the bridge has produced concrete and steel elements at a scale suitable to the overall structure and its setting. The relationship of the concrete and steel is very well handled and the use of each recognises the inherent character of each’.

Project Details:	Client:	Waterford City Council / NRA
	Engineer:	Arup Consulting Engineers
	Contractor:	BAM / Dragados JV
	Major Supplier:	Roadstone / Banagher

Elemental Category Winner | Jig Saw, Dublin

Jigsaw, Dublin was winner in this category where 6 entries were considered.

This project consists of a garden level single storey extension to the rear of a 2 storey over garden level Victorian house in the inner Dublin suburbs. The extension is overlooked from the upper floors of the existing house.



The use of concrete allowed the architect create a floating tubular space with the same material used in walls, floor and roof creating an interesting tension when viewed from the garden where this heavy element floats effortlessly over the garden terrace.

The real success of the project was achieved by the excellent quality of the in-situ board marked concrete where concrete is exposed internally and externally. The execution was of such a high quality that the finished concrete was very even in colour and texture with little evidence of construction joints.

Project Details:	Client:	Private
	Engineer:	Kavanagh Mansfield & Partners
	Architect:	McCullough Mulvin Architects
	Contractor:	Patrick Brock & Sons
	Major Supplier:	Roadstone

Sustainability Award | Father Collins Park, Donaghmede, Dublin

The large park of 52 acres serves the established area of Donaghmede and new housing developments stretching out to Belcamp, Belmayne and beyond.

The park consists of shot-blast concrete paths and walkways, and a concrete skateboard park which is well-planned and detailed, and obviously well used. The jury noted that the 'quality of the curved and angular shapes within the skate-park, and the innovation in their construction, are a credit to the Team and a challenge to the skateboarders'. The concrete bridges which traverse the various watercourses are simple, well planned and well executed.

These concrete elements which contain GGBS are combined with 5 eye-catching wind turbines that provide for the park's lighting, water-pumps and aeration systems. There are a series of extensive watercourses including a surprising water-feature. These clean hard materials are complimented by the use of some well planned soft landscaping. The free form wetland reed beds which purify the water mesh well with the park's linear features, and also create a sustainable solution to the lake and water features.



Project Details:	Client:	Dublin City Council
	Engineer:	O'Connor Sutton Cronin
	Architect:	Ar Arq Ireland
	Contractor:	Liffey Developments
	Major Supplier:	Goode Concrete/Bromac Construction/Erlin

Sculpture Award | "Changes" by Kenneth Lambert



"Changes" is a wall-mounted artwork, a kind of painting, cast in concrete and resin. It measures about 2.5 metres by 1.2 metres and about 150mm thick. It is made up of three interlocking curved panels. The side panels are cast in concrete and depict, in low relief, the artist and his brothers in a car returning from his mother's funeral. The central panel, in contrast, is cast in clear resin.

There is so much about this work that we found immediately engaging and compelling. It

challenged our pre-conceptions about the use of concrete. Familiar as we are to the use of concrete in buildings or larger scale public sculpture – it was extraordinary to see it used in this picture that expresses such an emotional atmosphere. The evocation, depicted in concrete, of the solemnity of the occasion was very powerful and memorable. We commend the artist for his crafting - the expert

modelling that brings so much life to the work and, by choosing to use standard grey concrete, resisting the temptation to prettify the work.

On a technical level this work brings the use of concrete into new territory. On an artistic level it is work of true originality and integrity

Student Award | Stephen Cunningham, TCD “Influence of Aggregate Size on Shear Capacity of non-Shear Reinforced Concrete Beams and Implications for Crack Slide Theory”

The winner of the Irish Concrete Society Sean De Courcy Student award for 2009 is Stephen Cunningham of TCD for ‘Influence of Aggregate Size on Shear Capacity of non-Shear Reinforced Concrete Beams and Implications for Crack Slide Theory’. The project topic is very relevant in terms of analysis of older structures and sustainability – preserving structures that might otherwise have to be demolished. The jury also found that the objectives of the project were achieved.

The research was thorough, the experimental work was comprehensive and correctly analysed and the entire project was well presented in a clear logical manner