

INTRODUCTION OF ROBERT LEDINGHAM

February 24, 2011

It is a pleasure and a privilege to introduce Robert Ledingham at this first of many successful Vancouver IDC/IIDA Leaders' Breakfasts. I have known Bob professionally and personally for over 30 years and believe that his worthiness for this honor is without question.

Bob received his B.I.D. from the University of Manitoba in 1964 and moved shortly thereafter to Vancouver, where he launched his career. The establishment in 1975 of his own design firm began an upward spiral of design excellence, awards and publication of his work that continues today. In an era in which residential interior designers were often trivialized as 'decorators', Bob almost single-handedly raised the level of professionalism and respect in Western Canada for this practice sector. He has mentored a generation of Western Canadian designers.

His work has brought international recognition to Canadian design. Winner of over 20 Canadian design awards and 13 international awards, Bob was also the first Canadian recipient of the IIDA Leadership Award for his contribution to the international design community. As a former IIDA President, I can attest to the high regard in which Bob is held beyond the Canadian border.

It is unusual for a designer to reach Bob's stature without the negative personality characteristics associated with "star" status. On the contrary, Bob is characterized by integrity, humility, caring and humour. He is soft-spoken, not out-spoken, a man of few words, but when he voices an opinion, it's with simplicity, intelligence and clarity. A true gentleman, it would not be an exaggeration to say that those who know him, cherish him.

Bob gives tirelessly of his time and resources to charitable, cultural and professional organizations. A major driver behind the development of Vancouver's Dr. Peter Centre, he also chaired the Friends for Life project. Bob has been a board member and/or benefactor of numerous art, music, theatre and dance organizations. I followed in Bob's footsteps as President of Interior Designers of Canada and Bob went on to serve the Council for Interior Design Education for ten years, ultimately becoming the Chair of that organization. Throughout his career, Bob has also been a constant supporter of the University of Manitoba and of Kwantlen Polytechnic University, contributing venues, planning and support whenever needed.

In 2006, Bob received an honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Manitoba, only the 2nd interior designer in Canada to be so recognized. Bob exemplifies the practitioner who applies the highest standards of excellence to all his endeavours, garnering respect for his profession, his colleagues and his community, while continuously giving back to all.

Please join me in congratulating - Dr. Robert Ledingham.