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## BILL LYDON

**Bill Lydon (B.Arch.67)**, principal architect and urban designer, Lydon Lynch Architects, completed his engineering studies at St. Thomas University and St. Francis Xavier University. He received his Bachelor of Architecture from the Technical University of Nova Scotia in 1967, and his Master of Architecture and Urban Design from Harvard University in 1977.

After graduation, Bill worked in London with **Sir Hugh Wilson** on the Kings Cross and St. Pancras rail station renovations. While a senior associate with ARCOP Associates in Montreal, he worked on the PATH Subway renovations at the World Trade Center in New York and a number of urban design and planning projects closely with **Ray Affleck (D.Eng.76)** who was his strongest mentor. While at ARCOP, Bill became Director of Design for the Toronto Harbourfront Development Plan and then in 1977, Director of Design for the Halifax Dartmouth Waterfront Plan.

It was like moving back home to Halifax for Bill in the 70s: teaming with classmate **Andy Lynch (B.Arch.67)** the 2 would found Lydon Lynch Architects in 1979. The firm would go on to win the Canadian Architect Yearbook Award for the design of the Waterfront Sheraton Hotel, the project which kick-started the firm. Bill took a particular interest in the hotel and was responsible for its successful integration into the Halifax waterfront. The project would lead to 3 casinos and 2 interior renovations in later years. Commercial office and retail projects followed. During this period Bill was responsible for the restoration/renovation of the heritage Marble Building at 1672 Barrington Street which still houses the Lydon Lynch offices.

Bill's attention then turned to P3 school construction. He became the principal in charge of 10 design-build and construction managed schools spread from Yarmouth to Sydney. He served as the single point of contact throughout all phases of each project and managed the whole process like a military operation. His last major project was the Halifax International Airport departure lounge and retail expansion: every detail was scrutinized by Bill in what was an extremely complex renovation.

Lydon Lynch buildings have been very much team efforts where no single methodology or philosophy has been dominant. The Lydon Lynch approach has placed serious emphasis on designs for buildings which are appropriate to their setting, reflecting the scale, character and physical environment of the surrounding community. The approach to design has emerged from a process of collaboration amongst stakeholders: owners, users, adjacent neighbors, and the wider community of interests involved. Bill was always the team player and frequently the team leader who facilitated the consultative process to reach out to the stakeholders toward achieving successful designs built on consensus and support in a collaborative way. His urban design background gave him a larger image of building design and always resulted in buildings being much more than programs: acting as linkages, symbols, doorways, streetscapes.

Architecture was his passion, but not his only passion. Bill Lydon served as Atlantic Region representative to the National Capital Commission Advisory Committee on Design; President, Nova Scotia Drama League; Vice President, Cultural Federation of Nova Scotia; Board, Halifax Business Improvement Commission; Chair, Halifax International Busker Festival; Board, World Trade and Convention Centre; and the Charitable Irish Society.

Bill Lydon passed away on 26 February 04 after a quiet and dignified two-year battle with cancer leaving Rosalee and Christopher, whom he cherished deeply.



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