

CHAN, Toi Mei (Jacqueline) (1976–2025)

Jacqueline Toi Mei Chan immigrated to Toronto from Hong Kong in 1996, bringing with her an eye for the city as a living system — a sensibility that would define everything she went on to build. She earned a Bachelor of Architectural Science from Toronto Metropolitan University and a Master of Architecture from the University of British Columbia in 2005. She received her licence from the Ontario Association of Architects in 2012.

Chan joined the City of Toronto's City Planning Division in 2003. Her early career as an urban designer placed her at the intersection of policy, community, and design at a pivotal moment in the city's growth. She contributed to the Canada Square Master Plan at Yonge and Eglinton, one of the most significant planning frameworks for that intensifying node, and played a key role in the Castlefield-Caledonia Design and Décor District planning study, helping to establish the guidelines that shaped the adaptive reuse of warehouses and light industrial buildings, transforming them into a distinctive identity for the area. She also contributed to development reviews for master-planned communities at Northtown Phase 2 and 1100 Sheppard Avenue West. She appeared as a qualified expert witness before the Ontario Land Tribunal, advancing the City's design arguments into the formal adjudicative arena with the confidence of someone deeply committed to advocacy.

Chan joined Adamson Associates Architects to complete her internship, working on the University of Toronto's

John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, as well as the Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, the York University and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Toronto Transit Commission stations, and the Waterside Condominium in Mississauga. Internationally, she contributed to the award-winning Transbay Transit Center in San Francisco, the London Bridge Tower (The Shard) and Place (Shard Place) in London, and 151 North Franklin in Chicago.

From 2016 to 2019, Chan served as Manager of Design and Construction at Seneca Polytechnic, overseeing capital projects across multiple campuses. Her projects at Seneca ranged from technology-enhanced classrooms and an integrated newsroom to cafeteria redesigns, campus landscape master plans, and building cladding stabilization.

Colleagues across all three phases of her career describe a person who radiated enthusiasm, who brought warmth to every room and purpose to every team. She cared about the public realm with an intensity that was neither abstract nor rhetorical. Jackie Chan's career was cut short by cancer before she reached her full expression as an architect. She understood that buildings are not objects but profound relationships with humankind.