

SHAPING IRELAND TODAY + TOMORROW

Introducing AtkinRéalís Ireland's Managing Director **Martina Finn**

Martina Finn, Managing Director at AtkinRéalís Ireland, embodies innovation and leadership in engineering.

Her journey began with a passion sparked during her school days, leading her from Belfast to London and even to Sydney, Australia, gaining invaluable experience as a structural engineering consultant.

Joining the company over 20 years ago, Martina's vision has propelled the company forward.

As Managing Director, she focuses on excellence and innovation, driving initiatives that meet the evolving needs of clients and communities.

The Ireland team is over 350 strong working across all areas of expertise including Infrastructure, Transportation and Project & Programme Services (PPS).

With people from all over the world, including Europe, South America, South Africa, and Asia, delivering their insights and experience to deliver complex projects, Martina understands the positive

impact diversity can bring to the company.

Reflecting on her own experience she recalls being the only female graduate in her Civil Engineering course.

"There has been huge improvement across the industry in recent years," she says of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policies.

"I remember in those early days that there was this extra scrutiny placed upon me when compared to the men to ensure that those contributions I made would endure heightened scrutiny compared to others," she adds.

She need only look to her own team to see how those conditions are being challenged to deliver a more open industry, and crucially a more effective one.

"We also have a number of EDI Ambassadors and Mental Health First Aiders represented across all of our offices and we have a sustainability working group leading valuable programs for our three Ps - our People, Places and Projects," she

says.

The EMPOWER group, a steering committee made up of female members of the team across all levels in the business has delivered constant insights and driven policy decisions to the benefit of not only the teams within AtkinRéalís, but for clients too.

Last year was an excellent year for the Irish business, exceeding growth targets and performing very well financially, again exceeding financial targets.

Martina is active in outreach across schools to show young students the levels of opportunity awaiting those who pursue engineering as a career.

Her own globe-spanning career stands testament to that.

Part of the important work she does includes demonstrating to young students, boys and girls alike but particularly girls, that there are greater avenues of opportunity to join the industry, with

apprenticeships and level 7 courses that can kickstart your career requiring only ordinary level maths, spelling a common misconception about high barriers of entry.

Reflecting on her career she recalls the work on the Military Archives project with the Department of Defence in the Cathal Brugha Barracks, opened by President Michael D Higgins in April 2016 being a flagship project for the 1916 Rising Commemorations programme.

"It was a mixture of a lot of engineering challenges and we only had nine months to deliver the project, so a very tight programme of delivery, creating solutions to link together a new build with this fabulous protected structure," she says.

In 2012, Martina navigated the challenges of the construction industry amidst a global downturn, with projects spanning Ireland and the Middle East.

The London Olympics emerged as a pivotal moment, offering both opportunity and urgency.

"It gave us the opportunity to really take part in something that was global but on

our doorstep," she says. Assigned to engineer structures for temporary venues, Martina and her team faced daunting deadlines.

"So literally in the months up to it, we were working 24-7 to get all of the structures and calculations and designs in place," she says.

Martina's leadership was instrumental as she led site teams in London while managing ongoing projects.

As the opening ceremony approached, her team's efforts intensified.

Despite the pressure, Martina ensured that every detail was in place for the athletes' arrival. Following the event, the team received heartfelt appreciation from the Olympic committee LOCOG for their monumental contribution.

Their acknowledgment underscored the significance of Martina's team's work in delivering the event on time.

For Martina, the 2012 London Olympics remains a vivid testament to her team's resilience and unwavering commitment in

the face of formidable challenges.

As to what projects the future holds one thing is certain, "looking ahead and planning our strategy is fundamental to our continued success," she says.

"Our first priority is to optimise what we already do, deliver excellently to our clients and improve sales effectiveness through direct awards and extensions, use the digital tools available such as Pangea and embed social and environmental value in our client's projects."

"The second priority is to accelerate our growth with targeted strategic pursuits that will help us achieve that with focus on high margin opportunities. The third priority is to look ahead to explore new ways that will help us to deliver our purpose of engineering a better future for our planet and its people."

Engineering a better future for our planet and its people
www.atkinsrealis.ie



Martina Finn, Managing Director, AtkinsRéalís Ireland with Mike McNicholas, Managing Director, Infrastructure, AtkinsRéalís UK & Ireland



Martina and team pictured with secondary school students at a Women in Engineering event in TU Dublin



Martina presents to secondary school students at a Women in Engineering event in TU Dublin