



Architects offer services in return for a donation to charity

The **Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)** and the **Simon Communities of Ireland** have launched the seventh annual **RIAI Simon Open Door Weekend**.

People in Kildare can log on to www.simonopendoor.ie to book a one-hour consultation with the local **RIAI** architect of their choice in return for a €50 donation to the **Simon Communities of Ireland**. All architects give their time for free and every cent raised goes directly to the charity. Over a thousand people took part in the initiative last year and almost €250,000 has been raised to date. This year, the **Simon Open Door** will take place over Saturday and Sunday, 7th and 8th May 2011.

The **Simon Open Door Weekend** provides people in Kildare with an opportunity to change the way they look at their home and see if they are using their space in the smartest-and greenest- way. Improving the energy efficiency of a home does not have to be costly and the **Simon Open Door** architects will be giving advice on small improvements that can deliver a big difference in terms of both energy usage and costs.

Vivian Cummins from Vivian Cummins Architects, Athy is one of the participating architects in Kildare. He has been an architect for 28 years. "The **RIAI Simon Open Door Weekend** gives Kildare people a chance to improve their own home while also helping those who are experiencing homelessness" says Vivian, noting what a great cause this is.