



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 5th January 2006

Exhibition of architectural design for children and artwork by children at the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

Winning entries from a recent art and architecture competition run by Children in Scotland and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland are being showcased in Edinburgh from today.

The exhibition features winners of the architecture and design for young children international award 2005, which was run by Children in Scotland and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), in association with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Children in Europe, with sponsorship from Lend Lease and support from the Scottish Executive.

The exhibition also features winners of the children's art competition My Favourite Place, which was run by Children in Scotland and sponsored by Community

Playthings, Learning Materials Workshop, Johnston Press and Ikea.

The winner of the architecture award was Bubblectecture Maihara Kindergarten, in Shiga, Japan, by architects Shuhei Endo Architect Institute.

The children's art competition was won by *Sliding down a rainbow*, a painting by Jade Williamson, aged 9, from Balhousie Primary School.

Bronwen Cohen, Chief Executive of Children in Scotland, said: "The competition was about recognising the importance of designing spaces that meet the needs of children and child carers. The nursery in Japan that won the architecture award is worlds away from the four walls that normally divide up children's spaces – it stimulates children's imaginations. This ties into research into children's brain development which has shown how important it is to create spaces for children that allow them to play, learn and develop in an unconstrained way."

Robin Harper MSP, convener of the cross-party group on architecture and the built environment at the Scottish Parliament, as well as convener of the parliament's cross-party group on children and young people, said:

"This exhibition affords a unique opportunity to experience what children feel about themselves and their environment. There is a lesson in the children's art competition. We should consult children of all ages on how we design their schools and their environment as

they have a lot to say and there is a lot we should learn from it if we are going to meet their real needs.”

Robin Harper would be glad to provide further comment and can be contacted on 07957 337 176.

The exhibition is on display at RIAS offices: **15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2BE from now until 27 January 2006**. Entrance is free.

The exhibition follows on from Children in Scotland’s successful conference *Making space: architecture and design for young children*, held in Edinburgh in December.

The September 2005 issue of *Children in Scotland* magazine features a close-up look at the winning entries of the architecture and design for young children award.

The December 2005 issue of *Children in Scotland* magazine features articles by some of the speakers at the conference *Making space: architecture and design for young children*, and the winners of the children’s art competition.

Issue 8 of Children in Europe magazine also features articles by some of the key speakers at *Making space: architecture and design for young children*.

A special publication on architecture for children will be published by Children in Scotland, in conjunction with Architecture and Design Scotland, in spring 2006.

Notes for editors

Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organizations 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 demands of a diverse society.

The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland was founded in 1916 as the professional body for all chartered architects in Scotland and is the foremost architectural professional institute in the country dealing with architecture and the built environment. It 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.

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