

Richard Strong

Richard Strong died on Monday, April 22, 2019. At his request, his family submitted a succinct obituary that appears in the Globe & Mail from April 30 – May 4, 2019. It reads: Richard Strong, Landscape Architect, passed on April 22, 2019. Loved by Lorraine, Greg and ScotAnn.

The short notice belies the long and very accomplished professional life of Richard. He graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in 1957 and then completed his Master of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University in 1959. Prior to becoming a full member in 1997, Richard Strong had already provided leading design and inspiration to the profession in Canada, Australia and around the world.

In 1959 he started work in Toronto with John B. Parkin Associates. He then launched Sasaki Strong Associates with partner Hideo Sasaki in 1961. During this time they led the profession with projects that included Queen's Park and Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto, and La Ronde and the Ontario Pavilion at Expo67 in Montreal.

Richard went on to work with Steven Moorhead from 1972 to 1977 when he moved to Calgary, Alberta. He was based in Alberta until 1997 when he moved back to Ontario and continued to practice here until his retirement.

Richard's impact on landscape architecture reached beyond his work. He taught or influenced many of today's landscape architects. Richard founded the program and was appointed the first Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Toronto in 1968. He was also a visiting critic and lecturer at 16 universities across Canada, the United States and Australia. During this time, he also published books and articles on landscape architecture.

The impact of his thought on the subject is globally recognized. He is one of the pioneering landscape architects featured by the Cultural Landscape Foundation and holds numerous awards and honours from the CSLA, ASLA, American Interior Plantscape Association, Ohio State University and Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. From the Government of Canada, he received a 1967 Centennial Medal and a Queen Elizabeth Medal in 1977. He is an Emeritus member of the OALA and a Fellow of the CSLA.

As is OALA's custom, a book will be added to our library and a Memorial tree will be planted at the Guelph Arboretum Wall-Custance Memorial Forest in Richard's name. We will include an in-memoriam in the next issue of Ground: Landscape Architect Quarterly.

Richard's wife commented that the recent cancellation by the Ontario Government of funding to plant saplings would have been a challenge he would want to solve. If members are interested in donations on his behalf please donate to this effort or volunteer to plant saplings. Some local [Conservation Authorities](#) have charitable status and accept donations, as would [Forests Ontario](#).