Work begins on new music building at UL

By ALAN OWENS

THE contracts have been signed for the construction of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance building at the University of Limerick.

Building will commence immediately and is expected to be completed by November 2009.

The construction will cost an estimated €20 million and is being overseen by Michael McNamara & Company Ltd.

The building was designed by leading French Architect Daniel Cordier, who was selected from 93 different entries following an international design competition in 2004, and aims specifically to combine the elements of teaching and performance.

Dr Mícheál O'Súilleabháin, Professor of Music at the University of Limerick and founder/director of the Irish World Academy said that: "things are really moving now and I am delighted."

"It is all go and there is already a hole dug in the ground, these construction companies move like the hammers of Hell, so there is no question of them not reaching their completion target of November 2009," said the well-known composer, who founded the Academy in January 1994.

"This is very important for us because we already have more students than we can handle. We are turning away students because we just don't have the space," explained Dr O'Súilleabháin. "We have been operating in the Foundation Building for the last number of years and it is very good, but with the performing arts you need very special spaces and this facility will provide that."

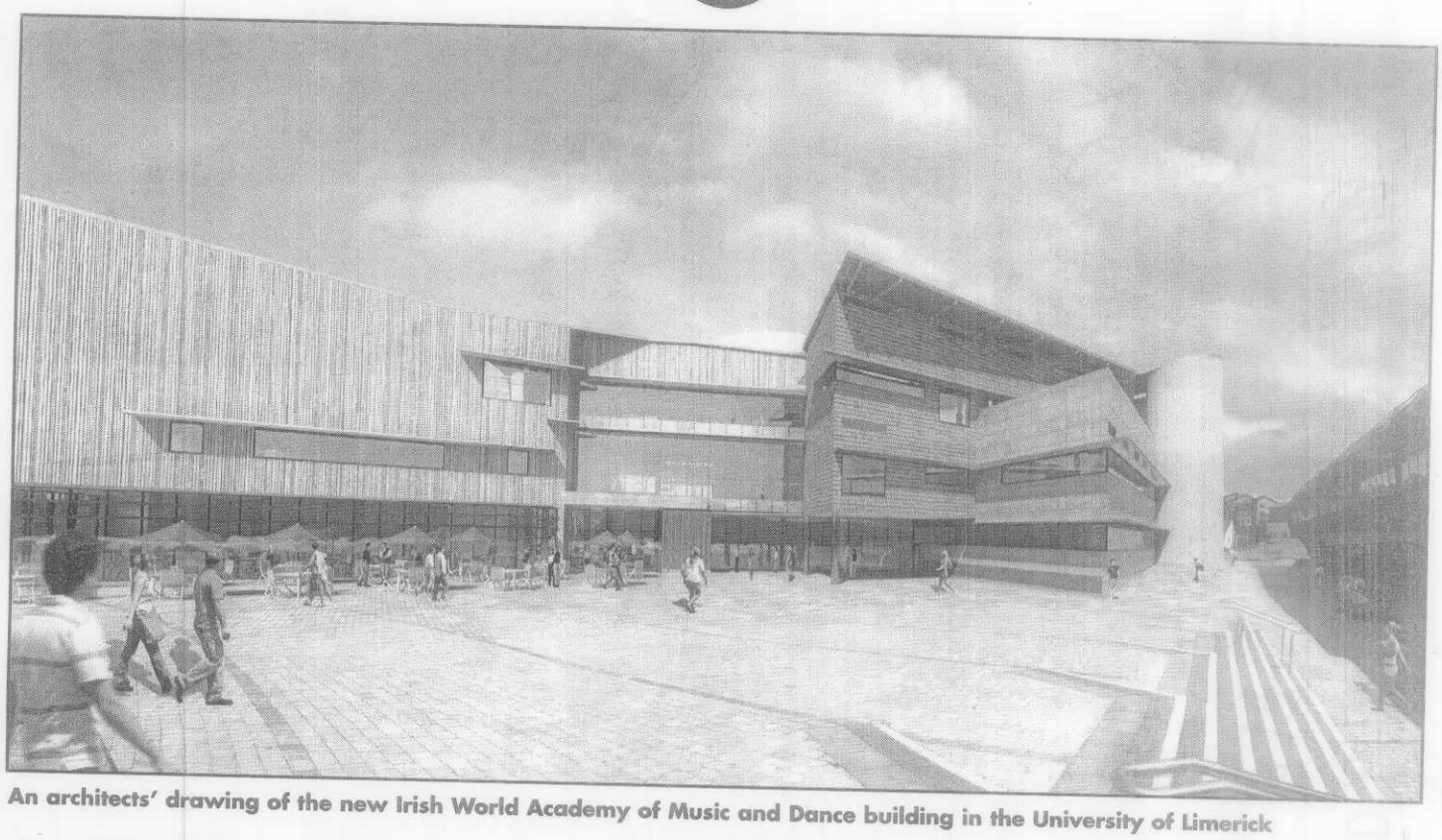
The building will accommodate two performance workshop theatres, the Tower Theatre and the Sionna Theatre. The Tower Theatre, which is designed in an atrium style, scales from the bottom floor to the top of the building and finishes with a circular window to the sky - this tower will contain a pipe organ and space for 80 people.

Holding up to 200 people, the Sionna Theatre has been designed as a "musical laboratory", with timber parquet dance floors designed to host dance performance.

A major feature of the building will be a green room for performers, performance control rooms, recording spaces, a researchers area for 40 students, music performance practice rooms and dance performance studios. The ambitious plans also contain a computer suite, along with multi-purpose music/speech classroom studios and tutorial rooms as well as academic and administration offices and a cafe.

The design of the new building includes 'a performance entrance forecourt' to the open area immediately adjacent to the Academy's front entrance.

The recently opened Living Bridge will merge with this Plaza, on the Clare side of the UL Campus. In keeping with environmental concerns the aim is for the building to operate with natural ventilation with minimal mechanical ventilation to reduce its long-term carbon footprint.



An architects' drawing of the new Irish World Academy of Music and Dance building in the University of Limerick

Katies fundraising for children gets a top response from Paddy

By GERARD FITZGIBBON

A YOUNG Limerick girl has enlisted the help of Irish international soccer star Paddy Kenny in her efforts to raise money for the Mid West Regional Hospital.

Katie Whelan, from the Dublin Road, raised €600 for the Children's Ark ward by taking part in the recent Flora Women's Mini Marathon and now plans to raffle a signed jersey given to her by the Sheffield United goalkeeper.

Katie, a pupil at St Patrick's Girls National School, has been praised for her remarkable efforts to help those less fortunate than herself.

Donal O'Gorman, principal of St Patrick's Girls NS, said: "It's fantastic, she's a great child. Even in school she's very kind and caring, always looking after the younger children. All of the teachers and students are very proud of what she's doing."

Katie Whelan, Dublin Road, with her signed Sheffield United FC jersey and Womens Mini Marathon medal (LL)

Katie points to a love of walking with her grandmother as the catalyst for her decision to take part in the marathon: "I'm always going out walking with my nana. I liked the idea of raising money for sick children, and it was really good to be in the marathon."

Katie, who ran the last 500 metres of the 15km marathon, thanked her school for sponsoring her to the tune of €100 to take part. Her grandmother Eileen said she did not know a more selfless and caring little girl: "She's the most wonderful person. I know I might be biased, being her nana, but she's the best in the world, such a kind child."

She also held considerable praise for Paddy Kenny, who is known for his charity work in the UK: "His mother is a friend of my sister's, and when he heard what Katie was doing he was very keen to help. He's so good for this kind of thing, once he hears that children's charities are involved he's very quick to help. He got the whole Sheffield United team to sign this jersey, and we're hoping he might be able to get an Ireland jersey too. That would be terrific."

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MAKE	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	YEAR	PRICE	BODY TYPE	ENG SIZE
CITROEN	XSARA	Blue	41,290 miles	2003	€6,600	Hatchback	1400
DAYWOO	KALOS	Blue	71,000 miles	2003	€5,000	Hatchback	1300
DAYWOO	LANOS	Green	89,657 miles	2000	€1,500	Hatchback	1300
FIAT	Panda	Red	44,532 miles	2004	€5,600	Hatchback	1100
FIAT	Punto	Grey	54,796 miles	2001	€3,600	Hatchback	1200
FIAT	Punto	Black		2001	€3,300	Hatchback	1200
FORD	Fiesta	Blue	37,500 miles	2001	€4,800	Hatchback	1200
FORD	Fiesta	Red	88,928 miles	2000	€4,000	Hatchback	1400
FORD	Focus	Blue	55,000 miles	2003	€11,700	Saloon	1800
FORD	Mondeo	Silver	51,554 miles	2003	€10,800	Saloon	1800
FORD	Puma	Black	88,000 miles	1998	€4,200	Hatchback	1700
HYUNDAI	Accent	Green	80,000 miles	2000	€3,800	Hatchback	1300
HYUNDAI	Trajet	Blue	85,946 miles	2002	€10,800	Unknown	2000
LAND ROVER	Freelander	Blue	27,000 miles	2004	€21,500	SUV	2000
MAZDA	323	Silver	59,622 miles	2003	€8,600	Saloon	1300
MITSUBISHI	Carisma	Blue	79,744 miles	2000	€4,000	Hatchback	1600
NISSAN	Almera	Blue	68,235 miles	2000	€4,300	Saloon	1400
NISSAN	ALMERA	Green	101,425 miles	2001	€4,000	Hatchback	1500
NISSAN	ALMERA	Blue	83,000 miles	2001	€4,000	Hatchback	1500
NISSAN	MICRA	Black	46,551 miles	2005	€10,300	Hatchback	1000
NISSAN	Primera	Brown	84,000 miles	2001	€6,500	Saloon	2000
OPEL	Agila	Silver	47,993 miles	2002	€4,300	Hatchback	1000
OPEL	Astra	Silver	47,739 miles	2002	€7,500	Hatchback	1400
OPEL	CORSA	Silver	51,853 miles	2001	€4,500	Hatchback	1000
OPEL	CORSA	Silver	93,430 miles	1999	€2,800	Hatchback	1000
OPEL	Corsa	Blue	104,528 miles	1998	€1,800	Hatchback	1000
OPEL	CORSA	Blue	106,000 miles	1997	€1,200	Hatchback	1200
OPEL	CORSA	Green	66,607 miles	1997	€1,600	Hatchback	1200
OPEL	CORSA	Red	127,689 miles	1996	€1,000	Hatchback	1200
OPEL	Corsa	Blue	54,772 miles	1998	€1,500	Hatchback	1000
OPEL	ZAFIRA	Silver	55,557 miles	2003	€11,800	Estate	1600
PEUGEOT	306	RED	126,984 miles	1999	€2,000	Estate	1400
RENAULT	Megane	Green	31,768 miles	1997	€1,200	Saloon	1600
RENAULT	Scenic	Grey	65,000 miles	2003	€8,200	SUV	1400
SKODA	OCTAVIA	Orange	50,361 miles	2003	€8,500	Hatchback	1400
SUZUKI	Ignis	Blue	55613 miles	2003	€6,800	Hatchback	1300
SUZUKI	Wagon R+	Green	80,314 miles	1999	€2,600	Hatchback	1000
TOYOTA	Corolla	Blue	108,525 miles	1996	€2,000	Saloon	1400
TOYOTA	COROLLA	Green	36,000 miles	2000	€4,800	Hatchback	1400
TOYOTA	Starlet	Green	90,500 miles	1998	€3,000	Hatchback	1300
TOYOTA	Corolla	Silver	72,000 miles	1998		Saloon	1300

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