



Ontario Association  
of Architects

## TAM, Adrienne (1975 – 2023)

**A**drienne Tam was an architect of tremendous character, work ethic, and generosity of spirit. Highly respected among her peers, she was known for her leadership, demonstrated by her unmatched tenacity to take on any challenge while inspiring and motivating her team through positivity and humour. She brought passion, skill, and humanity to her work, setting a solid example for women in a traditionally male-dominated profession, particularly in the construction phase of architectural projects.

Tam's focus on understanding building construction, technical details, and contractual nuances led to the resolution of numerous challenges and obstacles while building collaborative relationships and trust with contractors and client groups. These skills enabled her to make distinguished contributions through design excellence and the successful management of groundbreaking projects. She was an Associate at Moriyama Teshima Architects in Toronto before her life was tragically cut short after a valiantly fought battle with cancer.

Tam was the Project Manager for Limberlost Place, a 10-storey, state-of-the-art, net-zero carbon emissions, exposed mass timber project at George Brown College's Waterfront Campus. This project represents an ambitious design for an innovative, sustainable, forward-thinking Toronto urban space. She managed client relations and orchestrated the user group engagement process for Limberlost Place, while coordinating with jurisdictional authorities to navigate an incredibly complex regulatory framework. Tam excelled at project management,

particularly the Michael G. DeGroot Senior School at Hillfield Strathallan College, where the school had yet to build a project at such scale and complexity. She led by reviewing all contractor communication, providing counsel, and guiding the project to its successful completion. Other projects completed at Moriyama Teshima Architects include Humber College's Lakeshore Campus buildings, the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, and the Conestoga College School of Hospitality & Culinary Arts in Waterloo. Before joining Moriyama Teshima Architects, Tam was critical to the success of the new Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre while she was working with ZAS Architects. At the time of its completion, this project was one of the most significant Toronto Catholic District School Board capital investments, requiring a meticulous approach to budget and enormous sensitivity to placing a building in Colonel Samuel Smith Park, the site of the former Toronto Psychiatric Hospital near the Humber College Lakeshore Campus.

Tam evolved into one of the strongest mentors at Moriyama Teshima Architects. She also shared her knowledge and passion for contract administration while teaching the Professional Practice course in the Master of Architecture program at the University of Toronto. Over the years, her lectures inspired countless young graduates, especially women. Tam's engaging communication skills, comprehensive knowledge of building technologies, and relentless tenacity proved her ability to be a role model and mentor while building the communities she loved.