

Titanic Heritage and Memory

Centenary Conference May 31st 2011
The Council Chamber, Queen's University Belfast

The Irish Scottish Forum for Spatial Planning



An Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation

IRISH SCOTTISH FORUM FOR SPATIAL PLANNING

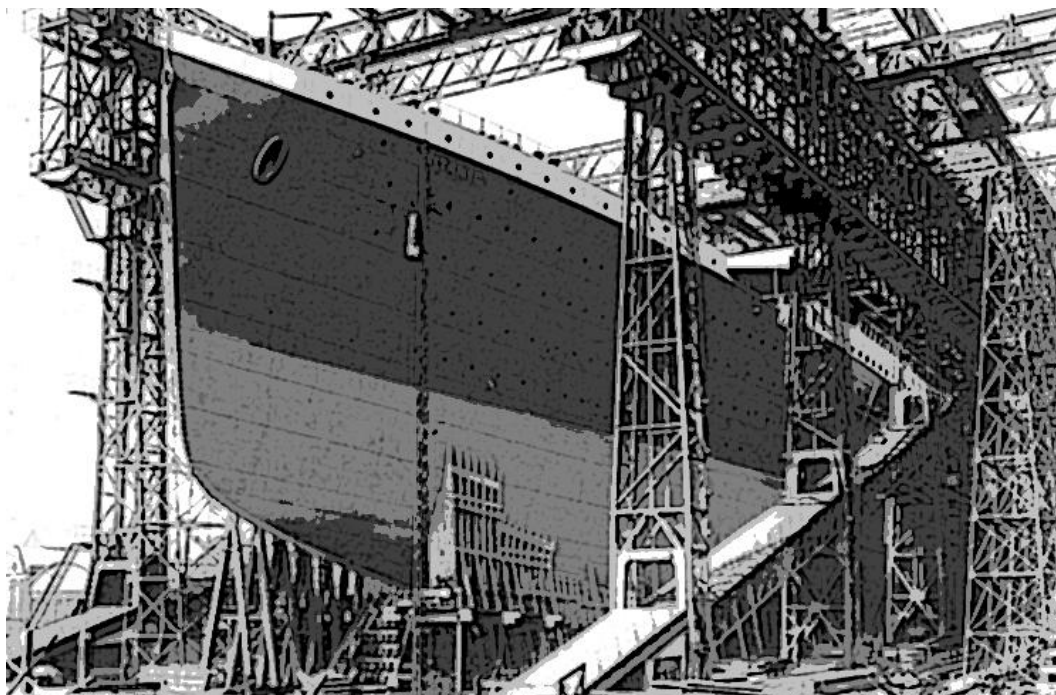
Titanic Heritage and Memory, Centenary Conference
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Foreword

Titanic Heritage and Memory

The planning schools at the University of Aberdeen, Queen's University Belfast and University College Dublin are the current partners in the Irish Scottish Forum for Spatial Planning. Its purpose is to critically examine the relationship between planning and the development of cities, towns and countryside in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Three conferences have been held since June 2009 bringing together expert speakers and audiences that have added to a constructive debate on how contemporary planning is affecting the shaping of space and place. This fourth conference on the theme of heritage and place is on a special day, marking as it does the centenary of the launch of RMS Titanic in Belfast. The network of links at that time connecting Harland and Wolff to Scottish shipbuilding and engineering was dense. At the level of the personal, Thomas Andrews, designer of Titanic was nephew to Lord Pirrie, Chairman of Harland & Wolff, who in turn was the grandson of sea Captain William Pirrie who came to Belfast from his roots in the Solway Firth around 1820. As one of Belfast's first Harbour Commissioners, Captain Pirrie was closely associated with the dredging of the River Lagan to fundamentally redevelop what was, at that time, the major Irish port. The associated Dargan's Island, created in the process, was to be re-branded as Queen's Island and is now re-branded again as Titanic Quarter.

This Centenary Conference aims to critically consider the invocation of Titanic heritage in Belfast in contributing to a new spatial imaginary of the city. The overall theme to be addressed is how the memory of Titanic should be represented in the place of its origin where it was launched into the collective consciousness and unconscious of western civilization. The conference examines this matter in the context of international debates on the tension between place marketing and other possible portrayals of memory and meaning in places. Key questions include the extent to which the goals of economic development are congruous with the 'contemplative city' and especially the need for mature and creative reflection in the 'post conflict' city; whether development interests have taken precedence over the need for a deeper appreciation of a more nuanced Titanic legacy in the city of Belfast; and does Belfast have something to learn from other places in considering the sacred and profane in memory construction?



Programme

9.15am Registration and coffee

9.45am Conference Welcome

Professor David Cleland, Head of School, School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering, Queen's University Belfast.

Session 1: **Titanic and Cultural Memory** (*Chair: William J V Neill*)

9.50am Titanic Launch Centenary.

Johnny Andrews

10.00am Keynote address

Titanic : A Cultural Manifest Revisited.

John Wilson Foster

10.25am Titanic in Myth and Memory.

John Hill

10.50am Topography of Titanic.

Kai-Olaf Hesse

11.15am Coffee break in the Canada Room

Session 2: **Titanic Quarter Developments in Belfast** (*Chair: Michael Murray*)

11.30am Belfast Titanic Quarter: An Urban Renaissance.

Mike Smith

11.55am Belfast Titanic Signature Project: The Exhibition.

James Alexander

12.20pm Discussion

12.45pm Buffet lunch in the Canada Room

Session 3: **Comparative Perspectives and Belfast's Titanic Legacy Reconsidered** (*Chair: Berna Grist*)

1.45pm Last Port of Call: Titanic Heritage in Cobh, County Cork.

Michael Martin

2.10pm Meanings and Places of Pilgrimage.

Michael Murray

2.35pm Memory Work in Berlin: Comparative Perspectives.

Günter Schlusche

3.00pm A Proposal for a Titanic Counter Monument in Belfast.

William J V Neill

3.25pm Coffee break in the Canada Room

Session 4: **Round Table Panel and Discussion** (*Moderator: Berna Grist*)

3.45pm Topic - Titanic Memory in Belfast: Sacred or Profane?

4.45pm Conference close

5.15pm Optional Guided Tour of Titanic Dry Dock and Pump House Exhibition at Titanic Quarter, bus departure from University Road with return to Queen's University Belfast at 7pm.

Registration

Advance registration for this meeting of the Irish Scottish Forum for Spatial Planning is essential since places are strictly limited and likely to be over-subscribed. This event is free to attend.

If you would like to attend this conference then please pre-register by e-mailing your details to Mrs Roslyn Barnes at isfsp-titanic@qub.ac.uk not later than Monday 16th May 2011 and you will be advised if a place is available for you to attend.

Speaker profiles

James Alexander qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and joined Ernst and Young's management consultancy division before founding Locum Destination Consulting in the mid-1990s where he spent 10 years advising on the creating and management of some of the UK and Europe's leading visitor attractions. He left Locum to become UK and European managing director of KUD International, the specialist regeneration development subsidiary of the global Japanese construction giant Kajima. James joined Event Communications as its CEO in mid-2007 since when he has worked on projects across the globe. These projects include the Titanic Signature Building in Belfast, a project that Event has been involved with since 2004 and one that seeks to tell the Titanic story from the Belfast perspective. He lectures at St Martin's College of Design, London, regularly gives speeches and presentations and is a contributor of comment and opinion pieces to the trade media. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Johnny Andrews MA (Cantab) 1986, FCA 1986, trained as a Chartered Accountant in Belfast before working in London in corporate finance. He is now Finance Director and Company Secretary of Clatteringford, a mail order division of John Andrews & Co Ltd, founded in 1863. His interests include planning and conservation through an involvement in local community groups, economic history and Irish history. He gives lectures on the Andrews' family history. He is great nephew of Thomas Andrews, the chief designer of Titanic.

John Wilson Foster was born and educated in Belfast. After obtaining his B.A. and M.A. at Queen's University Belfast, he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. He spent his teaching and research career at the University of British Columbia, from which he took early retirement in 2002. After fellowships at University of Ulster, University of Toronto and National University of Ireland Galway, he returned to live in Northern Ireland in 2008. He is currently Honorary Research Fellow at Queen's University Belfast. Among his books are *The Achievement of Seamus Heaney* (1995) and *Nature in Ireland: A Scientific and Cultural History* (ed. 1997). He has produced three books on RMS Titanic: *The Titanic Complex: A Cultural Manifest* (1997), *Titanic* (ed. 1999) and *The Age of Titanic: Cross-Currents in Anglo-American Culture* (2002). His most recent books are *Irish Novels 1890-1940* (2008) and *Between Shadows: Modern Irish Writing and Culture* (2009).

Berna Grist BL PhD MRTPI is Senior Lecturer in the School of Planning and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin. She is a barrister and chartered town planner and has published widely in the fields of planning and environmental law, public policy and governance. She is currently a member of the Dublin Docklands Development Authority, the statutory body established in 1997 to secure the social, physical and economic regeneration of the Dublin Docklands, which encompass an area of some 1,300 acres (520ha) on both sides of the River Liffey.

Kai-Olaf Hesse lives as a photographer and book designer in Braunschweig, Germany. He completed photographic apprenticeships in Hamburg, including work for newspapers, supplements and picture agencies in the late 1980s. He studied Communication Design at the University of Essen (Folkwang) and subsequently received a Diploma at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst HGB in Leipzig. He previously worked at the Bauhaus, Dessau. He has had numerous international exhibitions and publications. He is a member of the German Photographic Academy (DFA) and co-founder of BerlinPhotoWorkshops. His work engages within the area of 'social-historical landscape photography' which puts an emphasis on conceptual ideas as visually represented by means of referential metaphors. His book *Topography of Titanic* was published in 2005.

John Hill is Professor of Media at Royal Holloway, University of London, and was formerly Professor of Media Studies at University of Ulster. He is the author of *Sex, Class and Realism: British Cinema 1956- 63* (1986), *British Cinema in the 1980s* (1999) and *Cinema and Northern Ireland: Film, Culture and Politics* (2006), the co-author of *Cinema and Ireland* (1987) and the co-editor of various collections including *The Oxford Guide to Film Studies* (1998). He also contributed the essay 'The Relaunching of Ulster Pride: The Titanic, Belfast and Film' to the collection *The Titanic in Myth and Memory: Representations in Visual and Literary Culture* (2004).

Michael Martin initially had a professional career spanning 23 years service in the Irish Navy and, following his retirement in 1997, he set up the *Titanic Trail*, a historical guided walking tour which explores the town of Cobh on Cork Harbour, the last port of call of the RMS Titanic. His book, *Titanic Trail Cobh Queenstown* (Cork, 1998), has sold over 25,000 copies and he has also made a 1 hr DVD documentary on the same subject which has enjoyed sales in excess of 5,000 copies in Ireland and the USA. Michael has a first class honours degree in history from University College Cork and has featured in television documentaries produced by 20th Century Fox, Korean National Television, Australian TV and National Geographic regarding Cobh and the Titanic heritage.

Michael Murray is Reader in Spatial Planning at the Institute of Spatial and Environmental Planning, Queen's University Belfast. He holds M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Planning from Queen's University Belfast. He practiced as a Chartered Planner with Brady Shipman Martin in Dublin before joining Ulster Polytechnic and University of Ulster. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Rural Assistance in Colorado State University, and the Academy for Urban Planning and Design in Beijing. He is a Board Member of the Irish Social Sciences Platform. His most recent book publication is *Participatory Rural Planning: Exploring Evidence from Ireland* (Ashgate, 2010). In 2009 he completed the 800 km walk from St Jean Pied de Port to Santiago de Compostela.

William J V Neill is Professor of Spatial Planning at the University of Aberdeen. He previously held academic appointments at the University of Manchester and Queen's University Belfast. He completed a master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan and completed his Ph.D. at University of Nottingham. He worked as an urban planner for the State of Michigan in the 1970's and 1980's. His research interests revolve around the expression of identity in the city. His books include *Migration and Cultural Inclusion in the European City*, Palgrave (ed. with H-U Schwedler, 2006); *Urban Planning and Cultural Identity*, Routledge, 2004; *Urban Planning and Cultural Inclusion: Lessons from Belfast and Berlin*, Palgrave, (ed with H-U Schwedler) 2001 and *Reimagining the Pariah City: Lessons from Belfast and Detroit*, Ashgate, 1995 (with B. Murtagh and D Fitzsimons).

Günter Schlusche has worked in urban planning, architecture and environmental projects for more than 30 years. From 1981 to 1987 he was Project Manager for the International Building Exhibition (IBA 1987) in West-Berlin. After managing the unique restructuring process of Berlin's urban development for the Stadtforum Berlin following the fall of the Wall, he was from 1996 until 2005 Chief Planner for the realisation of the *Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe* designed for Berlin's centre by Peter Eisenman. He is now responsible for the *Berlin Wall Memorial* which is aimed at recalling the division of Berlin, Germany and Europe during the Cold War as well as its successful ending by the peaceful revolution of the East German people. Dr Schlusche studied architecture in Berlin, completed a master's degree in Urban Planning at the London School of Economics and a Ph.D. in Urban Development at the Technical University Berlin.

Mike Smith is Chief Executive and Managing Director of Titanic Quarter Ltd. A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and Queen's University, Belfast, Mike's 30 year career to date spans many of the key areas of urban regeneration. He is a chartered surveyor and chartered town planner. He was appointed Director of Development for Laganside Corporation in June 1989 and led the Corporation as Chief Executive from 1997. In September 2002 Mike moved to Titanic Quarter Ltd as CEO and Managing Director. In 2002 he was elected Chairman of the RICS and in 2004 was appointed Visiting Professor at University of Ulster. He is an advisor to East Belfast Partnership Regeneration Group and is currently Chair of Cinemagic (an award winning International and Television Festival for Young People).