

ORSA agrees Reddy merger

by **Tommy Barker**
Property Editor

TWO of the country's strongest architectural practices have merged in a move which will up the input of Dublin design firms in Cork's future development.

The 30-year old Cork firm of O'Riordan Staehli Architects, which employs 40 people, is to merge with 80-strong Anthony Reddy Associates, headed up by current Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland president Tony Reddy.

Following the merger announced last night between the two award-winning firms, O'Riordan Staehli (ORSA) will become Reddy O'Riordan Staehli, while Anthony Reddy Associates (Dublin) will keep its existing name.

The Dublin firm has a strong track record in urban regeneration and is also strong on high-density residential developments.

ORSA founder Donogh O'Riordan will remain as MD of Reddy O'Riordan Staehli for the next two years, then take up a role as chairman for a further three years thereafter.

Current ORSA directors Michael Regan and Tom Hegarty become Managing Directors Designate.

Anthony Reddy Associates currently employs over 80 people in Dublin, Kilkenny and Belfast and the merger will allow the firm to pool expertise in commercial, residential, education and health projects.

ORSA's current major projects include the new maternity wing of the Cork University Hospital. It has already won awards for schools, hospitals, call centres, tourism centres (the Cliffs of Moher visitor centre) and house designs.

With major development projects coming on stream in Cork, plus the lure of the future docklands development, key Dublin firms have started to look south.

Already in situ in Cork are the high profile firms of Murray O'Laoire and Scott Tallon Walker.

"New opportunities for the revitalisation of Cork city are opening up, created by its designation as European City of Culture 2005 and the recently completed development plans for the city. These include the Cork Docklands Development Strategy which sets out a vision for a new urban quarter in Cork. Reddy O'Riordan Staehli are poised to take on the challenges and opportunities that will arise from this plan," said a statement from the new entity.