

2013 December GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Saturday 14 December 2013 – 1.00pm
UQ Centre, Union Road, UQ St Lucia Campus

Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology

CITATION

Award of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*
Mr Donald Robert Watson

Chancellor,

Award-winning architect, author, teacher and historian Mr Donald Watson has devoted his life to documenting Queensland's architectural heritage and, through the quality of his own design work, made a significant contribution to present-day architectural practice.

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture from The University of Queensland in 1970, Mr Watson has worked in both the private and public sectors as an architect, consultant, lecturer and adjunct professor.

As one of Queensland's most respected architectural historians, Mr Watson has contributed greatly to our understanding of the local built environment – in his published works and prolific commentary.

His passion for research was sparked by his purchase in 1974 of a century-old house made of mud bricks, and his interest has never abated. Mr Watson's fascination is not only for culturally significant buildings, but also for the people who designed them and their methods of construction.

With his definitive books, *A Directory of Queensland Architects to 1940* and *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century: A Biographical Dictionary* (co-authored with his wife Judith McKay), as well as more than 20 papers and research reports, Mr Watson has drawn many detailed and memorable pictures of Queensland's rich regional and urban places.

Recently, as a John Oxley Library Fellow, Mr Watson has been preparing a sequel to his earlier biographical dictionary, extending his research to the mid-20th century. This book will document the work of further generations of Queensland's early architects and allied professionals.

For his tireless efforts in recording Queensland's architectural history, Mr Watson has been described as a 'state treasure' by the authors of the recently-published *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*.

In 1989, after winning the national Robin Boyd Award for domestic architecture, Mr Watson joined Project Services, the consulting division of the former Queensland Department of Public Works. During his 25 years in this role, he was the design architect for many public buildings which won more than 40 national, state or regional awards. He has also served as a member of numerous boards and advisory panels pertaining to architecture, heritage and community arts.

Chancellor, I present to you Mr Donald Robert Watson, Bachelor of Architecture of this University, Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects and Life Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians of Australia and New Zealand, for the award of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*, bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.
