

## CityPlay: Design Competition for Early Career Architects 2019

The RSUA/JP Corry CityPlay Design Competition, in partnership with the Titanic Foundation, challenges Early Career Architects to generate ideas for the integration of play into the landscape of Belfast city centre, specifically along the [Martime Mile](#).

The temporary play area at Castle Place, made possible by the road closure resulting from the fire at the Bank Buildings, was warmly received by the citizens of the city and visitors alike. This has sparked a growing desire to see the city centre evolve into a more child friendly place.

This competition seeks to explore the opportunities to introduce play right throughout the broader city centre landscape. The aim is to instigate a project that can be delivered relatively quickly to help test out the concept, get public feedback and inform the longer-term plans for the city centre.

The competition aims to encapsulate the ambition set out in [The Belfast Agenda](#) of a city re-imagined, beautiful, culturally vibrant and a place of innovation and creativity. In particular it seeks to:

- Gather ideas on how to put space to use in the meantime, to test out ideas and make the city centre a more welcoming place for children and everyone else too.
- Generate debate and discussion about what interventions will have the best impact on the city
- Explore what role architecture can play in helping to respond to the major challenges facing city and town centres in Northern Ireland and beyond.
- Consider the circular economy for temporary interventions in the built environment – how can elements be designed with re-use, repurposing and recycling in mind
- Unleash and showcase the creative talents of early-career architects from the island of Ireland

In parallel RSUA will seek the public's views on what play provision they want across the whole city centre using #CityPlay. This is open to anyone including architects at any stage of their career. Architecture students will be encouraged to participate.

## **Eligibility**

This competition is open to early career architects either living or born on the island of Ireland.

'Early career architect' is being defined as any architect who has been actively in work as an architect for less than 15 years. This is in recognition that for many people, especially women, the journey after qualifying as an architect is not a straight run of employment without any interruptions.

The competition is open to early career architects working in all sectors not just those in private practice. Early career architects can collaborate with each other to enter the competition.

## **Brief**

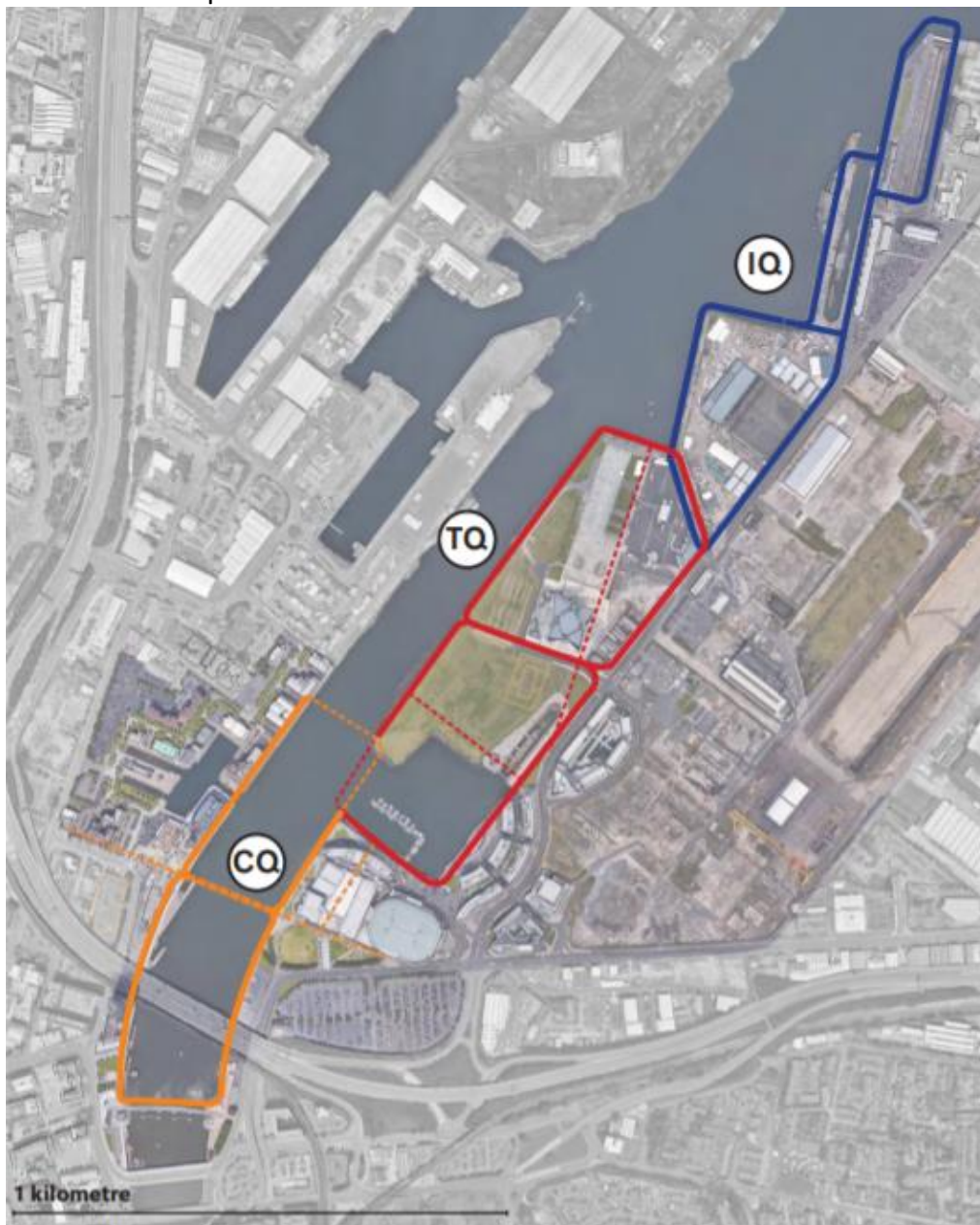
As this competition is focused on supporting creativity and imagination we have aimed to keep the brief very open.

The intervention(s) should be designed on the basis of...

- **Goal:** Create a distinctive Belfast experience centred around play on the city's waterfront. Bring life to the city centre, reconnecting it with the river and making it a more welcome place for children. The project must fit within the [Maritime Mile Development and Animation Strategy](#) and may wish to consider its role within [Smart Belfast](#).
- **Delivery timeframe:** Your project must be deliverable by summer 2020. It is a challenging timeline but one we believe is possible through true partnership working between the winning architect, RSUA, JP Corry, Titanic Foundation, site landowners, Belfast City Council, and the relevant government departments.
- **Budget:** For the purposes of the competition the total budget for the project, including professional fees, is £100k. £20k of this budget will be provided by JP Corry by way of materials. The implementation of the project is subject to Titanic Foundation securing funding from a range of sources.
- **Temporary:** The intervention(s) should be designed to be in place for a maximum of two years. In the longer term, consideration should be given

to how the structure could be relocated to other parts of the Maritime Mile to accommodate development

- **Circular economy:** How will the elements of your intervention(s) be re-used, repurposed or recycled when no longer needed in their current form
- **Practicalities:** Your design should take account of the weather, the risk of injury, the risk of vandalism and minimising disruption during the delivery phase.
- **Location**  
Maritime Mile. Further detail on available sites will be provided on entry to the competition.



## Submission

To enter the competition you must submit your concept design and provide a written statement as follows:

1. **Visual** - Submit a range of images/drawings to best convey your idea/concept for an intervention(s) that meets the brief.
2. **Explain** - In less than 1,500 words propose:
  - a name for your project
  - how your project will meet the brief
3. **Display** – Identify a lead image plus two supporting images for display at the showcase and provide a 100 word summary of your proposal.

## Competition Timeline

The competition is being run on a tight timetable as follows:

- 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – competition launch
- 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – submission deadline
- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Architecture Night 2019 (showcase of entrants and announcement of winner) Competition entrants ticket reduced to £20.

## Judging

The judging panel is to consist of:

- Architects from the [RSUA Peer-Approved Design Quality Panel](#)
- A representative from JP Corry
- Representatives from Titanic Foundation (client)
- A representative from landowner
- A representative from Belfast City Council

## **Prize**

The prize will be to develop your concept with the client, Titanic Foundation, and to deliver the project. Professional fees will be negotiated after the competition.

If the project does not proceed, the winner picked by the judging panel will receive a prize of £1,000 courtesy of JP Corry. All entrants will be showcased at Architecture Night and through the media.

## **Registration**

To register, please email Jude Faloon ([Jude@rsua.org.uk](mailto:Jude@rsua.org.uk)). You will be issued with a unique registration number which will ensure that the submissions are anonymous for judging purposes.

## **Further information**

RSUA has been running design competitions annually for early career architects since 2016 with a cycle alternating between an ideas-only competition and a competition that aspires to deliver a built project. The first built project year was 2017. Here is a review on the completed project – [Built:East](#).