

7th October 2005

Construct Merges With Plan Expo At The King's Hall

With the construction industry in Northern Ireland estimated to be worth in excess of £1.6 billion annually, there is every reason to get geared up for the new look Construct Building Exhibition, incorporating Plan Expo, which is taking place in the King's Hall, Belfast, from 9th – 11th March 2006. The introduction of Plan Expo, which is already an established, high-profile event in Dublin, will create real opportunities for exhibitors to get their slice of the action. The successful elements of Plan Expo that visitors in Dublin have enjoyed for 23 years will no doubt create the same excitement for visitors to the exhibition in Belfast.

Construct Incorporating Plan Expo is Northern Ireland's premier showcase for the construction industry sectors. With an extensive programme of conferences, interactive seminars and workshops, and key players already signed up, the 2006 event is shaping up to be even bigger previous years, making it a must visit for anyone in the construction industry.

The success Plan Expo in Dublin has experienced has been achieved by working closely with all the leading professional bodies to develop an event that becomes much more than just an exhibition. The RSUA has committed its support for Construct and is liaising with the organisers of the event to develop a series topics and potential speakers relevant to the Northern Ireland construction market.

According to Garret Buckley, Joint Managing Director of Expo Exhibitions, this year the company will be aiming to attract 2,500 trade visitors from Ireland including all key decision makers within the industry. He says:

"Construct has successfully established itself as one of the most important dates in the calendar for the construction industry in Ireland. The exhibition gives the construction industry the opportunity to come together to review developments over the previous year, see what the competition is up to and make plans for the year ahead."

"Exhibitors come to do business, to make deals and expand their client portfolio, so Construct Incorporating Plan Expo really is a must for anyone operating in the construction or related industries. I would also like to say that the support we are receiving from the King's Hall for hosting the event is greatly appreciated."

One of the key highlights at next year's event is a timber-frame, Eco house that will be designed by local architect, Rachel Bevan. The Crossgar-based architect's work ethos is to incorporate in her designs, her knowledge of ecological design and green construction, with attention to energy efficiency, resource depletion,

pollution issues and the health implications, of buildings and products. With these considerations in mind, Rachel will design the Eco show house, which will be situated on-site at the King's Hall throughout the duration of the event. The Eco House will showcase the latest innovations in building methods and new products, embracing the whole area of sustainability. Some of the highlights of previous projects that Rachel and her team at Bevan Architects have been involved with include the conversion of the Oil Mill in Crossgar, the Strangford Lough Yacht Club and The Narrows Hotel in Portaferry.

Other features already confirmed for Construct Incorporating Plan Expo 2006 are:

- The New product of the show awards - The awards recognise the innovation and enterprise inherent in the construction industry, acknowledging the best, the most useful and the most imaginative new products on the market. Short-listed products are displayed in a special section of the exhibition for decision makers, media and other parties to view.
- Skillbuild 2006
- Off-site construction Pavilion
- MMC seminars and case studies.
- Two morning seminars targeting contractors on day one and specifiers on day two.
- Caterpillar Operator's Competition

A number of large key construction industry players are already signed up for 2006, reflecting the quality content and genuine commercial opportunity this show offers companies. Among the many high profile companies already signed up include Mac Rental, Kingspan Insulation, Kingspan Envirocare, Century Homes, Jamison and Green, TopCon and Smart Homes to name but a few. The King's Hall

Space is at a premium and even at this early stage a significant proportion of the exhibition is already booked. If you have not already booked a stand for 2006 Construct Incorporating Plan Expo and would like to do so, please contact Tracey Cairns at Expo Exhibitions on 028 (048) 9068 3331 or email tracey.cairns@expo-events.com

- Ends -

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