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## APARTMENTS

# Flexible design guidelines

A FLEXIBLE interpretation of apartment design guidelines, introduced by the Government last September, should be required of local authorities in future if the guidelines themselves are not to detract from the quality of living in new developments.

That's according to an Irish firm of architects which is urging Dublin local councils to take account of new design guidelines which, it claims, present significant challenges to the private sector.

"The new design guidelines are definitely a step in the right direction in the effort to create better quality and sustainable living environments," says Eimear Hanly, of Douglas Wallace Architects.

"Designers and developers should now be more innovative in the types of scheme suggested but if they are, then the local authorities, the planning process and the general public will need to be tolerant and open to this requirement.