



Suburban sprawl to 'super rural'

Could this be Ireland in 2030? One of Ireland's leading young architecture firms, FKL (Fagan, Kelly and Lysaght), thinks so. FKL is curating the Irish entry in the Venice Architecture Biennale and has brought together a group of young Irish architects to predict how Irish cities, suburbs and the countryside might look in 30 years. Amongst the ideas they've come

up with are floating cities, seaside holiday villages that are only visible when occupied and, most radically perhaps, a decent national railway infrastructure that would halve commuting times across the country.

Suburban sprawl is "choking our urban centres, devastating the countryside and atomising our tradition sense of community", say the FKL team. "Can

we learn to value land again for its intrinsic qualities and not simply as a site for more houses?" They're looking to imagine a new model of development, "a ruddy hybrid of the rural and the urban", what they call a "super rural" model.

More The Biennale runs from 10 September to 19 November. www.labiennale.org

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