

Expression of Condolence for Jack Diamond by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Councillor Brad Bradford

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of renowned Toronto architect Jack Diamond, OC, OOnt, who passed away on October 30, 2022, just days before his 90th birthday.

Abel Joseph "Jack" Diamond was born in Piet Retief, South Africa on November 8, 1932. As a young boy, he had a passion for the arts including painting, sketching and music. He studied architecture, politics, philosophy and economics in South Africa, Britain and America, earning his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Cape Town and his Masters of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1964, Jack moved to Canada, joining the University of Toronto and inaugurating the Master of Architecture program there. In 1975, he started his own architecture firm A.J. Diamond Architects. In 1978, he developed a partnership with Donald Schmidt and created Diamond and Schmidt Architects with him. Diamond and Schmidt Architects still operates to this day with offices in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and New York. The firm has designed many cultural, academic, healthcare, residential and government buildings in Canada and around the world, many of which have become significant institutions.

Some of Jack's most notable projects include the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, the Foreign Ministry and City Hall in Jerusalem, La Maison Symphonique in Montreal, and the Mariinsky II Opera and Ballet in St. Petersburg.

Jack was recognized with many honours and awards for his work. He was appointed to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, in addition to being awarded several Governor General's Medals in Architecture. He also received a gold medal and various awards from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Jack will be remembered as a visionary, whose legacy has shaped the Toronto we know today.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Jack's wife, Gillian, children and all those whose lives he touched.

November 24, 2022