

Barry Sheehan / Issue Editor

# Welcome to Issue four of Iterations, Ireland's Design Research and Practice Review

**As 2016 ends, it is hard to imagine that the Year of Irish Design finished a year ago. We are all reflecting on the activities and the achievements of that year, one of which was the establishment of this award-winning journal, which is about to enter its third year of publication.**

In this issue of Iterations, we have a variety of interviews and articles, reflecting the diversity of design practice and research. We have interviewed Ali Grehan, Dublin City Architect and the instigator of Ireland's World Design Capital bid in 2014, a precursor to the Year of Irish Design. Ali's thought provoking comments range from the inception of PIVOT Dublin, and its ongoing influence on the design landscape in Ireland today. An essential read, Ali Grehan talks about how and why the bid came about and reflects on the where design is now placed in the national agenda.

Other interviews in this issue are with Frank Long of Frontend, who talks of the changes design practices must make over the years and his company's ability to adapt their business strategy to deal with these. The renowned self-taught furniture designer Joseph Walsh, talks about his background in making, designing and enterprise through the disciplines of craft, design and art. A photograph of Joseph's work has been used for the cover image. On occasion, Joseph Walsh has held workshops in the Joseph Walsh Studios in Riverstick, Cork. I am fortunate to have seen the table featured on the cover, in person at one of his making and teaching workshops. If he holds them again, I recommend all of you to attend, for great learning, conversation and relaxation.

Donal Healion and Sam Russell approach furniture design from a very different perspective, looking at its efficacy in STEM education. The curator Aideen McCole talks about the POST Design Festival in Copenhagen, which she co-delivered, and its emphasis on the politics of design, whilst

Dr. Nuala Flood writes about a group project closer to home in Belfast, proposing a methodology by which students can engage in the development of their contexts in a meaningful way. Muireann Charleton talks about Erwin Springbrunn, the German master gold and silversmith and gem cutter who moved to Roscommon in 1984. Emily Corrigan-Doyle talks about something very close to all of us, designing happiness in the home.

Design is a collaborative process and so is the production of this journal. I would like to thank all our sponsors, our contributors, our editorial team, the reviewers and, of course, you the readers for participating in a challenging, thought provoking, stimulating and reflective conversation about design. We welcome articles for future editions and you can find details on our website [www.iterations.ie](http://www.iterations.ie).

This year the Institute of Designers in Ireland initiated the Presidents' Choice Award for Outstanding Contribution to Design in Ireland. It was awarded to Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects for their body of work. Not only are Grafton Architects winning awards for their work in Ireland, they also recently won the Royal Institute of British Architects International Award for their UTEC University Building in Lima, Peru.

PIVOT Dublin and ID2015 were crystallising moments in the positioning of Irish Design. Irish designers are winning awards at home and abroad. As we enter 2017 it will be interesting to see how Irish design will be promoted on the same stages.



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