

## **BING THOM AWARD TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. Intent**

The Bing Thom Endowment Fund was established in memory of Bing Thom, FRAIC, for the purpose of awarding scholarships, called the Bing Thom Awards, to students registered in a Canadian School of Architecture, in the RAIC Syllabus program or in architecture programs at the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

### **2. Bing Thom and His Vision**

Bing Thom (1940-2016) was a Vancouver-based architect of international renown, whose cultural, educational and commercial work has benefited communities in major cities across Canada, as well as the United States, China and Spain.

Over his career, Bing Thom was honored with many awards and accolades, notably being made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1995 and as the recipient of the RAIC Gold Medal in 2011. (*A list of Career Highlights can be found in Section 10 below.*)

The submission requirements and the criteria for the selection of the Bing Thom Award recipients reflect Bing Thom's personal values and his belief in the higher power of architecture. These values and beliefs were inspired by Henry Elder who, as Head of the University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Architecture from 1962 – 1974., moved its focus from 'the production of architects' to 'the understanding of architecture'. He firmly believed that "students should not lose sight of their real purpose in changing civilization". Elder inspired Bing Thom to explore the library with a theoretical thesis in search of a problem; instead of producing an imaginary thesis of architectural drawings.

Crediting Elder's influence, Bing Thom later stated: "I feel that architecture really has the potential to transform communities... make people realize that they're bigger than they are, that they're able to do more than they do."

### **3. Eligibility**

Individual students (including international students) registered in a Canadian School of Architecture or the RAIC Syllabus Program for the academic year in which the awards are made are eligible to apply for the Bing Thom Award, as well as students enrolled over the same period in architecture programs at the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

### **4. Award Frequency and Amount**

The intent is to give two awards of \$3500 every second year, starting in the 2024-2025 academic year.

### **5. Submission Requirements**

The recipients of the awards will be selected based on the evaluation of an original essay that responds to Bing Thom's values and belief in the transformative power of architecture.

### **6. Evaluation criteria**

The essays submitted will be evaluated based on:

- the clear relation of the ideas expressed to the submission criteria.
- the originality and strength of the ideas expressed,
- the clarity and style of the written language.

## **7. Jury**

The RAIC Foundation Trustees shall appoint a jury of at least five persons, including:

- at least one Trustee of the RAIC Foundation, who shall act as Chair;
- at least one full-time faculty member in a Canadian School of Architecture.
- at least one member of the College of Fellows of the RAIC.

The Trustees will also appoint a professional advisor to review and confirm the eligibility of all submissions and attend the jury meeting. The advisor will offer clarification when appropriate, but will not form part of the jury.

The names of the jury members will be announced with the publication of the formal Call for Submissions and Schedule. The decision of the jury will be final.

## **8. Call for Submissions and Schedule**

The Call for Submissions and Schedule shall be prepared by the RAIC Foundation in consultation with the Manager, RAIC Honors and Awards.

The Call for Submissions and Schedule shall be published at least two months before the deadline for Submissions, and should include the following information:

- The formal announcement of the Award
- These Terms of Reference and the background document '[Call for Proposals](#)' prepared by the Bing Thom Foundation.
- A brief history (when available), with the names of recent winners and links to their essays
- Eligibility and submission criteria, as described in the current Terms of Reference
- The names of the Professional Advisor and members of the jury (if available), with links to biographical information
- Contact information for questions about eligibility or the submission process.
- The date and location of the awards presentation, if known

## **9. Modification of the Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference of the Bing Thom Endowment Fund and the Bing Thom Awards can only be amended by the Board of Trustees of the RAIC Foundation with the consent of the Bing Thom Foundation.

## **10. Bing Thom: Career highlights**

Bachelor of Architecture, UBC 1966  
Masters of Architecture, University California Berkeley 1969  
Founding Member, Third World Studies, UC Berkeley 1969  
Founding Member, Chinese Cultural Centre Vancouver 1973  
Chairman of the Building Committee, Vancouver Public Library Selection Board 1995  
Order of Canada, 1995  
Honorary Professor, Tongji University, Shanghai, 2000  
Honorary Doctor of Laws, SFU 2005  
Honorary Doctor of Laws, UBC 2008  
Royal Architecture Institute of Canada Gold Medal 2011

### **Posthumous works:**

Xiqu Theater Centre, Hong Kong  
University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Campus, Hong Kong  
Woodridge Library, Washington, D.C.  
MacEwan University Allard Hall, Edmonton, A.B.  
Simon Fraser University Sustainable Energy Building, Surrey, B.C.  
Butterfly, Vancouver, B.C.