

Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland

June 30th 2011

Paul Rowe, CEO, Educate Together



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School Design a Patron's view for the 21st Century

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Patron's role

- Only body with legal standing to decide issue of school buildings - lease and Education Act.
- No representative body or common view

Key issues

- Current population - 4.6 million, expanding rapidly. What about the next 100 years, & what should we plan for?
- Legal framework for planning
- No housing estate unless builder provides school as part of an integrated design



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Key planning issues

- Open space
- Safe cycle and walking paths
- Green areas for sports and play
- Integration with community facilities
- Shared facilities and joint campuses

Key design issues

- Acoustic performance
- Space
- Light, *Darkness* and Ventilation



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Key design issues

- Surface treatment - sensory elements - smell, taste and touch.
- Integration of special needs
- Regard for child-height sight-lines

New learning paradigms - integration of ICT - different learning styles -

Learning centres rather than classrooms

Built environment should reflect educational aims of school, natural world, environment, human dimension sustainability, inspiration.

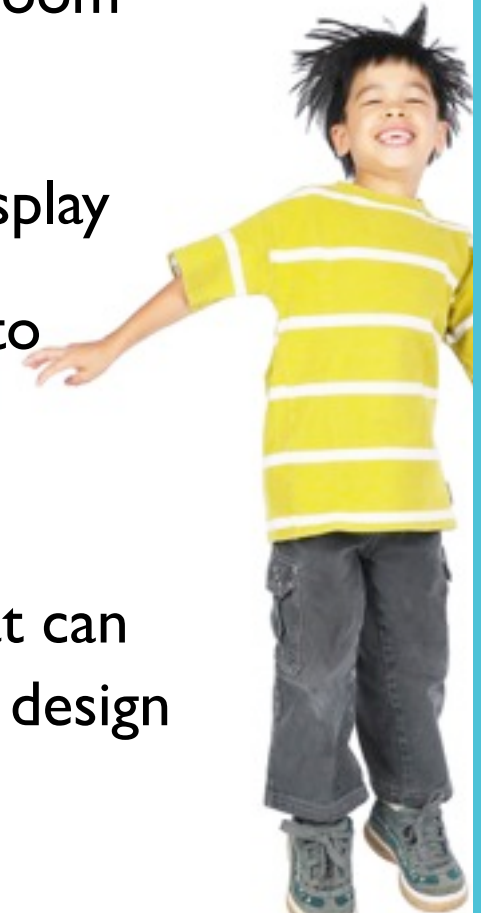


Other points

- Relationship between internal and external space
- Possibility of rotating the standard box classroom
- Circulation areas and spaces for group work collaboration, reflection, performance and display
- System build appears to offer great benefits to the end-user but reduces involvement at the design stage
- Be aware of the potential of partnerships that can add value to the building and offer additional design options



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Educate Together significant buildings

- **1983** Dalkey School Project National School
A&D Weichert and Partners 1983
- **1998** Ranelagh Multi-denominational School
O'Donnell Twomey Architects
Awards: RIBA, RIAI, Mies, RIBA , Downes Medal
- **2003** North Kildare Educate Together NS
Grafton Architects
Downes Bronze medal. RIAI Award. OPUS special mention
- **2004 Griffeen Valley Educate Together NS**
Coady and Associates - 2006 OECD list of Schools
- **2004 Galway Educate Together NS**
Simon J. Kelly + partners



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- **1998**

Ranelagh

Multi-denominational

School

O'Donnell Twomey Architects

Awards: RIBA, RIAI, Mies

RIBA, Downes Medal



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21st Century Schools



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