

Expression of Condolence for Bernie Himel by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Councillor Ana Bailão

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Bernie Himel on February 13, 2021 at the age of 86.

Bernie Himel was a renowned, forward-thinking architect who spent 32 years of his career at Webb Zerafa Menkes Housden (WZMH) Architects helping to create iconic buildings across the City. He was a key architect who helped create Toronto buildings including the Richmond-Adelaide Centre, Inn on the Park, Sutton Place Hotel and the Royal Bank Plaza.

Bernie was passionate about unique designs and travelled to Belgium to learn the process to coat the Royal Bank Plaza buildings' windows in thin layers of real gold that still shine brightly today.

Bernie's 50-year career in architecture also saw him leave his mark internationally in helping design the Four Seasons Hotel in Hong Kong, the St. Regis Hotel in Singapore and the Armani Hotel in Dubai.

Bernie was known for going against prescribed norms, and was considered a visionary in the industry. His influence and legacy continue to be felt at WZMH Architects, where the team still works on projects that Bernie initially put together.

Bernie Himel was born and raised in Toronto, attending Harbord Collegiate and the University of Toronto where he earned a bachelor's degree in architecture.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his wife Fariza, their children Laurence, Judy, Paula, Eric, Alessandra and Zachary, as well as friends and colleagues.

March 10, 2021