**DoCoMoMo Ireland presents *Central Bank in the 21st Century:* an open design competition to develop ideas for what the building might become.**

**The architectural ideas competition seeks to generate discussion among designers and decision-makers about the future of the Central Bank building. The competition is open to all and offers a prize fund of €1500. The competition opens on 1st December 2012 – registration is via** [**www.docomomo.ie**](http://www.docomomo.ie)**. Submission of entries is 1st March 2013. The assessors are drawn from strategic planning, architecture, culture, architectural history and current affairs backgrounds.**

**What will become of the Central Bank?**

The Headquarters of the Central Bank of Ireland on Dame Street in Dublin, (Stephenson & Gibney Associates, 1979) may soon be vacated by its current occupants. The question is: what will become of this iconic building?

In recent years, the Central Bank HQ has become emblematic of the struggle between democratic and corporate interests. During its 32-year history it has evoked many passions – ranging from revulsion to admiration – but it is ultimately a symbol of modern Ireland, constructed with an air of defiance during a cruel recession.In our current straitened circumstances this competition seeks to encourage once more a certain disregard for convention, a quest for adventure and an exploration of possibilities.

**Why have an ideas competition?**

The purpose of the competition is to create a body of ideas about how the Central Bank building might approach its next phase of life. Proposals may include, inter alia, architectural intervention(s), versions of preservation/conservation, visualisations, functional proposals, urban proposals, and contextual imaginings. The principal aim is to re-imagine the building and its immediate surrounding environment in an innovative and exciting way. The building is in four distinct parts and ideas are invited for all: the tower building, the rebuilt Commercial Buildings, the two storey basement carpark with plaza above and the three story annex.

**Who can enter?**

The competition is open to all individuals and groups with an interest in presenting creative ideas for the future use of this landmark building. This is a conceptual architectural competition.

First prize in the general category will be awarded €1000. First prize in the student category will be awarded €300. Commendations will be at the discretion of the assessors.

There will be a sponsored award of €200 for the best presentation from Inspirational Arts.

**How can one enter?**

The competition regulations and information packs are available at [www.docomomo.ie](http://www.docomomo.ie).

Registration fee €20 (€10 for students)

Each submission is to be presented on 1 x A1 mounted board (landscape format) and in soft copy. The presentation should adequately explain the proposal in scaled drawings, images and text.

**What are the deadlines?**

Registration begins on 1st December 2012.

Questions may be submitted up until 5pm on 11th January 2013, and answers will be circulated before 12pm on Friday 25th January. All questions will be open to all entrants.

Submissions must be delivered to the Irish Architectural Archive at 65 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 before 5pm on 1st March 2013.

The announcement of the winners will take place in April 2013.

**Will there be an exhibition?**

An exhibition of selected entries will be held at the Irish Architectural Archive in May 2013 and will travel to Belfast, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford. Exhibited entries will also feature on the DoCoMoMo Ireland website.

**Who are the assessors?**

**Ali Grehan** who devised and coordinated PIVOT; Dublin’s bid for World Design Capital 2014, was appointed Dublin City Architect in January 2008. Her career has spanned private practice in Dublin and London, as well as the Public Service. She was recently elected to the Council of the RIAI where she continues to advocate for the value of better design by way of interdisciplinary collaboration.

**David Healy** is a founding member of Respublica, a collaborative group of designers and architects. In the summer of 2012, Respublica exhibited a large scale model of Central Bank in various locations across Dublin to spark a debate about the building and encourage speculations on its future. David is currently working in practice and teaching in UCD School of Architecture.

**Kathleen James-Chakraborty** is Professor of Art History at University College Dublin and Chair of the Irish Architecture Foundation.  She is also a member of the Royal Irish Academy.  James-Chakraborty is an architectural historian whose research focuses upon modern German and American architecture.  Her most recent book Architecture since 1400: A Global Survey is forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press.

**Paul Larmour** is an architectural historian and Reader in Architecture at Queen’s University Belfast. Among his many books and articles is ‘Free State Architecture: Modern Movement Architecture in Ireland, 1922-1949’ (Gandon Editions, Kinsale, 2009). At various times he has been a member of DOCOMOMO UK and DOCOMOMO INTERNATIONAL.

**Joe Mulholland** is Director of the MacGill Summer School. He has held several senior positions in RTE including Editor of Current Affairs, Director of News and Managing Director of Television. He was Chairman of the News Section of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) 1993-7 and Chairman of Radio Television Kosovo (RTK) 2001-2. He was Chairman of the National College of Art & Design (NCAD) 2006-2012. He was named Donegal Person of the Year in 2009.

*DoCoMoMo Ireland is the Irish committee for documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement.*