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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 Kerry 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 7/8.

One of the themes of this year's campaign is sustainability and low-cost changes that will help people to make their house a home while also reducing their energy bills. The Simon Open Door Weekend provides people in Kerry 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.

Patrick O' Toole from PLM Architecture, Kenmare, is one of the participating architects in Kerry. He has been an architect for 13 years. He is taking part in the Simon Open Door Weekend because "the **RIAI** Simon Open Door Weekend gives Kerry people a chance to improve their own home while also helping those who are experiencing homelessness."

Another participating architect in Kerry, David Moriarty, from David Moriarty & Associates, Tralee, who has been an architect for five years added that: "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 sustainably 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".