ERNEST STANLEY KING
Dip.Arch (Leics) UK, 1953, M.Arch (UBC) 1971, MAIBC (Retired), MRAIC

Born- May 9, 1927 (Frome, Somerset, England)
Deceased- December 3, 2020 (Vancouver, British Columbia)

Ernest ‘Stanley’ King is celebrated for his vibrancy, enthusiasm, generosity and inspiration. Stanley was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, as well as a respected architect, author, artist, teacher, mentor and creator of the Co-Design process.

A retired architect, Stanley had a general architectural practice in England and Canada 1953-96. Emigrating to Canada in 1959, Stanley was the administrative architect for Montreal’s 43-storey Alexis-Nihon Plaza in 1962-63. As the concept designer for Montreal’s EXPO 67, his drawings and designs were exhibited nationally and internationally by the Government of Canada. Through his career, he had the pleasure of working with many Canadian design contemporaries including Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, Harold Ship, Arthur Erickson and Moshe Safdie.

Stanley was always energized and inspired by the ideas of youth, and loved to teach and help them both understand urban change and contribute to the built environment. Stanley taught courses at Simon Fraser, University School of Environmental Education (1971-76), and at University of Victoria, Faculty of Environment (1982-86). He was Program Supervisor and Instructor in Architectural Technologies at The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (1979-92). Founded and directed Co-Design Course of Advanced Urban Illustration, Calgary and Victoria (1981- 86). Received SAIT’s highest academic award, the Ralph T. Scurfield Award for Academic Achievement in 1990, and was nominated for International Professor of the Year in 1989 by the USA based Council for the Support of Education.

Seeking to define ways that citizens could meaningfully contribute to a dialogue with architects, planners and landscape architects, he created the Co-Design process. He developed Co-Design as his Master of Architecture thesis at the University of British Columbia 1968-71. Stanley taught many hundreds of artists, architects, designers and youth to draw at the direction of community participants, helping them to illustrate their preferred future environment. This helped to translate the ideas of local stakeholders into a visual language that was easily accessible and bridged the gap between architects and communities.

Stanley was Founder/ President of the Co-Design Group which has conducted hundreds of public design workshops from Haida Gwaii to Halifax. Stanley won international recognition for his methods of public dialogue for citizens of all ages, including Honourable Mention as Organization of the Year from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) in 2000,

Stanley was an internationally recognized and published authority on public design participation, and a pioneer in developing methods of public dialogue. His work was featured in the 1972 NFB film "Chairs for Lovers". Stanley was the principal author of the book Co-Design - A Process of Design Participation, (1989) along with colleagues Merinda Conley, Bill Latimer and Drew Ferrari. Stanley was also co-author with Merinda Conley of the school manual ‘Bringing Youth to Main Street’, The Alberta Main Street Programme Youth Manual, 2000. He co-authored with Susan Chung the Youth Manual for Sustainable Design, which was awarded a bursary by Architecture Canada. Stanley was also awarded Barbara Dalrymple Award for Lifetime Community Service, from the Architectural Institute of BC in 1998.

Stanley passed away peacefully at home, cared for by his family after a brief, sudden illness. Stanley is survived by his wife and partner of 67 years Margaret (Vancouver), his children Celia (Vancouver), Rachel (Toronto), and Alan (Jon) (New York). Stanley was also blessed by his grandchildren Eben, Calum and Glynis, Selim and Maxwell, as well as six great-grandchildren. He will also be fondly remembered by hundreds of students he taught over the years, the communities that he inspired, and his colleagues in the architectural community. Stanley’s guidance and legacy continues through the Co-Design Group.