



University College Dublin, College of Arts & Celtic Studies
Research Strand in Material Culture

THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY DUBLIN TOWNHOUSE *FORM, FUNCTION & FINANCE*

An interdisciplinary conference

Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th May, 2008

National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square, Dublin 2

The domestic architecture of eighteenth-century Dublin remains the most cohesive element in the urban fabric of the city centre. What do the houses of these terraced streets and squares communicate about the society for which they were produced and what has been their significance in later historical contexts? This conference brings together a wide range of approaches to the eighteenth-century townhouse in order to stimulate discussion and to promote interdisciplinary research on a topic of central importance to the social, architectural and urban history of Dublin.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Monday 26th May, 2008

- 9.30 am Registration
- 10.00 am Formal opening of conference by Ali Grehan, Dublin city architect.
- SESSION 1 FORM AND FINANCE**
Chair: Professor K.B. Nowlan
- 10.10 am 'Typologies in Dublin domestic architecture'
Niall McCullough RIAI
- 10.35 am 'Financing speculative building'
Brendan Twomey, NUI Maynooth
- 10.55 am 'The Dublin domestic formula'
Christine Casey, UCD
- 11.15 am Tea/Coffee
- SESSION 2 MATERIALS AND SITE**
Chair: Geraldine Walsh, Dublin Civic Trust
- 11.45 am 'Supplying stone for the Dublin house'
Tony Hand, TCD
- 12.10 pm 'Brick in the eighteenth-century Dublin townhouse'
Susan Roundtree, UCD
- 12.30 pm 'The eighteenth-century town garden'
Finola O'Kane-Crimmins, UCD
- BREAK FOR LUNCH**
- SESSION 3 FUNCTION**
Chair: Dr. Toby Barnard, Hertford College, Oxford
- 2.00 pm 'From parlours to pantries: using inventories in the study of the interior'
Patricia McCarthy, TCD
- 2.25 pm "'Taste in High Life": Dining in the Dublin town house'
Alison FitzGerald, IRCHSS UCD
- 2.50 pm 'Stable buildings'
Edward McParland, TCD
- 3.15 pm Tea/Coffee
- 3.45 pm 'None but Persons of Fashion need Apply': Dublin townhouses of the Irish MPs 1750-1800'
Sarah Drumm, UCD
- 4.10 pm 'The townhouse as tenement in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Dublin'
Jacinta Prunty, NUI Maynooth
- 4.30 pm Questions and discussion

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 2: Tuesday 27th May, 2008

10.00-11.00 Optional site visits to eighteenth-century houses on Merrion Square and St Stephen's Green. Details to be provided upon receipt of completed registration form & conference fee.

11.35 am Conference reconvenes at the National Gallery of Ireland.

SESSION 1 HOUSE HISTORIES

Chair: Professor Loughlin Kealy, UCD

11.45 am 'New light on Richard Castle and No. 85 Saint Stephen's Green'
Loreto Calderon & Konrad Dechent, UCD

12.10 pm 'Charlemont's neighbours: the houses of Colaiste Mhuire in context'
Lynda Mulvin, UCD

12.30 pm 'The building history of Leitrim House'
John Montague, TCD

BREAK FOR LUNCH

SESSION 2 CONSERVATION, DECORATION AND BRITISH CONTEXT

Chair: Desmond FitzGerald, Knight of Glin

2.15 pm 'Conserving the Dublin townhouse: No. 48 North Great Georges Street'
John O'Connell RIAI

2.35 pm 'Rococo plasterwork of the Dublin School'
Joseph McDonnell

2.55 pm 'Classicism or commerce? Speculative building and the decorative interior'
Conor Lucey, UCD

3.15 pm Tea/Coffee

3.45 pm 'Preserving the Dublin townhouse'
Ian Lumley, An Taisce

4.05 pm 'Some comparative thoughts from London'
Peter Guillery, Survey of London

4.25 pm 'Edinburgh and Dublin'
Alistair Rowan

4.45 pm Questions and Discussion



5.30 pm *Wine reception*
Newman House, Nos. 85/86 St Stephen's Green