WHAT CAN ‘THE DIGITAL’ DO FOR ARCHITECTURE AND ITS HISTORY, IN IRELAND?

23rd January 2015
Trinity Irish Research Centre [Triarc]
Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin

This day-long symposium will bring together researchers and practitioners in the fields of architectural history, education and technology, folklore, architectural practice, archives, visualisation and multimedia, heritage studies and cultural tourism.

The rationale for the event comes out of the need to disseminate new research into and knowledge of Ireland’s twentieth-century architecture. The event - itself a question - sets out to understand what digital platforms can help in this dissemination process. It is underpinned by the need to engage people and to tell the stories of how and why Ireland’s recent buildings were constructed and designed.

There is a baseline of public interest and curiosity; there is a wealth of unexamined archives; there are hundreds of buildings to understand; there is a mountain of unheard oral histories; there are thousands of local school children to guide; there are new technologies to explore...

**Themes:**
Architectural research – history dissemination - post-war (modernist) architecture - visual literacy – oral history –digital repositories – interactivity- historical narratives – architectural narratives

**Questions:**
Can ‘digital means’ assist in the shifting of public perception of modernist architecture in Ireland?
What is to be learned from visualisation projects of/into historic sites?
How should primary historical research methods be brought to secondary-level education?
Is folklore and its methods (oral history/copy-book history) a useful tool for art and architectural history-making and dissemination?
How can digitisation for art and architectural history move beyond scanning (thereby providing static access), to creating deep interactive research and spatial experiences?

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