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## PRESS RELEASE

# CIT BEATS GOOGLE IN DESIGN AWARDS

The creative cream at Irish Design's Annual gathering delivered a surprising victor. Perhaps no one more surprised than the Cork designer who walked away with more than he could carry and the Crown of the Irish Design World.

In a normal year this might not be unusual, but this year was different. Google's deep pockets delivered one of the worlds most amazingly designed work environments in Dublin and for it to be beaten to a Design award was a shock. Perhaps there was nobody more shocked than the Interior Architect who designed the winning interior, Marc Ó Riain: "I was flabbergasted, I was totally resigned to loosing. Google is just that good; you can see the money dripping off it. It's really hard to think you can compete with that".

The winning Design is an old factory in Bishopstown which has been converted into a Education and Exams space by Architects RKD. A space within it was the focus of CIT's own Interior Architect, O Riain. The Architecture Factory, as it is now known, featuring lime green shipping containers that separate the architecture studios, dominate the vibrant space. The whole design ethos is to encourage collaborative student-to-student learning in an open plan, and invigorating, space. "Everyone gets it, you just walk into it and you can feel the energy. The students love it, they are so positive and they really respect the space: it's a testament to the CIT vision and the Design Team" continued Ó Riain.

Winning the Design Education Award, Commercial Interiors Award and Sustainable Adaption Award put the designers in the running for the overall Irish Grand Prix of Design. The Institute of Designers in Ireland Grand Prix award covers all categories of design from fashion, to the web, to TV. When the project was announced, the judges commended its uniquely innovative and truly Irish approach, achieved on a modest budget, saying it just ticked so many boxes for best design in Ireland. The award was picked up by Marc Ó Riain and Deborah Ní Riain, on behalf of the Department and the Design Team.

The win is a great boon for CIT and its Department of Architecture, whose interior graduates also picked up two of the top design. It can now officially boast to be the best place in Ireland for Design Education, with the best designed educational interior, the best design lecturers producing some of Irelands best design graduates. "It's great to see the pick up in jobs too, we have enquiries every week, in fact we're starting to run short of candidates for interviews. I think a lot of experienced people left over the last 5 years and employers are realising we are producing an excellent level of graduate. For the students they are realising they can work anywhere in the world too" says Ó Riain.

**ENDS**

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