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MEDIA RELEASE

Robert Ledingham: Doctor of Design

Interior Designer honoured with Doctor of Laws for 40 years of ‘timeless’ design

(Vancouver, BC, June 7, 2006): It’s been 42 years since Vancouver-based interior designer Robert Ledingham graduated from the University of Manitoba, but he’s returned to become Dr Robert Ledingham, B.I.D., R.I.D. Ledingham’s alma mater recently awarded him an Honorary Doctorate for his prolific career as an interior designer, and his lengthy commitment to volunteerism and the arts.

“Mr. Ledingham provides a model of leadership in the field of Interior Design that is inspirational to our graduates. He represents the finest example of the Interior Design professional,” said David Witty, Dean of Architecture at the University of Manitoba. Dean Witty recommended Ledingham to the Chancellor of the University to declare him ‘Doctor of Laws’.

“ Mr. Robert Ledingham of Vancouver-based Ledingham Design Consultants has become one of Canada’s most celebrated interior designers,” said Dean Witty. “He has been widely recognised by his peers and by the community for an extraordinary career, distinguished by excellence and service.”

Dean David Witty also noted that Robert Ledingham has won 25 awards for excellence in local, national and international design. In 1998 Ledingham received the International

Interior Design Association Leadership Award, the first time this honour was bestowed upon a Canadian. The award recognises his contribution to the Foundation of Interior Design Research, including developing the Interior Design professional accreditation process. This process reviews university programmes for the purpose of determining if the programmes meet professional standards and professional accreditation. Ledingham also served as Chair of the Board of the Foundation, as well as on accreditation field teams.

In 2003, he received three design awards: one from the International Interior Design Association and two from the American Society of Interior Designers. Mr. Ledingham has been recognised by his peers in Canada, where he is a Fellow and past president of the Interior Designers of Canada. He has also received City of Vancouver Heritage Award for his contribution to heritage design.

“Mr. Ledingham’s design practice is based upon a philosophy that proposes good design must express function and comfort and project individual style,” stated Dean Witty. “Mr. Ledingham has raised the profile of Interior Design in Canada and North America by establishing one of the largest Interior Design practices in the Pacific Northwest. His work is international in scope. He is a designer first and foremost, which means he is concerned as much with function as with form. It has been said that, beyond its perfect detail and profound sense of order, the thing that becomes apparent with Robert Ledingham’s work is its timelessness.”

The honour coincides with another milestone for Robert Ledingham: his 40th year as an interior designer. Ottawa-born Robert Ledingham got his start in Saskatchewan in 1966, moving to Vancouver the following year. After nine years working for a variety of Vancouver firms, Ledingham started his own firm, Ledingham Design Consultants.

Now with a staff of 16, Ledingham Design Consultants offers full interior design services, including custom residential and hotel and restaurant design. His reputation for

designing stunning private residences in Vancouver, Alberta and Washington State is unsurpassed.

The elegantly relaxed ambience of hotels such as the five-star Pan Pacific in Vancouver and Whistler, the Westin Whistler Resort and Spa, and the Westin Grand Vancouver is also the result of Robert Ledingham's wide-ranging design talents. Recent Ledingham highlights include the interior design of the high profile Erickson tower at Concord Pacific, where he worked with iconic architect Arthur Erickson, and Coal Harbour's landmark Shaw Tower.

He attributes his success to his commitment to classic design. "The subtlety has to speak," says Robert Ledingham with his usual subtlety. "Good design must express function and comfort, and project individual style. Restraint and a sense of proportion go furthest in creating a look of timeless elegance." Many of his design clients from years ago enjoy their elegant spaces to this day, even if the design was from the Seventies, Eighties or Nineties.

"I have enormous respect for architects," explains Ledingham regarding the durability of his design, "I always strive to complement the existing craftsmanship of a space."

As his recent honorary degree acknowledges, Robert Ledingham is extensively involved in the Vancouver arts community, supporting Ballet BC, Festival Vancouver, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and the Vancouver Art Gallery. As Co-Director of the Dr Peter AIDS Foundation, he co-chaired the Capital Campaign responsible for raising \$1.7 million for a new HIV/AIDS facility. He also donated his design for the Dr. Peter Centre, a day care and hospice for people with HIV/AIDS. He is also the single-most published interior designer in Canada, with his work in over 20 publications.

His storied career as both an enthusiast and a benefactor of the arts has long been acknowledged in Canada. But only now can his clients and colleagues call him Doctor Ledingham.

For more information about Robert Ledingham Design, please visit www.ledingham.com

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