

The Bing Thom Call for Proposal

“The most significant change is that the school has been concerned with understanding architecture rather than the production of architects.” “Students should not lose sight of their real purpose in changing civilization.”

Henry Elder, UBC Archives Senate Tributes
Head of the School of Architecture, UBC 1962-1974

Henry Elder inspired Bing to explore the library, with a theoretical thesis “In Search of a Problem” instead of producing an imaginary thesis of architectural drawings. Their search inspires our Call for Proposal: “I feel that architecture really has the potential to transform communities in the sense that it makes people realize that they’re bigger than they are, that they’re able to do more than they do.”

Bing Thom
Bachelor Architecture, UBC 1966
Masters 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, University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Hong Kong; Woodridge Library, Washington, D.C., MacEwan University Allard Hall, Edmonton, A.B.; Simon Fraser University Sustainable Energy Building, Surrey, B.C., and the Butterfly in Vancouver, B.C.