

## LOBBAN, William (Bill) (1924–2020)

**B**orn in Renfrew, Scotland, William Lobban joined the British Royal Navy at 17 and trained as a Fleet Air Arm fighter pilot, serving on an aircraft carrier in the Asia-Pacific region during the Second World War. After the war, he graduated from the Glasgow School of Architecture at The Glasgow School of Art in 1947. Following a year working in Scotland, he joined the firm of Palmer & Turner in Hong Kong, then established his own practice in Singapore before immigrating to Canada in 1955. Lobban first worked in Vancouver, then moved to Ottawa in 1962, where he became the Chief Architect for the Canadian Navy. In 1964, he arrived at the newly founded University of Waterloo as Director of Facilities. As the university's campus architect for 14 years, Lobban oversaw the design of many notable campus buildings — among them the Computer Science Building, which housed Canada's first IBM computer and incubated the research culture that would eventually give rise to BlackBerry and a generation of technology enterprises. His success at the University of Waterloo led the Canadian International Development Agency to hire him for university master planning assignments in Brazil from 1976 to 1979, extending his campus-building expertise to the international stage.

In 1978, Lobban entered private practice as a founding partner of Rieder, Hymmen & Lobban Architects, where he contributed to shaping the built

character of the Kitchener-Waterloo region across two decades. Among the firm's notable projects were the Centre in the Square Arts Centre (1978–1980), home of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. Lobban was also responsible for the Waterloo Regional Operations Centre (1986–1988), the Sunnyside Home Long-Term Care Facility (1986–1988), the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Administration Building (1990–1993), and numerous high schools and municipal buildings.

Lobban was elected a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) in 1983, a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), and a Life Member of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA). He served on the OAA Registration Board for 16 years and as the OAA's representative to the RAIC National Registration Board from 1979 to 1983. Lobban's civic commitments ran equally deep. He served on the City of Waterloo's Committee of Adjustment for 10 years and on its Architectural Design Committee from 1974 to 1978.

In 2018, at the age of 94, Lobban was granted a Life Enriching Wish by Wish of a Lifetime Canada to fly in a Second World War aircraft at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, Ontario, to relive his experience as a young naval pilot who had once flown over the Pacific—a circle completed, a life fully lived.