



Outrage as architects label south inner city as Dublin's 'ugliest' area

Luke Byrne

AN inner city representative has lashed out at a study for the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) which ranked areas of Dublin from prettiest to ugliest.

Councillor Daithi De Roiste was infuriated by the study, which labelled areas of his south inner city constituency as the ugliest in the capital.

"Don't we teach children in school not to judge a book by its cover? Is this really the message we want to send out? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," he said.

Mr De Roiste said the research, by urban planner Paul Kearns and architect Motti Ruimy, did not take into the account the close-knit communities that

lived in the areas.

"What he says just doesn't add up. He doesn't take into account the community spirit and the good, salt-of-the-earth Dubliners who live there," he added.

LIST

Among the areas on the authors' most ugly list were Usher's Island - Bridgefoot Street, Dolphin's Barn, The Coombe, Christ Church and Cork Street.

But Mr De Roiste pointed out that the areas contained some of the capital's most enjoyed tourist spots.

"Guinness is in the area there. This is an attraction that is visited by thousands every year.

"It's an area rich with history," he said.

"To be honest I think it's very unfair on the working class communities who live

there," he said.

Mr Ruimy and Mr Kearns did not respond to requests for comment yesterday.

Their research took into account factors such as the amount of traffic in the area, the percentage of land zoned as open space, the number of vacant and derelict properties, how many protected structures there were and the number of street trees.



Bridgefoot Street