

Activities by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in support of Irish Design 2015



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade

ID
2015



Introduction

Irish Design 2015 (ID2015) emerged as an idea from the Global Irish Economic Forum, convened by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2013. The year-long programme of over 600 events and activities showcased over 2,000 designers at home and abroad to more than 1.4 million people. A wide range of disciplines were encompassed by the initiative, including animation, architecture, craft, engineering, fashion, furniture, graphic design, medical and jewellery.

The programme was convened by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCoI), in collaboration with partner organisations, on behalf of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Enterprise Ireland.

As well as raising the profile and building on the international reputation of Irish design, the programme sought to increase awareness of the value of design in all aspects of life. It encouraged links between local and global Irish designers, and it highlighted the importance of design to success in business and as a driver of economic growth. In recognition of the important role played by design in job creation and in growing exports, the initiative was included in the Government's Action Plan for Jobs for 2015.

Outside of Ireland, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Embassy network actively supported the initiative through support for showcase events in key design capitals and through hosting networking events and trade missions to promote Irish design and to facilitate the development of relationships between buyers, designers and industry representatives. They were supported in this work by a special exhibition – the *Connections Capsule* - prepared for use of the Embassy network by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, in consultation with the Trade Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It consists of three sturdy flight cases built to withstand their travels around the world. Two tall cases open to reveal a total of 32 exhibits representing designers and projects across a broad range of design disciplines, and the smaller case holds a self-contained Irish design library. The availability of the *Connections Capsule* at centres across the Embassy network ensured high visibility for the very best of Irish design and craft.

Throughout 2015, over 100 events and activities in support of ID2015 took place overseas with the support of the Embassy network, including some 30 events within Ireland's Embassies, all underpinned by support from Trade Division's economic diplomacy budget. This short report documents the various events and activities.

December 2014

7 December

The **Embassy in Sofia** promoted the Irish Design 2015 programme at an International Women's Club event under the patronage of Bulgaria's head of state President Rossen Plevneliev. The event was attended by members of the foreign diplomatic community and representatives from local and international businesses.

8-14 December

The **Embassy in Beijing** partnered with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland and Irish Design 2015 to present *Weathering*, an exhibition of contemporary Irish design and craft. The exhibition was opened by President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins on his state visit to China.

January 2015

23 – 27 January

The **Embassy in Paris** and Enterprise Ireland partnered with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland and Irish Design 2015 to support the Irish Design pavilion at the premiere international trade event *Maison et Objet*. Ambassador of Ireland to France, Geraldine Byrne-Nason, hosted a related networking event at the Embassy, where a micro-exhibition of Irish design reflecting the *Maison et Objet* show was on display.



Irish Design Pavilion, Maison et Object, Paris.

27 January

Internationally-renowned Irish furniture designer Joseph Walsh officially launched Irish Design 2015 in Tokyo at a reception hosted by Anne Barrington, Ambassador of Ireland to Japan, at the **Embassy in Tokyo**. The event included a talk entitled 'A Dialogue in Making', which focused on how Walsh's elaborate work is undertaken and on the communication between members of the team at Joseph Walsh Studio, two of whom are Japanese.

February 2015

2 February

The **Embassy in London** hosted an event in honour of Irish architects Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey in recognition of their being awarded the prestigious RIBA Royal Gold Medal for their lifelong distinguished work in architecture.

March 2015

13 – 31 March

The **Embassy in Stockholm** hosted version 1.0 of the Connections Capsule in March, when it was launched by Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD as part of his St. Patrick's Day visit to Sweden.

The Connections Capsule exhibition started its journey on 13 March in Stockholm.

16 – 25 March

The **Embassy in London** supported Irish Design 2015's *Second Skin* exhibition at London City Hall. The exhibition formed part of the overall London St. Patrick's Festival and was visited by Minister Heather Humphreys on 14 March during her St. Patrick's programme in London. *Second Skin* explored the potential of living, designing and producing clothing and textiles in Ireland and included pieces by four of Ireland's leading fashion labels – Jennifer Rothwell, Joanne Hynes, Natalie Coleman and Lennon Courtney. Ambassador of Ireland to Britain, Dan Mulhall, officially launched the exhibition on 16 March.

17 – 29 March

The **Embassy in Rome** hosted the official launch of Irish Design 2015's extensive Italian programme to coincide with the St. Patrick's Day visit of Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD. Highlights of ID2015 in Italy included the Irish Film Festa, Milan Design Week and a take-over by Irish Design of the Ireland Pavilion at Expo Milano for a weekend.

26 – 29 March

Irish Design 2015 sponsored a short film and animation award at this year's *Irish Film Festa* in Rome. It was presented by film director Lenny Abrahamson on Saturday, 28 March. The *Irish Film Festa* is an annual festival that takes place at the Casa del Cinema, Villa Borghese in Rome to celebrate and promote the Irish film industry in Italy.

April 2015



Liminal – Irish Design at the Threshold, Milan.

14 – 19 April

The launch of the ID2015 flagship exhibition, *Liminal – Irish Design at the Threshold* - took place in FuoriSalone **in Milan**. *Liminal* featured collaborations between over 20 designers across a diverse range of disciplines, including a mix of both existing and newly commissioned works. The designers were selected based on the innovative nature of their work, connected not only geographically but also through an ability to transcend disciplinary boundaries.

16 April

The **Consulate General in New York**, in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland, launched a book by Dr Jennifer Goff in April: *'Eileen Gray: Her Work and her World'*. The launch, an opportunity to highlight Ireland's design aesthetic, was attended by prominent members of the design community, including a number of New Yorkers involved with promoting Gray's legacy, and specifically the grand reopening of her iconic masterpiece, E1027. Dr Goff also gave a delivered a lecture on Eileen Gray at the American Irish Historical Society in April.

20 April – 11 May

The **Embassy of Ireland in Prague** partnered with Enterprise Ireland to present the *Life and Culture* capsule exhibition at a high-level networking event as part of a Trade Mission to the Czech Republic led by Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, to raise awareness of Ireland as a source of world class products, services and technologies. The exhibition was then put on display at the Embassy where it was launched by Ireland's Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Alison Kelly and award-winning Irish illustrator, Steve Simpson, whose limited edition Jameson bottle label features in the capsule.

May 2015

4 – 10 May

The **Embassy in Vilnius** partnered with Lithuanian Design Week to present a selection of photographic images from Design Island in an exhibition entitled *'Designers at Work'* at the *Energetikos ir Technikos Muziejus* (The Energy and Technical Museum) in central Vilnius as part of the design week programme. The exhibition was a surprise to many in Vilnius who would not have been familiar with Irish design.

4 – 16 May

The **Embassy in Bratislava** presented the ID2015 launch film 'Our Future is in Our Hands' and a slideshow of Irish design highlights at their stand in central Bratislava during Europe Day, as well as during their participation in Slovakia's Open Embassy Day 2015.

12 May

The **Consulate General in New York** supported the launch of the Royal Irish Academy's *'Art and Architecture in Ireland'* five-volume publication, which was held at the home of Mr. Wilbur Ross in Manhattan.

20 May – 11 June

The **Embassy in Prague** partnered with Enterprise Ireland to present the *Life and Culture* capsule exhibition at a high-level networking event as part of a Trade Mission to the Czech Republic led by Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, to raise awareness of Ireland as a source of world class products, services and technologies. The exhibition was then put on display in the atrium of the Embassy building, which hosts the American Center and about a dozen other companies.

The Capsules were created by the company that makes instrument covers for U2.

21 May

The **Embassy in Tokyo** arranged and signed, on behalf of ID 2015, a partnership agreement between the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland and the prestigious Japan Institute of Design Promotion (<http://www.jidp.or.jp/>) to promote design internationally and Irish exchanges with Japan. One of the outcomes of the agreement was the appointment of Toyota's former design chief, Mr. Mizuno, as a judge on the Global Irish Design Challenge which was launched in August 2015 and will culminate at an exhibition in Dublin in March 2016. Future exchanges and joint initiatives are expected throughout the three-year period of the agreement.

June 2015

1 – 2 June

The **Embassy in London** supported the launch of the *New Horizon_architecture from Ireland* exhibition at Cubbit Square, Kings Cross. The Minister for the Diaspora, Jimmy Deenihan TD, officially launched the exhibition at which he, and Ambassador of Ireland to Britain, Dan Mulhall, were special guests. This was the first event of the month-long London Festival of Architecture, where Ireland was chosen as the country of focus.

Ambassador Mulhall was also invited as a special guest to the *Irish Architects Exhibition on Current Projects in the UK* and the complimentary exhibition *7 Hands – Inspiring Crafts from West Cork*, both of which were part of the *Vision – The Future of the Built Environment* exhibition which took place from 2- 3 June at the Olympia Central in Kensington, London.

4 June

The **Embassy in Prague** hosted an event to launch and publicise the Connections Capsule exhibition in the presence of Irish design expert Steve Simpson (designer of the Jameson St. Patrick's Day 2015 bottle, which is included in the exhibition). Mr. Simpson made a presentation to an audience of business and cultural contacts, members of the Irish community and members of the Czech design and artistic community.

The **Embassy in Berlin** hosted an exhibition opening and talk entitled *Bungalow Bliss: a Rural Modernity*. Adrian Duncan, an Irish engineer turned artist and writer based in Berlin, and Olga Tiernan, a Dublin-based textile designer and lecturer at NCAD, presented their work, which was inspired by Jack Fitzsimons' 1970s *Bungalow Bliss* book of designs. The very successful event was attended by more than 60 people from the Berlin design and art scene, as well as the local Irish community, and the Ambassador of Ireland to Germany, Michael Collins, took the opportunity to highlight ID2015.

9 – 16 June

The **Embassy in Tallinn** partnered with Enterprise Ireland and the Irish-Estonian Business Network to present a selection of images from the Design Island photographic exhibition as part of an innovation-



Installation of the Side by Side exhibition, Paris.

focused Market Study Visit to Estonia led by Minister of State for Development, Trade Promotion and North-South Co-operation, Sean Sherlock TD.

12 June – 12 July

The **Embassy in Paris** hosted the Life and Culture capsule exhibition in conjunction with a broad programme of Irish cultural events. These included the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's exhibition of contemporary Irish craft *Portfolio: Side by Side* - featuring 22 creators across the disciplines of ceramics, jewellery, glass,

metals, leather, fashion, stone, furniture, woodwork and basketry - which was launched at the *Centre Culturel Irlandais* by Ambassador of Ireland to France, Geraldine Byrne Nason, and the re-opening of Eileen Gray's iconic E1027 villa in Roquebrun-Cap-Martin.

15 June – 7 August

The Life and Culture capsule exhibition was on display at the Ireland Pavilion at Expo Milano as part of the programme of celebrations for Ireland Day, which was launched by President Michael D. Higgins, Patron of Irish Design 2015.

30 June

The Minister for the Diaspora, Jimmy Deenihan TD, and Ambassador to Britain, Dan Mulhall, were special guests at *We Built this City*, an event to raise awareness of and celebrate the contribution Irish people have made to the built and cultural fabric of London, from historic to contemporary times. This event was organised by the Irish Architecture Foundation in collaboration with Irish Design 2015 and the Office of the Minister for the Diaspora, and marked the conclusion of the month-long London Festival of Architecture during which Ireland was the country of focus.



The launch of Ireland Day at Expo Milano by President Michael D. Higgins.

July 2015

10 July – 12 July

The **Embassy in Warsaw** and the Enterprise Ireland office in Poland brought Damien O'Connor of Brown Bag Films to Poznan to participate in Animator, Poland's leading animation festival. Mr.

O'Connor gave an interactive two-day workshop to animators on developing an idea for animation through different phases to storyboard.

13 July – 17 August

Craft Northern Ireland partnered with Irish Design 2015 to present the Life and Culture capsule exhibition at the O'Donnell + Tuomey-designed Lyric Theatre in Belfast as part of August Craft Month 2015. August Craft Month 2015 is the annual celebration of contemporary craft in Northern Ireland.

August 2015

14 August – 2 September

The Life and Culture capsule exhibition was on display at the **Consulate General in Edinburgh** to coincide with the Edinburgh Festivals and a number of related networking events highlighting the Irish community in media, business and cultural spheres, including Culture Ireland's annual showcase. The exhibition launch event was attended by Ambassador of Ireland to Britain, Dan Mulhall, a representation from ID2015, and members of the Scottish government and cultural agencies.

The exhibition in Edinburgh was attended by Eugene Mullan, an Edinburgh-based architect and Secretary of the Scottish Cross Party Group on Architecture, who is heavily involved in planning the upcoming Year of Scottish Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016.

28 August – 10 November

The Life and Culture capsule was on display at the **Consulate General of Ireland in New York**, where it dovetailed with the ID2015-supported *Ireland Fashion Showcase NYC* and Irish representation at the Architecture & Design Film Festival in October.

September 2015

1 September – 26 October

The **Consulate General in Shanghai** presented ID2015's Society and Progress capsule and Design Island exhibition at the Successful Design Awards, where Irish fashion designer Helen Cody delivered a presentation to over 800 members of the Chinese press and presented a mini-showcase of her AW15 collection.

4 September – 8 October

The Life and Culture capsule exhibition was on display at **the Embassy in London** where it coincided with Irish Design 2015's presence at London Fashion Week and London Design Week. This included the new Irish fashion showcase *Unfold*, an exhibition of design-led craft 'Ó' at Tent London and the Ogham Wall installation at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

10 September

The inaugural Ireland Fashion Showcase, supported by Irish Design 2015, was held in the **Consulate General in New York City** for the opening of New York Fashion Week. It aimed to enhance the profile and reputation of the many emerging and established designer talents within the Irish fashion industry to an international market.



Ireland Fashion Showcase, New York.

12 – 25 September

The **Embassy in Tallinn** partnered with ID2015 to support the presentation of *New Architecture: Ireland*, a travelling exhibition of Irish-produced environment design curated by AP+E at the Tallinn Architecture Biennale. It presented the work of six up-and-coming Irish offices that have emerged during the recent economic crisis. Part of the satellite program, the exhibition was launched by the Irish Ambassador to Estonia, Frank Flood, as part of the opening weekend for TAB 2015.

18 – 19 September

London Fashion Week, as one of the world's highest profile designer showcases, presented an excellent opportunity to increase the profile of Irish fashion designers.

Unfold: Irish Designers Collective at London Fashion Week showcased collections from 11 established Irish fashion designers at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA). The selection of these 11 designers across womenswear, accessories, fine jewellery and millinery was chosen from over 40 applications.

19 – 27 September

The Ogham Wall exhibition was showcased at the Victoria & Albert Museum as part of London Design Festival 2015. The installation was inspired by the Irish Ogham alphabet. Each cluster of fins related to a letter in the Ogham alphabet and each letter symbolised a native Irish tree. The fins were constructed from a variety of concrete mixes containing various metals that reflect the patterns inspired by various tree bark textures.

Twenty three 3-meter high concrete fins were standing in the atmospheric surroundings of the Victoria & Albert Museum's Tapestry Gallery.

21 September – 2 October

The **Embassy in Luxembourg** partnered with Irish Design 2015 to have the ID2015 launch film 'Our Future is in Our Hands' screened in advance of all Irish films that were being presented as part of the annual British-Irish Film Season in Luxembourg.

24 – 27 September

The Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, supported by the **Embassy in London**, officially launched 'Ó' at an event on 24 September. The exhibition of new work from Ireland's designers and makers was presented by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland at Tent London as part of **London Design Festival 2015**. The exhibition featured products from over 20 designers who are passionate about materials and production and who possess a strong sense of place. A highlight of 'Ó' was three live micro-production spaces within the exhibition throughout the four days of Tent, offering visitors a unique opportunity to meet the designer-makers behind the products and watch these talented craftspeople demonstrate production techniques in weaving, ceramics, wood and print.

October 2015

1 October – 15 January



New Horizon_architecture, Chicago Design Museum.

The **Consulate General in Chicago** hosted the Society and Progress capsule exhibition to coincide with the launch of *New Horizon_architecture from Ireland* at the Chicago Design Museum in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Biennial (running from 3 October 2015 to 31 January 2016). The exhibition features the work of emerging Irish practices. Enterprise Ireland also partnered with the Consulate and ID2015 to deliver a Design Feasibility Study, which was led by the Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD. The purpose was to raise the profile of the quality and expertise that

characterise the Irish design sector, in order to achieve export growth and ultimately create more jobs in Ireland.

2 – 4 October

The **Embassy in Rome** supported the Irish Design 2015 takeover of the Ireland pavilion at Expo Milano with talks from Irish architects and designers and screenings of showreels from Irish film, animation and VFX production companies. The programme was launched by the Ambassador of Ireland to Italy, Bobby McDonagh, and attended by Honorary Consul General of Ireland in Milan, Antonietta Marsaglia.

7 October

The **Embassy in Paris** hosted a major showcase event for Irish Design 2015 at the Embassy on 7 October, bringing together Irish designers of jewellery, home-wares and fashion. The main aim was to announce and promote Showcase Ireland's Creative Expo (24 -27 January 2016) in Dublin's RDS. It afforded an opportunity to display the works of designers Aideen Bodkin, Helen McAlinden and Niamh O'Neill, knitwear by Inis Meain Knits and jewellery by Christina Belle plus items by more than 60 Irish designer makers who are taking part in the Showcase exhibition in the New Year.

The event was a collaborative project between the Embassy, the Design & Crafts Council, Enterprise Ireland Paris and Showcase Ireland. It was attended by retail buyers, French print and online journalists in the design and fashion sphere.

5 – 23 October

The **Embassy in Copenhagen** partnered with ID2015 to support the presentation of *New Architecture: Ireland* at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, officially opened by the Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD. The keynote speech by the Minister was followed by a panel discussion featuring young architects practicing in Ireland and Denmark, allowing for consideration of lessons each country could learn from the other. Minister Nash's visit was part of a broader Design Feasibility Study to Scandinavia and The Netherlands .



New Architecture: Ireland, Copenhagen.

12 October – 9 November

The **Embassy in Stockholm** hosted ID2015's Life and Culture capsule exhibition in connection with a Design Feasibility Study to Scandinavia and The Netherlands.

14 October

The **Consulate General in New York** supported the US premiere of 'Talking To My Father' at the 2015 Architecture and Design Film Festival. It showcased Irish architecture to over 100 practicing architects, students, professionals and commentators.

17 – 25 October

The **Embassy in The Hague** supported the presentation of ID2015's flagship show Liminal: Irish Design at the Threshold at Dutch Design Week in Eindhoven. Ambassador of Ireland to The Netherlands, H.E. John Neary attended the exhibition with Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, as part of a Design Feasibility Study to Scandinavia and The Netherlands.

19 – 21 October

The **Embassy in Stockholm** and Enterprise Ireland hosted an Irish Design networking and showcase reception, with Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, as guest of honour. The event

attracted over 65 leading Swedish and Irish designers. The reception was an opportunity to communicate what the Government and its agencies are doing, through ID2015, to raise the profile of Irish design at home and abroad and to build the international reputation of Irish design. The event was particularly successful in expanding the reach of the Embassy and Enterprise Ireland's contacts in the design, architecture and engineering fields and in strengthening contacts with Irish professionals, through the Irish Professional Nordic Network.

26 – 30 October

The Embassy in Oslo supported the presentation of *New Architecture: Ireland*, a travelling exhibition at The Oslo School of Architecture and Design. As part of the exhibition programme, the Ambassador of Ireland to Norway, Karl Gardner, hosted an event which included a conversation between award-winning Irish architect Peter Carroll and renowned Norwegian architect Børre Skodvin on new trends in Irish and Norwegian architecture.

November

10 November

The **Consulate General in Chicago** supported the Chicago edition of *We Built This City*, a lively panel discussion about the contribution Irish have made to the built and cultural fabric of the city, from historic to contemporary times. The event is part of a trilogy presented by the Irish Architecture Foundation in collaboration with Irish Design 2015 and the Office of the Minister for Diaspora Affairs of Ireland, aiming to raise awareness and celebrate the contribution Irish people have made to the built and fabric of three major cities: London, Chicago and New York.

16 November

On 16 November, *New Architecture: Ireland* was launched at KTH School of Architecture in **Stockholm** by the head of the School of Architecture and the Ambassador of Ireland to Sweden, Orla O'Hanrahan. The launch reception attracted an audience of around 50 key contacts of the Embassy and Enterprise Ireland, students of KTH and leading Irish and Swedish architects in Stockholm.

The official launch was followed by a well-attended and well-received lecture by Shelley McNamara, co-founder of award-winning Grafton Architecture, with over 150 architects, Swedish and Irish, KTH faculty members and students, as well as members of the public. The exhibition remained in place in the foyer of the KTH School of Architecture (11,473 full time students and 4,906 employees) until the end of November 2015.

17 November

The **Consulate General in Edinburgh** partnered with Linda Fabiani MSP to host a special meeting of The Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Architecture and the Built Environment. Representatives from Irish Design 2015, the Festival of Architecture in Scotland 2016 and the Scottish Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design met to discuss creative connections in the built environment and to consider the opportunities and challenges involved in promoting design and its economic benefits.

18 November – 11 December



Embassy ID2015 exhibition at INBA event



INBA guest speakers, Declan and Garech Stone

Irish design was the theme of the annual Ireland Netherlands Business Association annual gala dinner, held on 18 November 2015, at the Hotel Sofitel Legend the Grand Amsterdam. With over 100 key Irish and Dutch business players in attendance, the event was a fitting forum to publicise Ireland's talent for design. The **Embassy in The Hague** presented an exhibition showcasing Ireland's expertise in the design sector, which comprised a series of strong visual images featuring Ireland's most talented designers, studios and craftspeople and their work, as well as the ID2015 capsule exhibition. The guest speakers were the Irish Stone Twins, Declan and Garech Stone, who founded and run a prominent communication design agency in Amsterdam. The Dutch design sector was represented at the event, which was also supported by Irish Design 2015, Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia and Tourism Ireland.

23 November – 4 December



Irish Design Exhibition, Hanoi

Irish Design 2015 exhibitions were organised in **Hanoi** from 23 – 27 November in partnership with University of Science/ Vietnam National University Hanoi; in Danang from 23 – 27 November in partnership with Danang Architecture University and Action for the City Development; in Ho Chi Minh city from 30 November to 4 December in partnership with International University/ Vietnam National University HCMC; and in the ancient city of Hoi An from 17 – 20 January 2016 in partnership with Phan Chu Trinh University and Action for the City Development.

In Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city, about 220 teachers and students were in attendance at the opening. In Danang and Hoi An, some 400 teachers and students attended the opening. In Hanoi, the exhibition was accessible to students of the University of Science and the University of Social Science and Humanities. In Ho Chi Minh City, the exhibition was accessible to students of the International

University and other faculty members of the Vietnam National University HCMC. An estimated 2,000 people visited Irish Design exhibitions in Vietnam.

On the occasion of the Irish Design exhibition, the Ambassador to Vietnam, Cáit Moran, held public talks on 'the Role of Technology and Education in Ireland's Development Experience' at each respective university.

December

4 December

The **Embassy in Beijing** supported the launch of the *New Horizon_architecture from Ireland* exhibition at the 6th BiCity Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture in Shenzhen. It was the first time that Ireland took part in the Biennale, which began in 2005 and is shared with neighbouring Hong Kong. The Irish exhibition was curated by Raymund Ryan and Nathalie Weadick, both of whom attended and spoke at the launch. Also in attendance were the partners from the two participating Irish practices: AP+E and Urban Agency.

The Ireland pavilion explored the links between Shannon and Shenzhen, formed back in the early 1980s when Chinese leaders, including future President Jiang Zemin, studied the Shannon Special Economic Zone to inform the development of a model for Shenzhen, which, over a period of 60 years, has transformed from a village of 3,000 inhabitants to a Chinese megacity with a population today of 12.5 million.



The Ireland Pavilion installation

Over 1,000 invitees attended the opening, including the Mayor of Shenzhen and other regional leaders. The event and installations run until the beginning of March 2016.

14 – 24 December

The **Embassy in Vienna** organised the exhibition of Irish Design 2015's Life and Culture capsule at Stilwerk, a centre for interior design which is also the host of the Vienna Design Week, and which has a large dedicated design audience across Austria and Germany. A promotional event also took place on 14 December with the Ambassador of Ireland, Mary Whelan, the Director of Stilwerk, Oliver Werbach, and designers and shop-owners connected to the centre.

22 Jan – 19 Feb

The **Consulate General in Chicago** is partnering with Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design to host Irish Design 2015's *Society and Progress* capsule exhibition at the college's 'Raw Space' gallery in January and February 2016. The exhibition launch event was opened by Consul General of Ireland to Chicago and the Midwest USA, Ms. Orla McBreen, and attended by key members of the region's business, education and culture sectors.



Compiled by the Trade Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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