

Robert N. Allsopp

FCSLA / OALA / MALA (Hon) / ARIBA / MRTPI / MCIP / RPP
Professional / Teacher / Advocate / Pioneer



Academic Qualifications

Diploma in Architecture,
Leicester School of Architecture, 1959

Diploma in Civic Design,
University of Edinburgh, 1966

Professional Memberships/Affiliations

Fellow, Canadian Society of
Landscape Architects

Member, Ontario Association of
Landscape Architects

Honorary Member, Manitoba Association of
Landscape Architects

Canadian Institute of Planners,
Registered Professional Planner

Royal Town Planning Institute

Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Associate, Royal Institute of
British Architects

Registered Architect, United Kingdom

Other Affiliations

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario,
Presidents Circle

Friends of Fort York

Heritage Toronto

ICOMOS Canada

Toronto Society of Architects

Canadian Congress for Urbanism,
Honorary Board Member

Robert is a decorated landscape architect, planner and architect (U.K.) whose principal focus is urban design.

Robert has extensive professional experience in Canada, England, the United States and Spain with an active career over six decades. His broad range of work undertaken for public, institutional and private sector clients has provided extensive experience with multi-dimensional projects.

Robert arrived in Winnipeg, 1968. For 11 years he established his own consulting practice while teaching and serving as Campus Planner at the University of Manitoba. In 1979, Robert joined the Toronto office of Roger du Toit Architects/du Toit Associates. In 1985, he became a founding partner of du Toit Allsopp Hillier (now DTAH), one of Canada’s preeminent interdisciplinary design firms. Collectively, Robert and his colleagues have received over 220 awards for their efforts, including over 150 for landscape architecture projects.

Robert is a pioneer of modern day landscape architecture in Canada. He entered the CSLA College of Fellows in 1995. In 2008 he received the OALA’s Pinnacle Award, recognizing a body of work that demonstrates an outstanding professional accomplishment. In 2016 CSLA presented Bob with the Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to the profession of Landscape Architecture.

Education

Robert has formidable credentials as a graduate of Leicester School of Architecture and the University of Edinburgh in Civic Design. He is a

recipient of the Royal Institute of British Architects’ Sloane Medallion as well as a Fulbright Scholarship award.

National Capital

He has worked for nearly fifty years on a series of urban design projects in Canada’s National Capital, many of which have received national and international design award recognition. Focused largely on the National Capital Core, these projects sought to protect the National Symbols and create a coherent and livable public realm. Key projects include Ceremonial Routes (Confederation Boulevard) urban design plan, now implemented; the long-range development plan for the Parliamentary Precinct; and “views protection” studies that establish downtown built-form controls required to protect the visual integrity of the Parliament Buildings and other National Symbols. Other National Capital projects include the urban design component of the National Capital Core Area Concept Plan, the urban structure plan for the LeBreton Flats area of the Canadian War Museum, and the urban intensification strategy for Confederation Heights.

More recently, Robert has guided studies for new commemorations in the National Capital, prepared site rehabilitation strategies for a central sector of the Parliamentary Precinct, contributed public realm design to the overall redevelopment plan for Tunney’s Pasture, prepared guidelines for The Afghanistan Memorial in LeBreton Flats, and guidelines for the Centre Block.

Fort York

Robert has a long volunteer and professional association with Fort York, an important National Historic Site in Toronto. In a pro-bono capacity, he was a founding member in 1993 of the Friends of Fort York. He prepared Revealing Fort York (1994) in support of the Friends’ struggle to bring “Dignity, Visibility and Accessibility” to the Fort as adjacent lands were being rapidly redeveloped. He initiated and co-edited (with Catherine Nasmith) Fort York - Setting it Right (2000) prepared by the Friends of Fort York and the Fort York Management Board working group. He provided expert testimony at the OMB, in support of the Friends’ opposition to what was felt to be incompatible developments on adjacent lands.

As a partner in DTAH, Robert led the Fort York Visitor Centre Study (1991, for the Toronto Historical Board), the Fort York and Garrison Common Open Space Plan (2001), the Fort York Neighbourhood Public Realm Plan (2004), and the Blocks 32 and 36 Development Strategy (2006) and Public Realm Plan (2008). Robert was a contributor to the DTAH design team’s finalist submission to the Fort York Visitor Centre Architectural Competition, and managed the preparation of the Fort York Heritage Conservation District Plan (2014). He recently provided planning and design advice for the landscape restoration and rehabilitation of Fort York’s Garrison Common, and contributed to the design of the award-winning landmark Garrison Crossing pedestrian bridges.

Other Projects

Other landscape and urban design projects include plans for Vaughan Corporate Centre, North York City Centre, and Scarborough Centre. Recent campus development plans include those for University of Calgary, McGill University, University of Guelph and University of Regina. Robert also prepared campus plans for the RCMP Academy in Regina, and for three RCMP corporate and training campuses in the National Capital. Recently, Robert has contributed to several design plans for community hub projects in Toronto, the rehabilitation and redevelopment master plan for the Jury Lands—a former Boys Training School and POW Camp in Bowmanville, Ontario, and a Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessment for the world famous Glen Abbey golf course in Oakville, Ontario.

In 1989 he studied and worked in Barcelona. With Adjuntament de Barcelona’s urban projects office he was responsible for the design of a 20-hectare park in the Nou Barris district (CSLA National Merit Award). In 1990, he mounted a Canadian exhibition, Barcelona Works, illustrating that city’s public realm development program.

Teaching

Throughout his career, Robert has been committed to sharing his experience and stimulating creative thought through teaching and mentoring. Following graduation, he taught at the University of Kansas and, later, was instrumental in establishing Canada’s first Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program at the University of Manitoba, where he taught the first landscape architecture studio at the

school. Robert subsequently taught as a full-time professor at the University of Toronto for 19 years while developing a leading professional practice.

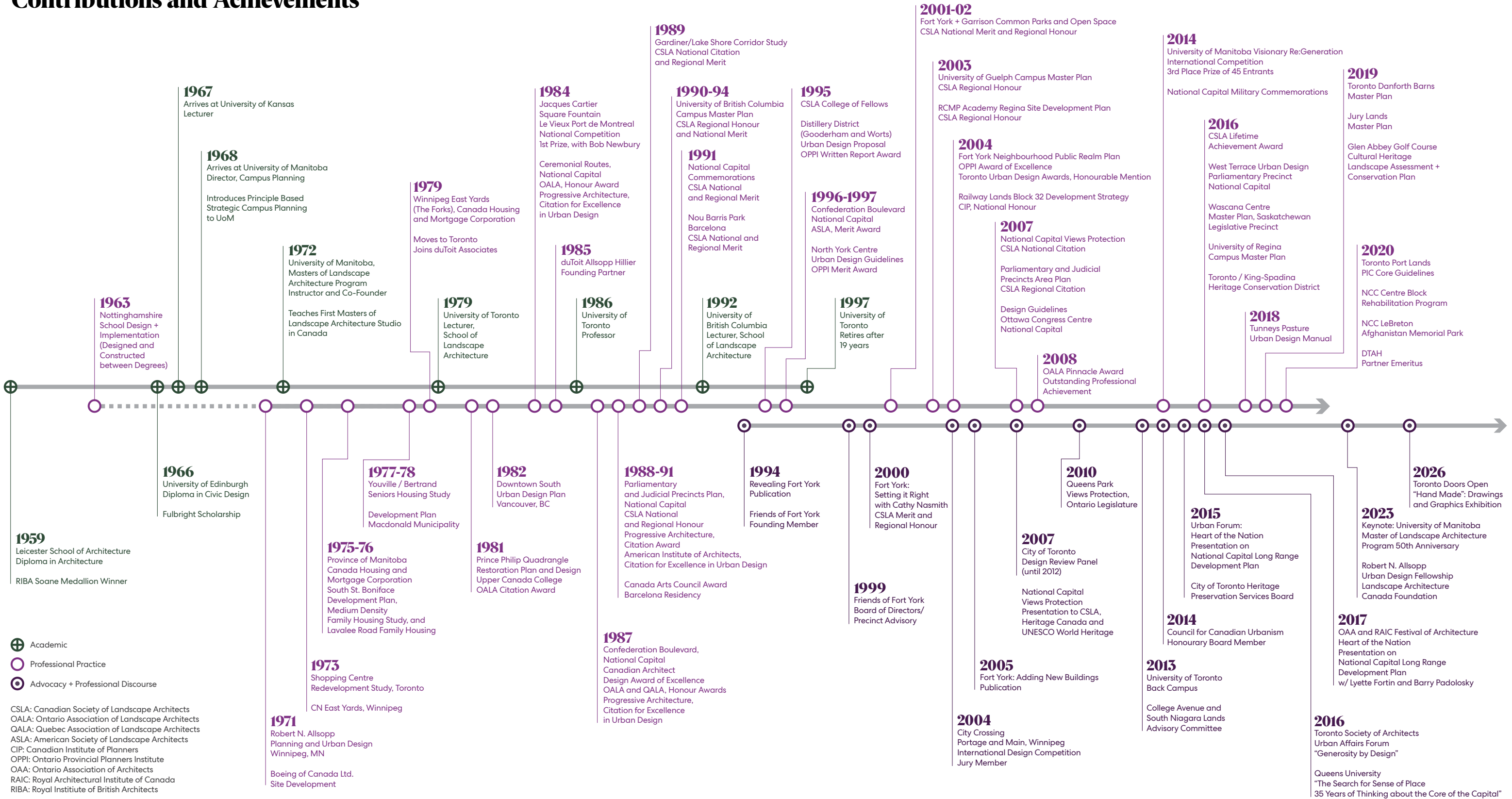
Advocacy + Professional Discourse

Beyond project-based work and academia, Robert has contributed to other important aspects of public service. He has participated on numerous community steering committees, presented to local, regional and national conferences, guest lectured at colleges and universities, and authored articles published in local and national press. Recently, Robert was interviewed as part of a documentary series on the Pioneers of Landscape Architects in Canada completed in 2019.

In 2023, Robert generously established the largest gift to date to the Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation—“the Robert N Allsopp Urban Design Fellowship”—providing research and sabbatical opportunities for mid-career landscape architects.

From 2007 to 2012 Robert was a member of the City of Toronto Design Review Panel, and at the time was the longest serving member with the highest level of attendance. He currently sits on the City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Services Board, beginning his service in 2017 following appointment by City Council.

Timeline of Significant Contributions and Achievements



Select Project Awards

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, Lifetime Achievement Award, Robert Allsopp, 2016

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, National Merit, Tree Planting Solutions Manual, 2014

Ontario Association of Landscape

Architects, Pinnacle Award, 2008

City of Toronto Urban Design Awards

Award of Excellence in the category of Visions and Masterplans, Toronto Central Waterfront, 2007

Canadian Institute of Planners

Honourable Mention, Urban Design, Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts Area: Site Capacity and Long Term Development Plan, 2007

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, National Citation Award, National Capital Views Protection, 2007

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, Regional Citation Award, Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts Area: Site Capacity and Long Term Development Plan, 2007

Ontario Professional Planners

Institute, Excellence in Planning Award, Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts Area: Site Capacity and Long Term Development Plan, 2007

Canadian Institute of Planners

Award for Planning Excellence, Railway Lands Blocks 32 + 36 Strategy, 2006

City of Toronto Architecture and Urban

Design Awards, Honourable Mention, Fort York Neighbourhood Public Realm Plan, 2005

Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Excellence in Planning/Urban Design, Fort York Neighbourhood Public Realm Plan, 2005

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, Regional Honour, University of Guelph Campus Master Plan, 2003

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, Regional Honour, RCMP Academy Regina, Site Development Plan, 2003

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, National Merit/Regional Honour, Fort York and Garrison Common Open Space Plan, 2002

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, National Merit and Regional Honour, Fort York: Setting It Right, (Friends of Fort York), 2001

Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Outstanding Planning Award, Vaughan Corporate Centre Secondary Planning Study, 1998

Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Professional Merit Award, North York City Centre Urban Design, Final Recommendations, 1998

American Society of Landscape

Architects, Planning and Urban Design Merit, Confederation Boulevard (National Capital Commission), 1996

American Institute of Architects

Citation for Excellence in Urban Design, Parliamentary Precinct Plan, National Capital, 1991

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, National and Regional Merit, Capital Commemorations, National Capital, 1991

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, National and Regional Merit, Parc Urba Forum Nord, Barcelona, Spain, 1991

Ontario Professional Planners

Institute, "Written Report" category, Parliamentary Precinct Plan, National Capital, 1990

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, National Citation and Regional Merit, Gardiner/Lake Shore Corridor Study, Toronto, 1989

Canadian Society of Landscape

Architects, National and Regional Honour, Parliamentary Precinct Plan, National Capital, 1989

Progressive Architecture

Citation Award (Urban Design and Planning), Parliamentary Precinct Plan, National Capital, 1989

The Canadian Architect

Design Award of Excellence, Confederation Boulevard, Ottawa, 1987

Progressive Architecture

Citation Award, Ceremonial Routes, National Capital, 1987

Ontario Association of Landscape

Architects, Honour Award, Ceremonial Routes, National Capital, 1984

Ontario Association of Landscape

Architects, Citation Award, Prince Philip Quadrangle, Upper Canada College, Toronto, 1981