



Vale

Professor Jennifer Taylor LFRAIA

12 April 1935 – 7 December 2015

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An Australian by birth, Jennifer spent much of her life in Europe, America and Asia. She began her academic career in the University of Sydney in 1970. There, over 30 years, she established her reputation as an outstanding architectural historian and critic of national and international standing.

In nearly 50 years of practice, Jennifer has been a constant source of inspiration to students, academics, practitioners, policy makers and the general public within Australia and internationally. It is no exaggeration to say Jennifer is a pre-eminent historian, theoretician and critic on 20th Century Australian architecture as well as an authority on contemporary Asian Architecture. Jennifer has published many seminal books and academic papers. Books such as "An Australian Identity Houses for Sydney 1953-63" published in 1972 and "Australian Architecture since 1960" with a national focus, are among many she has written that deserve a permanent place in the libraries of anyone with a serious interest in this subject. Jennifer's selection to write a chapter on Australian Architecture and Oceania in Sir Banister Fletcher's authoritative tome "History of Architecture" speaks for her international standing.

Jennifer was a Professor of Architecture with the Queensland University of Technology. Her numerous awards include the Neville Quarry Architectural Education Prize, the 1998 Inaugural Marion Mahoney Griffin Award for Architectural Teaching, Research and Publication and fellowships from the Japan Foundation in 1975 and 1994-95. She was a director of the Committee of International Critics of Architecture and in 2003 became a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects. The Institute's 2010 National President's Prize honoured Jennifer Taylor's lifetime commitment to architecture as a thinker, writer, critic and historian. Jennifer is the only Australian who has been recognised by the global peak organisation

International Union of Architects, for the Jean Tschumi Triennial Prize for architectural theory, criticism or education. She is the only person to have won two such awards. In 1999 she received the single honourable mention for the inaugural award and in 2002 she also received honourable mention as a contributing author for the Oceania Architecture chapter for the book "World Architecture: A Critical Mosaic". In researching Oceania Architecture, Jennifer recognised the absence of documented information about the region, which she subsequently addressed through the publication, with colleague Dr James Conner, of her latest and last book, "Architecture of the South Pacific - The Ocean of Islands" published in 2014.

Jennifer Taylor's work embraced the architecture of Japan, China and the South Pacific, in addition to contemporary Australian architecture. Jennifer's contribution extended well beyond the scope of professional and academic circles, it extended across country and internationally, bringing fresh insights, academic rigour and ideas that reinforced for all the relevance and understanding of mid-century contemporary architecture and its importance in expressing the aspirations and culture of our time. Her special contribution is to knowledge and understanding of architecture's role in interpreting culture and heritage

Beyond architectural teaching and writing Jennifer was also an accomplished architect, having received several design awards, notable amongst which are the Australian Institute of Architects state (Qld) 'Residential Award' in 2004 and Brisbane Region 'House of the Year' in 1994.

Jennifer has given admirable leadership service in the wider community on a sustained basis for many decades. She was a foundation member of several associations that underpin cultural capital development essential for a mature society, including: the peak body DOCOMOMO (International Working Party for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Site and Neighborhoods of the Modern Movement); Asian Arts Society; Australian Architecture Association and the Queensland Art Gallery. Her generous contribution of time was matched by her unwavering principled passion for advancing greater understanding of the role of architecture in nation building.

Jan Howling, from an interview with Jennifer Taylor, Indesign Magazine issue 20 Feb 2005:

'The idea of contribution is an important one for Taylor - contribution to the profession, to academic standards, to students, to contemporary architectural history, and to the experience of place and culture through architecture. "Maybe I feel I can contribute more through books than I can through buildings but I'd like to do more of both." says Jennifer. "I believe in living life to the full". Given the sustained impact she has achieved in so many different ways, it is surely the profession that has been privileged by Jennifer Taylor, rather than the other way round.'

Jennifer and Jim at some of the many Institute events they attended over the years.

