

Evening Echo



Cork projects fare well in Public Choice award

■ Alan Healy

CORK'S Hollyhill Library and Mallow's Urban Heritage Masterplan are runners-up in the popular architects Public Choice award.

Hosted by the **RIAI** the awards give the public the opportunity to have their say by voting for their favourite shortlisted project.

The two Cork projects lost out narrowly to the overall winner, Westport's public space and sculpture.

Now in its ninth year, the Public Choice Award received more than 14,000 votes — the highest number of votes in the history of the competition.

Hollyhill Library came in second place and was designed by Cork City Council's Architect's Department.

The first phase of the Mallow Urban Heritage Masterplan at Thomas Davis Square came in third place. The project was designed by Mallow Town Architect, Giulia Vallone and Cork County Council Architects Department.

City Councillor Tony Fitzgerald congratulated the Architect's Department in City Hall,

led by Tony Duggan on their achievement. "This is a marvellous accolade for the city and in particular for the Architects Department. It is unusual that a local authority would win such an award so congratulations are in order."

"Hollyhill Library is not only an important educational and community facility but its very design also enhances the public realm and provides a great boost for the locality."

Cork East TD sean Sherlock hailed Mallow's result saying it would provide a huge boost. "I have met with the architect, Ms Vallone, a number of times and have seen first hand her passion for sustainable architecture for the town of Mallow," he said.

"I want to pay tribute to all the stakeholders involved in this announcement, especially the team in the Mallow Development Partnership. To secure third place is a significant achievement and one that should not go unnoticed."

While the Public Choice Awards were announced yesterday the remaining **RIAI** architecture awards will be announced tomorrow.