

劉聚富博士 Dr. Arthur Lau

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錦繡胸懷 建文频之都 築社稷之情

著名建築師劉聚富博士,在過去半世紀為人類文明建構了不少 基業;從世界博覽會會場到加國各個省的大型建築物和私人住 宅,以至對華人別具意義的蒙特利爾著名地標白求恩廣場,都 是他設計與規劃的得意之作。然而他的視野超越了華麗文明的 建築,進入社群當中,扶助社區發展醫療和教育,尤其關心華 人社區需要,致力建立以身心為本的人文精神。

剛剛慶祝80歲大壽的劉聚富博士,是著名的「麥基爾人」,自1962年畢業於麥基爾大學的建築系,至今成為母校的終身董事、建築委員會主席,也是加拿大皇家建築師學院院士,並且是蒙特利爾中華醫院和蒙城中文語言學校的董事,更是加拿大榮譽勛章(2000)、英女皇登基金禧紀念(2002)及鑽禧紀念(2012)獎章得主。

在眾多的頭銜背後,自有一段光榮的歷史。事實上,劉博士幾十年來對建築界、麥基爾大學和蒙特利爾華人社區所作出 的貢獻,不勝枚舉。

多年來,除了醉心創新而多變的建築,劉博士還一直不忘 社區的需要。出錢出力參與創立蒙城中文語言學校,又為蒙城 中華醫院擔當義工和積極參與籌款,此外,也對母校作出不少 回饋,成立了多個獎學基金,培育多個學系的攻讀生。

劉聚富博士可說是華人成功融入加國社會的典範,自從 22歲留學至今,他打拚在主流社會的領域,並以一張東方人的 臉孔贏得廣泛尊敬。更加難能可貴的是,他並沒有忘記自己的 中國根,致力弘揚自己的文化,培育下一代對華夏文化的認 識。切實地體現人類高尚情操,堪稱一個值得譜寫的傳奇。

建設文明半世紀

「羅馬並非一天建成」;劉聚富博士回看登陸加拿大逾半世紀的日子,的確見證了不少象徵人類文明的建築。如今即使已退休,不再經營建築事務所,也退而不休,擔任一些建築計劃的顧問,這些項目不少是來自中國。此外,亦全心投入在蒙特利爾社區參與義務工作,把多年經驗和睿智回饋社會。

深信「學無止境」的他,又經常在母校旁聽各科講學,走系串班,孜孜不倦汲取新知識。難怪他說自己一生最愛讀書,而且什麼書都看,天文、地理、文學、歷史、美術、園藝,都是他的興趣所在。

問他時間哪裡來? 他説:「只要有興趣,就有時間。」

也許正是這份對生命的熱誠與動力,牽引劉博士走上一條 精彩的人生路.

1958年,劉聚富博士從香港來到蒙特利爾麥基爾大學攻讀 建築系,1964年畢業時,別的同學都還一籌莫展之際,他已收 到四個聘書。

工作不滿一年,年僅26歲的劉博士獲邀擔當1967年蒙特利爾世界博覽會的特約設計師,是7人小組中唯一的華人;從設計藍圖到行政管理和善後工作都有參與。於他而言,這自然是畢生難忘的里程,也慶幸自己當時即使閱歷不多,也獲得這難得的機會。

世博會後,在眾多慕名求賢的公司裡,劉博士加入以設計 公共機構見稱的美國公司Smith Hinchman and Grills,任加拿大 分部總建築師。

1968年,年屆30的劉博士決定回蒙特利爾開創自己的事業,正式成立劉聚富建築設計事務所。由1969年至2006年期間,公司承接了50多棟分佈加拿大各個省份的大型建築物和數個私人住宅規劃和設計工作。

劉博士回憶起創業初期那段令人振奮的日子;事務所剛成立幾個月,就參加了安省咸美頓一項聯邦級市中心發展項目競標。同時競爭的有許多國際知名大公司,結果,竟由他這家小公司的設計勝出。而這項分為四期進行的系列工程,從1970年開始,歷時整整15年才完成,儼然為咸美頓締造一次「華麗轉身」。

打造另一種人文精神

1972年,劉博士揭開一己與祖國聯繫的新一頁;他的建築師事務所,承擔了設計首個中國在加拿大舉行、介紹白求恩醫生事跡的展覽。劉博士笑説這是他的另一「慶幸」,也就是慶幸他的公司是當年唯一的華人建築師事務。後來於蒙城中心奠立的白求恩廣場中的白求恩石像,就是由中國政府運來作展覽主題,劉聚富公司設計的「白求恩展覽」其中一部分。

2005年,劉博士獲中國政府邀請出任上海2010年世博會高級國際顧問。由2007至2011年間,亦分別獲委為規劃顧問和設計建築師,參與在南京、大連及深圳的商住和渡假村籌建項目。

參與這些中國項目最令他感到興奮的是,可以接觸到最 優秀的國內人員,並且看到中國如何具備一切條件、資源和力

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量,晉至全球領先的地位。這份興奮和自豪,與他一直對華人社會的關切之情如出一轍。

早在70年代,事業才剛起步的他,已經開始當義工,於 1969年成為蒙城中華醫院的董事。數十年來,一直為醫院籌 款,並義務參與規劃和建設醫院的華埠新址,讓區內華人享有 更完善的醫療設施和服務。

除了醫療,劉博士也熱衷推動教育,尤其是華人下一代的中文教育。1983年,他聯同一群社區熱心人士創立了蒙城中文語言學校。他回憶説,開始時,學生寥寥無幾,到學校正式成立時,有83名學生。33年後的今天,蒙城中華語文學校已有1,300多位學生。

1993年,劉博士又與一羣熱心的專業人士創立魁省華人專 業聯會,並由他擔當首任主席。

自從成為麥基爾大學的董事後,劉博士又致力為麥大的東亞系和美術系圖書館增添藏書,讓下一代得以「開卷有益」,並且增進對東方文化的認識。

問到他為何身為加國公民多年,依然不捨不棄祖國之情? 他有感而發地表示,人總是對失去了,離開了的,才會想念與 珍惜。

飲水思源 成功之本

劉聚富博士1936年在香港出生,在家中7兄弟姊妹之中排 行最小;爸爸經營小生意,小時候遇上戰亂,世界彷彿都因此 而停滯,戰後一切又要重建起來。自小愛看新事新物,也愛埋 首書堆的他,彷彿已種下要為未來投身建築的因子。

1957年,在香港工業專科學院(現為香港理工大學)畢業 以後,他想唸建築系,也得悉麥基爾大學是該系的首選學府, 於是1958年告別香江,成為家中第一位出洋留學的子女。

跟大多留學生一樣,剛來這裡時也面臨種種難關。例如麥 大建築系是六年制教學,而他是從三年級開始上的;誤了二年 級的建築歷史課,起初聽課完全不知老師所云。可是他急起直 追,還不恥下問,向同學借閱筆記,最終成功過渡。

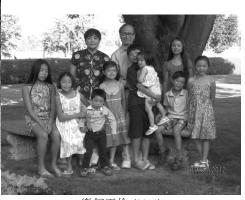
劉博士是個不忘本的人,曾經走過的人生路,都成為寶貴的經驗和珍貴的回憶。他又說他的成功,有賴好運氣,但也靠努力不懈,面對困難時,不輕言放棄,他又相信,正向思維;事事往好處想,通常都會帶來好結果。又表示,自己根本沒有時間去想負面的事情,數十年來總是天天有新的計劃,新的工作,永遠都向前看,時刻在打造更美的明天,這也許是建築師應有的視野和觀點。

他又分享了另一個處世之道,就是「知足者貧亦樂」;無 論處於何種境況或階段,都要知足。就如他當年創立的公司只 有十多個職員,他也樂得人數不多反而好做事,感覺像一個大 家庭。談到家庭,劉博士自言擁有一個幸福的家,太太自大學 時代與他結識,婚後相夫教子,兒女如今都是專業人士。

他說自己的名字,取自「榮華富貴」,四兄弟各用一字, 誰知祖父把「富」字留給了最小的他,把命名次序倒轉過來, 這也成就了他名副其實地活出「聚富」的豐盛人生。



與四個兒女一起 (2013) With 4 children (2013)



樂叙天倫 (2013) With grandchildren (2013)



與孫兒一起 (2015) With grandchildren (2015)



女兒Zandra在麥基爾大學畢業 (2005) Daughter Zandra's graduation at McGill campus (2005)



出訪建築工地 (70年代) At job site (1970s)



在辦公室 At office



畢業典禮;與麥基爾大學校監 Convocation, with Chancellor of McGill



畢業典禮;與麥基爾大學校長、校監 及校董會主席 Convocation, with Principal, Chancellor, and Chairman of Board of McGill



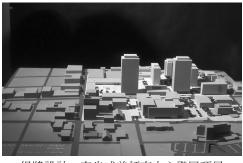
傑作之一:安省咸美頓傑克遜廣場 Famous work: Jackson Square, Hamilton, Ontario



1967年世博藍圖 Master plan Expo '67



蒙市著名地標:白求恩像 Norman Bethune statue in Montreal



得獎設計:安省咸美頓市中心發展項目 Winning master plan of downtown Hamilton, Ontario

Dr. Arthur Lau

Dr. Arthur Lau is a world-renowned architect, whose architectural design has left an indelible imprint on human civilization over the last half century. His work has ranged from the Montreal World Expo to many large buildings in various provinces of Canada, several private homes, and the first Bethune Exhibition in Montreal, the latter project particularly meaningful to Chinese Canadians. His vision goes beyond the creation of unique buildings to helping the community. He supports both medical care and educational development and he is especially concerned about the needs of the Chinese community, his humanistic spirit evident in his volunteer work.

Dr. Arthur Lau just celebrated his 80 birthday recently. A famous "McGill man", he graduated from the School of Architecture at McGill University in 1962. Now he is Emeritus Governor, and was Chair of the Buildings and Properties Committee for his alma mater. He is a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and a board director for the Montreal Chinese Hospital Corporation and Montreal Chinese (Mandarin) School. He was named a member of the Order of Canada and received the Golden Jubilee and the Diamond Jubilee Medals in honor of the 50th anniversary and the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation. In 2015, he received an Honors Doctorate Degree in Science from McGill University.

There is a glorious history behind all these titles and awards. In fact, Dr. Arthur Lau's contributions to the field of architecture, McGill University and the Montreal Chinese community over several decades are too numerous to list.

Over the years, in addition to his innovative design work, Arthur has

not forgotten the needs of the community. He not only helped to establish a Chinese language school in Montreal, but also contributed his resources as a volunteer to the Montreal Chinese Hospital and actively participated in fund-raising. In addition, he established funds for multiple scholarships, helping many students in different faculties at McGill University.

Arthur exemplifies the successful integration of a Chinese immigrant into Canadian society. Since he came to Canada to study at the age of 22, he has worked hard in mainstream society, and won widespread respect for his work. Even more commendable is the fact that he did not forget his Chinese roots. He promotes Chinese culture, especially the understanding of Chinese culture in the next generation. The embodiment of such noble sentiments could truly be called legendary.

"Rome was not built in a day". Architecture over the ages symbolizes the progress of civilization, and in a timespan of over half a century, Arthur has left his mark on human civilization. Even though he is now retired, and is no longer managing his architectural firm, he still consults for a few projects, some of which are in China. In addition, he also devotes himself to volunteer work in the community, contributing to society with his many years of experience and wisdom.

With a conviction in "life-long learning", Arthur often sits in classes at his alma mater, soaking in knowledge and learning new things tirelessly. No wonder he says the love of his life is reading, and he is interested in all kinds of books ranging from astronomy, geography, literature, history, art, to gardening.

When asked how he finds time to do so many things, he says: "One always finds time for one's interests. As long as there is interest, there is time."

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Perhaps it is this enthusiasm and motivation for life that takes Arthur on a wonderful life journey.

In 1958, Arthur left Hong Kong for Montreal and began his studies in the School of Architecture at McGill University. Upon his graduation in 1962, he had already received four letters of offer, while his fellow students were still pondering what to do about their future.

After working less than a year, Arthur, only 26 at that time, was appointed as a member (and the only Chinese) on a team of seven architects and planners for the 1967 Montreal World Expo. He was involved from the preparation of a master plan to managing the building project and completing the construction. This project was definitely an unforgettable milestone in his life, and he was very happy that he got this rare opportunity, despite his lack of experience at the time.

After the 1967 World Expo, his outstanding work attracted offers from many companies. Arthur was appointed as Chief Architect of the Canadian branch at the US Smith Hinchman and Grills company, renowned for the design of public institutions in North America.

In 1968, Arthur, then 32 years of age, decided to return to Montreal to start his own business, and formally established "Arthur C.F. Lau, Architect". Between 1969 and 2006, the company undertook more than 50 building projects in various Canadian provinces, including the planning and design work for many large commercial buildings and several private residences.

Arthur recalls those early exciting days, when his newly established firm participated in the competition for a Master Plan design of the downtown core for the City of Hamilton, Ontario. Many internationally renowned companies were in the competition, but in the

end his small company won the bid. The project was divided into four phases, beginning in 1970, and took a full 15 years to complete, turning Hamilton into a modern city.

In 1972, Arthur was involved with China for the first time. His architectural firm was commissioned to undertake the design of the first Bethune exhibition held in Canada. Arthur laughingly says he is glad his company was then the only architectural firm led by a Chinese Canadian. The statute of Bethune, now erected at Bethune Square in the center of Montreal, was part of that exhibition, and was transported from China to be the centerpiece of the exhibition.

In 2005, Arthur was invited by the Chinese government to be the Senior International Advisor for the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. Between 2007 and 2011, he was also appointed a planning consultant and design architect in Nanjing, Dalian and Shenzhen to build various commercial, residential and resort projects.

Through these projects, Arthur had access to the best Chinese talent, and he was excited to see that the Chinese now have the capability, resources and strengths to be a world leader. The concern that he has always felt for the Chinese community in Montreal came from the same source of pride that he feels for China.

In the early 70s, just when he started his career, Arthur had already begun his work as a volunteer. He became a board director for the Montreal Chinese hospital in 1969. For decades, he has been fundraising for the hospital, and volunteered his time to participate in the planning and construction of the new Montreal Chinese Hospital in Chinatown, so that local Chinese could enjoy better medical facilities and services.

In addition to medical care, Arthur is also keen on promoting

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education, especially for the next generation of Chinese. In 1983, he collaborated with a group of community enthusiasts to found the Montreal Chinese (Mandarin) School. He recalls that there were very few students at the beginning, and the number increased to 83 students once the school was established. Today, 33 years later, Montreal Chinese School has more than 1300 students.

In 1993, Arthur and a group of enthusiastic professionals founded the Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals (Quebec). He became the first Chair of the Federation.

Since becoming a Board Governor of McGill University, Arthur has supported the acquisition of books for the library collections of the Department of East Asian Studies and the Department of Art History, for the benefit of next generations, and enhance their understanding of Asian culture.

When asked why as a Canadian citizen for so many years he still loves his motherland so much, he laments that people always cherish and miss what is lost or left behind.

Arthur was born in 1936 in Hong Kong, the youngest among seven brothers and sisters. His father ran a small business. As a child growing up during the war, he saw the world stagnate, and then everything was rebuilt again. He loved to see new things, but was also obsessed with books. The seeds of a future architect were planted at this time.

In 1957, he graduated from Hong Kong Technical College (now Hong Kong Polytechnic University). He wanted to enter the field of architecture and found that the School of Architecture at McGill University was ranked among the top in universities. In 1958, Arthur bid goodbye to Hong Kong, and became the first among all the children to study abroad.

Like most foreign students, he faced many difficulties when he first came to Montreal. The School of Architecture at McGill had a six-year curriculum, and he started in the third year. Having missed the first two years of studies in architectural history, he often could not understand what the teachers were saying. But he tried hard to catch up, borrowing notes from the other students and achieving success ultimately.

Arthur is someone who does not forget his roots. Everything that he has done turns into valuable experience and precious memories. He adds that his success is partially due to good luck, but much of it is the result of hard work, and not giving up in the face of difficulties. He believes in the power of positive thinking, and that thinking about the good usually brings good results. He also says that he does not have time to think about negative things. For decades now, every day he always has new plans, new work, and is always looking forward to creating a more beautiful tomorrow. Perhaps this is the vision and perspective of an architect.

He also shares his attitude towards life: "a contented person can be poor but happy". No matter what the situation is, one should always be content. When he founded his firm with only a dozen employees, he was happy that the small firm was like a big family and easy to manage. Speaking of family, Arthur has a happy home, having met his wife at the university, and their children are all professionals.

Arthur says the Chinese names of his four brothers were taken in turn from these four words: 'Wealth Nobility Glory Splendor', but his grandfather reversed the order and saved 'Wealth' for the youngest child by reversing the naming order. As a result, his Chinese name means 'accumulating wealth' and true to his namesake, he has lived a full and rich life.