

# Irish Examiner



## Architects' initiative to help Simon Community

With 7,500 homeless people across Ireland, the **RIAI**'s 13th Simon 'Open Door' bid to raise more than €100,000 for the Simon Community has never been so badly needed.

The initiative by the Irish architects body, the **RIAI**, fronted in this cause by TV architect Dermot Bannon, offers one-hour consultations on home and design issues to all comers, for €90, with every penny going to the Simon Communities in Ireland as participating architects donate their time and expertise free.

Home-owners can choose an architect and time that suits from a volunteer panel, via [www.simonopendoor.ie](http://www.simonopendoor.ie), and this year it runs for an extra-long period, a week, from May 13 to 19.

More than €600,000 has been raised since 2004 — and many families are happily ensconced

in revamped homes that came about as a result of initial consultations and ideas that were shared.

**Carole Pollard**, **RIAI** President said the event give members of the public "the wonderful opportunity of sitting down with a registered architect and getting the best advice on building or renovating a home, while helping a worthy cause."

Each €90 consultancy/donation will provide accommodation and meals in a transitional house for 10 nights; it can help fund a home starter pack for those who are moving to independent living such as crockery, kettle, linen and basic household goods, or it can help provide the Simon Communities' rough sleeper teams with three emergency packs for those sleeping on the streets.

**Details:** [www.simonopendoor.ie](http://www.simonopendoor.ie)