

# Foreword

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AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY, I AM DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE the 2012 edition of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*. This volume, in keeping with tradition, explores the typically broad range of topics gathered under the umbrella of architectural and decorative studies, including articles on household management in eighteenth-century Dublin, manuscript recipe books and the evolution of food culture in Ireland, and urban planning in late Georgian Cork. As the sole peer-reviewed vehicle devoted to research into our early modern visual and material cultures, it is also gratifying to note that our journal continues to act as a forum for new voices. This confirms the vibrancy of academic research currently being undertaken in our universities and third-level institutions, and is due, in no small part, to the continued efforts of the Society to raise awareness of Ireland's rich cultural heritage and to present an appropriate forum for its wider dissemination.

Irish publishing houses have, in turn, kept pace with this flourishing interest in our shared past. Four Courts Press has, in recent years, produced a number of fine books that explore different aspects of Dublin's historical landscape, including Gillian O'Brien and Finola O'Kane (eds), *Portraits of the city: Dublin and the wider world*, and Finnian O'Cionnaith, *Mapping, Measurement and Metropolis: how land surveyors shaped eighteenth-century Dublin* (both 2012). Churchill House Press continues to combine exquisite production values with exemplary scholarship, exemplified by Finola O'Kane's fascinating and important study, *William Ashford's Mount Merrion: the absent point of view* (2012). Olivia Horsfall Turner's edited volume, *'The Mirror of Great Britain': national identity in seventeenth-century British architecture* (Spire Books/SAHGB, 2012), and John Martin Robinson's monograph, *James Wyatt: architect to George III* (Yale University Press, 2012), also feature material of particular interest to historians of Irish architecture. I also understand that a new history of Russborough, Ireland's most celebrated Palladian house, is imminent, and will be published by the Alfred Beit Foundation.

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