



Architects come to aid of Simon Community

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 Dundalk 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, May 7th and 8th.

The Simon Open Door Weekend provides people in Louth 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.

Eoin McElroy from EMCE Architecture, Dundalk is one of the participating architects in Louth. He has been an architect for seven years.

He is taking part in the Simon Open Door Weekend because: 'The RIAI Simon Open Door Weekend gives Louth people a chance to improve their own home while also helping those who are experiencing homelessness.

'During your hour-long consultation, you can explore your options - to create more space to suit a growing family, or to make your house more energy efficient to live more sustain-

ably and keep down the bills.

'There is no project too big or small - architects can give advice on anything from extensions to insulation, boilers, windows and lighting.'