



2018 Newington Medal - International

Ronald Lu (ON 1962)

Ronald Lu entered Newington in Term III, 1959 and completed his secondary education at the end of his Sixth Form year in 1962.

Considered “a student of steady application and reasonable achievement”, he obtained B class passes in English, Mathematics I & II, French and Physics in the State Leaving Certificate examination. In 1962 he was awarded the ONU Service Prize for Shooting.

Ron attended University of Sydney to study Dentistry, although his passion was Architecture. He made the change to study Architecture at the University of NSW where he graduated with honours. He followed this with a post-graduate degree in Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US where he graduated in 1973 with a Master of Architecture in Advanced Studies.

In 1976 he founded Ronald Lu and Partners (RLP) in Hong Kong. RLP is dedicated to the delivery of world-class projects across the globe. The firm has become a specialist in delivering high-density, mixed-use developments especially Transport-Oriented Development over rail stations in response to the demands of Asia’s modern fast-growing economies. Under Ron’s stewardship RLP has become the leading architecture practice in Asia. With over 500 staff, they are headquartered in Hong Kong with offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

Ron’s work has been globally recognised winning many international architecture awards and has partnered with the internationally renowned Frank Gehry on Gehry’s first two projects in Asia. RLP is committed to charity and social responsibility with the firm being awarded the Caring Company Logo for six consecutive years.

At the forefront of Ron’s success has been education and sustainability. He has steered the team at RLP to ensure all projects create greater economic, social and environmental value. Over the last forty years Ron has mentored and ensured that those with his passion for architecture are provided with the opportunity to do more, learn more, and create more. He has established a travelling scholarship at the School of Built Environment at University of NSW and their studios in Shanghai and Hong Kong, to foster greater cultural understanding and tolerance in delivering culturally sensitive Architecture.

In 2001, UNSW awarded Ron Doctor of Science Honoris Causa.

Ron lead the creation of the first Zero Carbon Building in Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong. This project is a prototype for exploring measures such as wise use of renewable energy, energy efficient design and technologies, higher greening ratios, more advanced recycling and waste management measures. All these measures ensure a progress towards the long-term vision of carbon-neutral communities.

Ron is a practising Christian, a philanthropist and a passionate golfer. He is a member of the Hong Kong Baptist Church. He is currently the President of the Hong Kong Golf Club and the Honorary Chairman of the Hong Kong Golf Association.

This lifelong and extraordinary contribution to Architecture, including as the Past President of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects and The American Institute of Architects (Hong Kong Chapter) has impacted so many people, providing an inspirational example of achievement for past and present students of the College. It is an honour to name Dr Ronald Lu as the Newington Medallist (International) for 2018.

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