

Expression of Condolence for Raymond Moriyama by Toronto City Council

Moved By: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded By: Councillor Stephen Holyday

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Raymond Moriyama, CC, OOnt - one of Canada's most renowned architects - who passed away on September 1, 2023, at the age of 93.

Raymond Moriyama was born in Vancouver in 1929. During his youth, he and his family were relocated along with his family to a Japanese internment camp in the B.C. interior during the Second World War. During this time, Raymond secretly built his first structure, a treehouse that he built away from the camp. The treehouse became his refuge and it was a great escape from his daily life.

After the war ended, his family relocated to Hamilton and Raymond pursued a higher education, earning a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Toronto in 1954 and a Masters of Architecture from McGill University in 1957. In 1958, he founded his firm in Toronto, which was later named Moriyama & Teshima Architects.

Raymond championed the principles of democracy, equality and inclusion in his architectural work. His work has been recognized for its attention to detail and for being designed to meet the needs of the people who visit and use his buildings.

Raymond's firm was first thrust into the spotlight when it was asked to design the Ontario Science Centre. Some of his other early works include civic buildings such as the Scarborough Civic Centre and the Toronto Reference Library, which continue to be regarded as important landmarks in Toronto. He was also responsible for designing the main building of Toronto's Botanical Garden, the North York Central Library, Ottawa City Hall, the National Museum of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, the Canadian embassy in Tokyo, the Bata Shoe Museum, and the Canadian War Museum.

Raymond received many awards and honours throughout his life including the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) Gold Medal in 1997, the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Art in 2009, as well as the Queen's Golden and Diamond

Jubilee Medals in 2002 and 2012, respectively. In 2008, he was promoted to the highest level of the Order of Canada as a Companion. He has also received the Confederation of Canada Medal, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arts Foundation of Greater Toronto and in 2014, partnered with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada to establish the Moriyama RAIC International Prize.

Raymond Moriyama leaves behind a legacy as a world-renowned city builder who enhanced Toronto's architectural landscape and whose buildings contribute to a sense of civic engagement and place. His belief in the power of belonging as a force for positive change will live on through his work and in the awards that bear his name.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Raymond Moriyama's family as well as those whose lives he enhanced through his work.

September 6, 2023