

Adaptive Reuse + Conservation /  
Bridging the **Past** and **Future** of  
Ireland's Built Heritage

# WORKING BACK MOVING FORWARD

Nuns' Island Theatre  
12 September 2025  
Galway City



Comhairle Cathrach  
na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council

Architectural  
Conservation  
Caomhnú  
Ailtireachta

2nd Annual Galway City  
Architectural Conservation  
Gathering

In partnership with



NBHS

An tSeirbhís Oidhreachta  
Tógtha Náisiúnta  
National Built  
Heritage Service

RIAI

Programme + Booking /  
[www.galwaycity.ie/adaptconserve](http://www.galwaycity.ie/adaptconserve)



Nearly a fifth of Ireland's buildings are historic or traditionally built, being constructed from stone or brick, many are underused, vacant, or derelict.

These structures not only embody our cultural heritage but also represent a significant resource.

By carefully adapting and reusing these buildings, we can help lower carbon emissions and create much needed spaces for homes, businesses, and communities.

**LOOKING BACK MOVING FORWARD** focuses on this historic potential, bringing leading voices from urban design, architecture, and conservation for an all day event focused on the adaptive reuse and conservation of historic buildings / places.

The event is structured around three sessions:

### **CONCEPT / THINKING IT OVER**

Explore the key challenges and driving forces that shape adaptive reuse and conservation projects.

### **STRATEGY / DESIGNING IT THROUGH**

Hear from leading architects and planners as they share creative approaches to urban strategies and community participation.

### **REALITY / MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN**

Delve into case studies of built projects from Ireland's leading architects, as they share the process of making change a reality.

# **WORKING BACK MOVING FORWARD**

**9:00 / Coffee / Tea / Registration**

**9:20 Welcome / Michael Scott**

Architectural Conservation Officer  
Galway City Council

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## **1 / CONCEPT THINKING IT OVER**

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**9:30 / Valerie Mulvin**

McCullough Mulvin Architects

**In Plain Sight – Unlocking Potential in  
What's Around Us**

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**10:00 / Nicki Matthews**

National Built Heritage Service

**EU Perspectives and Approaches on  
Adaptation and Reuse**

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**10:20 / Triona Stack**

University College Dublin

**Building Regulations - Barriers to  
Adaptive Reuse?**

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**10:40 / Ciarán Molumby + Laura Carroll**

Islander Architects

**Demolition Take Down, Power to  
Renovation**

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**11:00 / Emmet Humphries**

Senior Architect / Galway City Council  
**Session Q+A**



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## 3 / REALITY MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN

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**2:30 / Grainne Shaffrey**

Grainne Shaffrey Architects

**Recovering Historic Urban Fabric /  
Project Studies**

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**2:50 / Lucy O'Connor**

Howley Hayes Cooney Architects

**New Life for Old Buildings**

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**3:10 / Conor Sreenan**

Office of Public Works

**Public Buildings: Adaption, Reuse and  
Conservation**

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**3:30 / Thomas O'Brien**

TOB Architect

**The Quay: Adaption + Reuse of an  
Historic Building**

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**3:50 / Peter Carroll**

A2 Architects

**Perspective on Adaptive Reuse / Recent  
Projects**

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**4:10 / Joe Lawrence**

Lawrence and Long Architects

**Three Dublin Projects**

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**4:30 / Máire Henry**

Vice President of the Royal Institute of the  
Architects of Ireland / dnb Architects

**Closing Remarks / Session Q+A**

# WORKING BACK MOVING FORWARD

**11:30 / Coffee / Tea**

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## 2 / STRATEGY DESIGNING IT THROUGH

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**12:00 / Alistair MacDonald**

Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners

**Thrive Integrated Urban Strategy – West  
Area of Galway City**

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**12:30 / Morris Conway**

Waterford City + County Council

**Cappoquin Town Centre Regeneration  
Strategy – A Collaborative + Integrated  
Approach**

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**12:50 / Helena McElmeel**

Helena McElmeel Architects

**Reimagine Tuam, working with  
communities to bring buildings back**

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**1:10 / Conor Sreenan**

State Architect and Principal Architect /  
Office of Public Works

**Session Q+A**

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**1:30 - 2:30 / Lunch (provided)**