

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**13th January, 2010**MCCULLOUGH MULVIN ARCHITECTS FOR NEW BUTLER GALLERY, KILKENNY**

The Butler Gallery, in partnership with Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council, are delighted to announce that after a competitive process through Public Procurement, McCullough Mulvin have been appointed as the architectural firm to oversee the Gallery's relocation to the Evan's Home, Barrack Lane, John Street in the centre of Kilkenny City.

The development of a 'cultural quarter' by the Kilkenny local authorities has been prioritised as key to the infrastructural, economic, and cultural development of Kilkenny City and County. The contribution that culture makes to the growth of an innovative, integrated, knowledge-based economy is underpinned by the reputation and operating ethos of the Butler Gallery, whose decision to initiate plans for a new building was regarded as an integral part of this development.

The project represents a first phase of development, which involves partial conservation of the existing Evan's Home and the provision of a new addition to accommodate the Butler Gallery's important Permanent Collection, Temporary Exhibitions and Education facilities. In addition, a *Tony O'Malley Gallery* is planned to house a promised gift of significant works by the late Kilkenny born artist from the estate of the artist. This first phase of development is made possible by a grant awarded to the Butler Gallery by the the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism through ACCESS II funding 2007-2009, with the balance being met by the Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council.

McCullough Mulvin, who will begin work on this project this January, are an ideas-based Irish architectural design practice with a growing international reputation, supporting radical re-thinking of the boundaries of design for the 21st century. Based in Dublin, they have designed many of Ireland's seminal works of architecture of the last decade (Ussher Library, Trinity College and Waterford City Library) and have wide experience in making spaces and places for art (Model Arts and Niland Gallery Sligo, Source Arts Centre Thurles). Their open-ended questioning of the role of architecture includes a particular sensitivity to place - where the building is made and for whom - which will assist in making a great project for Kilkenny that will be a regional, national and international centre of excellence for the visual arts.
