



PRESS RELEASE
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Architecture and design for young children – International award 2005

Children in Scotland, the national agency for all those working for children and their families, and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, today launch an international award for excellence in architecture and design for young children.

Entries are invited from architects and designers worldwide, who have created a visionary building, place or space, inside or outside, for young children up to the age of ten.

These could include nurseries, children's centres, schools and school-age childcare services, combined services for this age group or services shared with other age groups, play areas or street furnishings such as school bus shelters. Projects should have been completed within the period December 1999 – January 2005.

Bronwen Cohen, chief executive of Children in Scotland, said: “The expansion in services for young children means that more young children are spending time in organised child care of some kind. At the same time, we are witnessing a decline in access to safe public space, such as town squares or open countryside. With less freedom to roam and more time spent in organised space it is vitally important that we listen to young children and consider their needs fully.

“Designing space for children benefits from collaboration – bringing together architects, brain researchers, historians and environmentalists.

“Our aim is to share the best ideas and encourage innovation. By celebrating excellence in design for the very young, we hope to inspire all those creating buildings or spaces for children.”

Professor Gordon Murray, President of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, said: “Working on education buildings offers a wonderful challenge and a heavy responsibility. Knowing that one’s work will influence the young and their attitude to the built environment – perhaps for a lifetime.”

The award is sponsored by Lend Lease.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- Architecture and design for young children, international award 2005 is being launched by Children in Scotland and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, in association with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Children in Europe and with sponsorship from Lend Lease. The award is part of a programme of work supported by the Scottish Executive. Winning entries will receive free business software, tickets for an international architecture conference in Edinburgh, in December 2005, and have their work published for an international audience. Deadline for submissions: 17 June 2005. Full details of the award are online at www.childreninscotland.org.uk and www.rias.org.uk. Chair of the judges is Dr Barbara Kelly CBE DL.LLD a past Chairwoman of the Architects Registration Board and of the Scottish Consumer Council and former chair of several architectural competitions and awards.

- **Children in Scotland** is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provisions are of the best possible quality and able to meet the needs of a diverse society.
- **The Royal Incorporation of Architects (RIAS)** is the professional body for Scotland's 3000 chartered architects. It works in 1000 businesses, mainly very small, as well as in areas of industry from housebuilding to local and central government. The RIAS has charitable status and offers a wide range of services and products for architects, students of architecture, construction industry professionals and all those with an interest in the built environment and the design process.
- **Lend Lease** aims to create and manage property in a way that serves individuals, communities and businesses in an innovative, safe and efficient manner. It aspires to have a positive effect on the wider community and environment, to support economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life for generations to come. www.lendlease.com
- **Children in Europe** is a network of eight magazines in the UK (Children in Scotland produces the English Language version), Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands, reaching workers in childcare and education, policy-makers and academics. The latest issue is on architecture and young children, and can be ordered online at www.childrenscotland.org.uk/cie
- **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** has 30 member countries and works with over 70 countries worldwide.
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