



NEWS RELEASE

City, Assembled.

A MOVING PANORAMA inspired by the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914.
(a UCD - IADT collaboration)

Exhibition: *City, Assembled: A MOVING PANORAMA inspired by the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914.*
Venue: City Assembly House
58 South William Street, Dublin 2
Dates: Monday 26 January to Sunday 8 February
Time: 4:00pm to 8:00pm daily
ADMISSION FREE

The exhibition is organised by

The School of Architecture, University College Dublin
The National Film School at the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dún Laoghaire

Support is provided by

Cornell University, John Nolen Research Fund Grant
The Irish Architectural Archive
The IFI Irish Film Archive
The Irish Georgian Society
The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
University College Dublin, Decade of Centenaries Grant
University College Dublin Library, Special Collections

Exhibition Overview

The School of Architecture, University College Dublin and the National Film School at the Institute of Art, Design and Technology are pleased to present **City, Assembled: A MOVING PANORAMA inspired by the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914**, a collaborative exhibition that reflects on Dublin in terms of ‘what it was’, ‘what it is’ and ‘what it could be’ through the use of film, photography and archival material.

City, Assembled provides an opportunity for visitors to become displaced from their immediate surroundings, enabling a re-imagining of Dublin’s civic space. The exhibition references the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914 and the Dublin Town Planning Competition 1914, both inspired by the work of Scotsman Patrick Geddes. Geddes, a biologist by training, was a town planner and sociologist with diverse interests including the theories of education and knowledge, the arts and history. He was invited to organise the 1914 exhibition and subsequent town planning competition by Lord and Lady Aberdeen in order to re-imagine Dublin as ‘the phoenix of cities’ during a period of economic, social and political strife.

Only three of the eight entries made to the Dublin Town Planning Competition 1914 are known to remain, dispersed throughout various institutions in Ireland and America. Using film and photography this exhibition brings the archival material together in one location. It aims to show Dublin then and now, conveying the ambition of the 1914 proposals, allowing for a renewed awakening and re-imagining of our city’s planning.

The main element of the exhibition is a moving panorama inspired by the painted panorama, invented by Irish born Robert Barker. The panorama played an important role in 19th century cultural life and was one of many spectacular forms of entertainment that became available to citizens at a reasonable price. In 1821 one of the earliest moving panoramas is recorded to have been exhibited on Lower Abbey Street in Dublin in a purpose-built pavilion; it is said to have outsold ‘high art’ of the time due to its cheap seating prices. These, along with Edinburgh’s Outlook Tower designed by Patrick Geddes, one of the main organisers and curator of the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914, have been a major influence on the design of **City, Assembled**.

The **City, Assembled** panorama presents the viewer with a displaced and somewhat distorted view of their immediate surroundings: South William Street outside the City Assembly House. It combines film, photography and projection with the aim of representing civic space in a new light to invoke thought and contemplation on how we view our cities. A rotating projector throws a populated film onto an unpopulated printed screen to create a unique immersive panorama experience. The development of these technical aspects of the exhibition was achieved through collaboration with Finbarr Crotty, Aran Hennessey, and Niamh McNamara (supervised by Donald Taylor Black, Anne O’Leary and Matt Skinner) of the Institute of Art, Design and Technology.

The exhibition has been designed, constructed and curated by Cillian Briody, Matthew Mullin and David O’Mahony, three Masters of Architecture students studying at the School of Architecture, University College Dublin (supervised by Stephen Mulhall, lecturer in the School of Architecture). The three students, in their final year of study, have undertaken this public exhibition as part of their academic studies. It is their first collective public exhibition and has been an exciting learning opportunity for them. The exhibition was developed through design-based research, which enabled the students to explore structure and space at a scale of 1:1, an opportunity rarely accessible to students of architecture during their education.

City, Assembled: A MOVING PANORAMA inspired by the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914, is on display in the octagonal gallery of the City Assembly House, 58 South William Street, from Monday 26 January to Sunday 8 February 2015 (4pm - 8pm daily). The City Assembly House, built between 1766 and 1771 was the first purpose built art gallery in Britain and Ireland, and possibly in Europe. It is one of three exhibitions taking place in Dublin’s city centre to mark the centenary of the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914, which took place in Dublin’s former Linenhall. The exhibition runs in conjunction with *Phoenix Rising* in Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane (07.11.14 - 29.03.15), and *House/City*, an exhibition curated by Brian Ward of the Dublin School of Architecture, DIT shown in the Linenhall site, which is now occupied by DIT (26.11.14 - 05.12.14).

For more information about the exhibition please visit our website <http://cargocollective.com/cityassembled> or visit our blog that we have been using to record the development of the exhibition. <https://cityassemblyhousepano.wordpress.com>

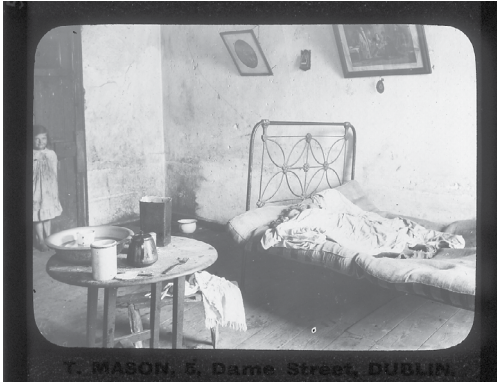
If you require further information or hi-res images please contact us at city.assembled@gmail.com

IMAGES

City, Assembled

Monday 26th January - Sunday 8th February

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Darkest Dublin

City, Assembled includes some of John Cooke's photographs depicting the stark living conditions in Dublin city in the years leading up to the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914. They have been collated into a book, *Darkest Dublin*, by Christiaan Corlett, telling the story of the forgotten events of the Church Street disaster. This tragedy served as the catalyst for a series of events that culminated in a public inquiry and report on housing conditions in Dublin.

Courtesy of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
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Lady Aberdeen Footage

Lord and Lady Aberdeen opening the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914.

"Recently, in the city of Dublin, there has been hosted an event which will bring to light topics concerning industry, trade, improvements in housing, and the issue of future peace and unity.... The Earl of Aberdeen and his wife are, of course organising this progressive affair; befitting their own forward looking, sincere, and liberal outlook."

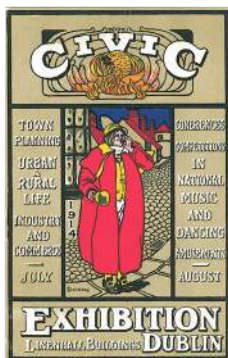
Courtesy of the IFI Irish Film Archive.
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C.R Ashbee Video

'New Dublin' was submitted as part of Charles Robert Ashbee's submission to the Dublin Town Planning Competition 1914. His replanning of Dublin, like the other submissions, focused on communications, housing and metropolitan improvements. He was a firm believer in the importance of democracy, "the need for a synthetic plan, the plan of the understanding of a people's needs".

Courtesy of UCD Library Special Collections.
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Original 1914 Exhibition Poster - Postcard

The poster for the the Dublin Civic Exhibition 1914 was the result of a competition. This was won by Lilian Davidson. Her design featured a town crier in a cobbled street surmounted by a phoenix rising from flames.

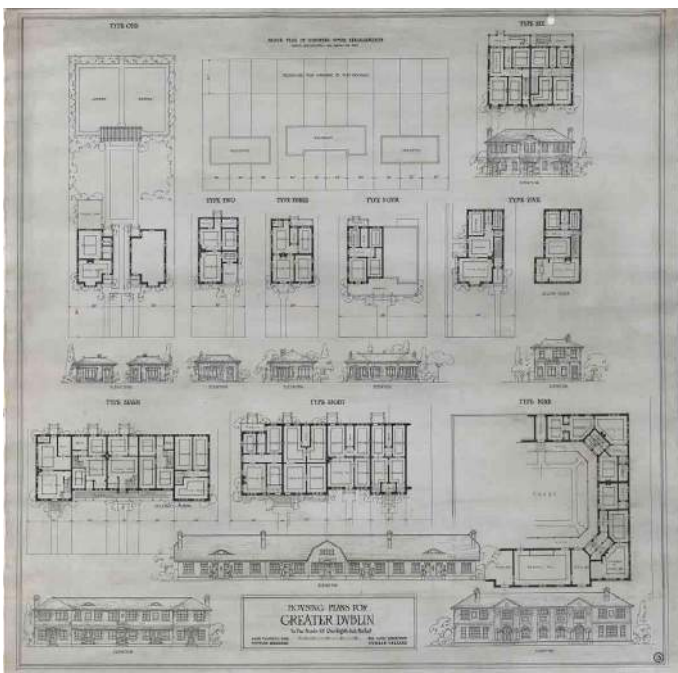
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Irish Independent

The front page of the Irish Independent, 14 July 1914 advertises the opening of the exhibition while depicting artist illustrations of the attractions that could be found at the exhibition.

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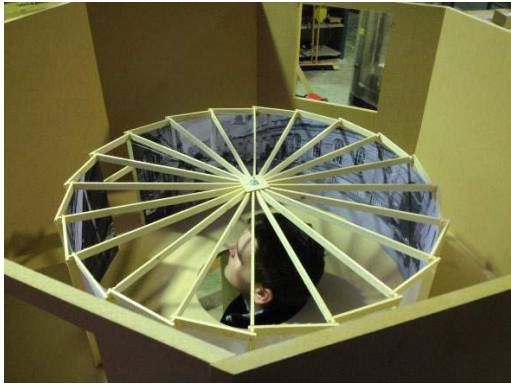


FAC Smith Map/Video

F.A. Cushing Smith received an honourable mention for his entry. It was noted for giving a clear and succinct expression of what is meant and aimed by town planning in general, as well as by this competition in particular.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive and UCD Library Special Collections.

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1:10 study model of panorama.



Construction photographs of full scale panorama. Installation production is currently in progress.



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26.01.15 - 08.02.15

4 - 8pm daily

Admission: Free



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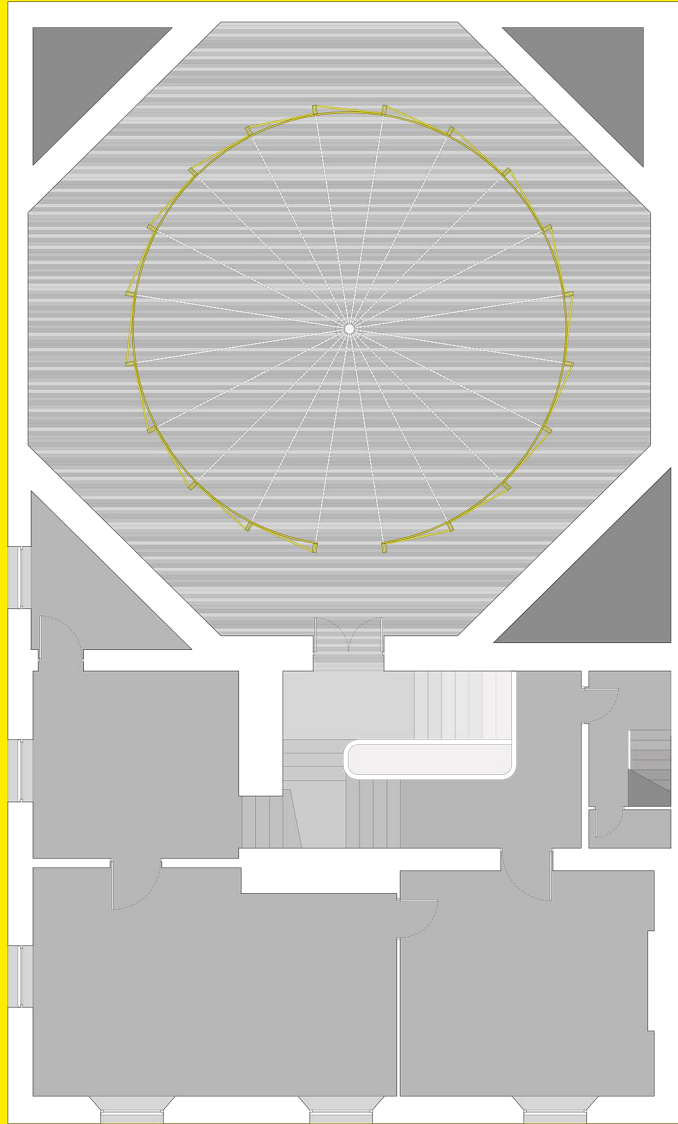
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