

Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

MEDIA RELEASE –

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Scotland announces launch of unique international award to promote architecture and design for children aged 0-18

Scotland's role in developing and promoting good architecture and design for children and young people will be spotlighted with the launch, on 8 March 2010, of 'Making Space 2010', an international award and conference to promote and support innovation, creativity and sustainability in design for children and young people aged 0-18, and to acknowledge the involvement of children and young people themselves in these processes.

The new international award – the first of its kind to include spaces for those aged from 0 up to 18 years – follows the success of the initial 'Making Space' award for children aged 0-10 years, held in 2005.

'Making Space 2010' will again involve Children in Scotland working in partnership with the Scottish Government, and the OECD's Centre for Effective Learning Environments (CELE) to further explore the design agenda, with Scotland playing host to a two-day conference and the international award, which will showcase Scotland as a centre for design innovation.

The 'Making Space 2010' award will invite entries from across the globe, which represent visionary buildings, places or spaces for children or young people aged 0-18 inclusive, which could be indoors or in the open air; from schools, out of school services, family centres and community resources, to playgrounds and bus shelters. With submissions invited from those who designed the spaces, as well as from those who work in and use them, the award will allow architects, designers, structural engineers, urban designers, landscape designers, teachers, educators, community groups, and children and young people themselves the chance to promote a space that they are particularly proud of.

The 'Making Space 2010' programme will culminate with an award dinner, and international conference, on 7-8 October 2010, incorporating two days of presentations and study visits across Scotland, alongside presentations from architects, academics and practitioners from Scotland, Europe and across the world. As well as encouraging debate and discussion on promoting innovative design, which is a key aspiration of Scotland's new school estate strategy, *Building Better Schools: Investing in Scotland's Future*, the programme will allow architects, planners and those working with young people in a variety of settings to share ideas and challenge conventional architectural approaches, and allow the sharing of best practice on an international scale.

The closing date for entries is 8 August 2010. The judging panel for the 'Making Space 2010' award will include internationally renowned architects and educators and will be chaired by the Director of Glasgow School of Art, Seona Reid.

Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning, Michael Russell believes that Scotland is uniquely placed to stage such an event.

"The Scottish Government is committed to long-term investment in our schools. That's why we have an ambitious strategy to develop the school estate so that our schools can offer practical, innovative and sustainable learning and teaching space that is fit for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence. We need to ensure our schools provide an environment that encourage inspiration and creativity in our young people, while also offering excellent services outwith the school day that will benefit the wider local community."

"Making Space 2010 offers an arena for us to share ideas the future of Scotland's schools and to gather examples of the best school design from around the world. This will make an important contribution to ensuring Scotland leads the field in innovative and progressive school design."

Seona Reid, Director of the Glasgow School of Art, said: "Making Space 2010 provides an opportunity to share ideas for the future, gather examples of the best design from around the world and consider exactly what makes an excellent designed space for children and young people. There is a rich harvest to be gathered from working in partnership, nationally and internationally, that will benefit the architects and planners of today and inspire those of tomorrow."

Karin Buvik, an architect and senior researcher at the SINTEF institute, part of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology will also be part of the award judging panel, said: "I am delighted to be involved in 'Making Space 2010', which offers the chance to share innovative practice and to promote the creative use of space for children, young people and their communities on an international stage."

Richard Yelland, Head of the Education Management Infrastructure Division at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said: "Our children need high quality learning environments if they are to develop their full potential. Well-designed spaces will inspire young people to want to learn and to explore their surroundings. The OECD's Centre for Effective Learning Environments is proud to support Making Space 2010 as a forum for exchanging ideas on making the best possible places for young people."

Notes for Editors –

Children in Scotland is the national 'umbrella' agency for the whole of the children's sector, reaching over 250,000 individuals through our extensive membership of more than 450 statutory agencies, voluntary sector organisations, professional associations and community groups. It works in partnership with the National Children's Bureau in England, Children in Wales and Children in Northern Ireland and is the English language published of Children in Europe, a magazine published in fifteen languages across Europe in 17 countries across Europe, For further information visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk

Children in Scotland led the original 'Making Space' architecture and design for young children award and programme in 2005.

'Making Space 2010' extends the scope of the initial project, promoting innovative design from 0-18. The programme includes the international award and conference, as well as a children's art competition for Scottish school pupils, and a publication.

For more information on 'Making Space 2010' visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk/makingspace

The Scottish Government and COSLA's joint school estate strategy *Building Better Schools: Investing in Scotland's Future* was published in September 2009.
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/09/22154600/0

The Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's joint vision, aspirations and guiding principles for the management of the school estate.

Vision –

“Our vision is for schools which signal the high value we place on learning; which people and communities can enjoy using and can be proud; which are well designed, maintained and managed and which encourage continuous engagement with learning; which are far more than just 'educational establishments' whose quality of environment supports an accessible range of services and opportunities and which enrich the communities they serve and the lives of learners and families.”

Schools, as learning environments which embody a learning-centred philosophy for both pupils and adult learners, are crucial to achieving these fundamental objectives. They are much more than just 'educational establishments.' The availability and accessibility of school buildings and facilities for community use - be it educational, recreational, sporting, cultural, social or other - are equally important.”

Aspirations –

The Strategy has the following aspirations for the entirety of the School Estate in Scotland – for both old and new schools:

- Schools that are “fit for purpose” in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency;
- well designed, accessible & supportive of *Curriculum for Excellence*;
- strengthening the communities they serve;
- enhancing people's health and well being;
- sustaining economic growth;
- a “sustainable” school estate that makes a full contribution to climate change targets;
- efficiently run schools that maximise value for money;
- an estate which is flexible and responsive to future changes in demand and in learning & teaching.

Guiding Principles & Objectives –

The Strategy has 9 guiding principles and objectives which will support future planning and actions to improve the school estate:

1. Good consultation means better outcomes
2. Innovative design and change is better informed by experience
3. A more integrated, holistic and longer term approach to change
4. Schools whose condition supports and enhances their functions
5. More 'suitable' and 'inclusive' schools, better future-proofed for flexibility and adaptability

6. Schools which are 'greener', more sustainable and environmentally efficient
7. A well-managed school estate which represents and delivers best value
8. Schools which both drive and support effective learning and teaching - *Curriculum for Excellence*
9. Schools which best serve their communities.