



Green architect opens his door for weekend

VIVIAN Cummins is known for his architecture and for his green credentials around the county, so one of the perks of participation in the **RIAI** Simon Open Door Weekend is that you get to have a closer look at his own wonderful house. That is where Vivian sees the clients who get a consultation with him free of charge, but who make a €50 donation to the Simon Community.

"It is our fifth year doing it," Vivian told the *Kildare Nationalist*. "It was a great success the first year and we just stayed with it. This year we are doing the Saturday and Sunday, whereas before it was just the Saturday," he explained.

"You get a lot in the hour and it is very intensive, if satisfying, work. Some people come at the very beginning of a project, when they are only thinking about it.

"Others might have built and are happy in general, but have a small problem, like a draught or something. Then, an architect can be a fresh pair of eyes looking at a situation. We tend to look

at problems laterally," he explained.

Being very energy conscious himself, he can advise people who are trying to make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat.

"That sort of problem, if you can, should be tackled from the beginning, by siting a house so that the windows face south," he said. "And anyone building at the moment would be a fool not to avail of the grants for greener homes from Sustainable Energy Ireland," he added.

To make your appointment to see an architect during the **RIAI** Simon Open Door Weekend, log on to www.simonopendoor.ie.



Vivian Cummins