Professor Daryl Jackson AO was born in Clunes, Victoria, in 1937 and was educated at Wesley College in Melbourne before enrolling to study Architecture at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. After completing a diploma at RMIT, he continued his studies at the University of Melbourne, graduating Bachelor of Architecture in 1959.

After working in Sydney and Melbourne, Jackson went to London in 1961, then worked in the United States in 1963, before returning to Melbourne to establish his own practice in 1964. In 1965, he went into partnership with fellow University of Melbourne graduate Evan Walker (B.Arch 1959). The new firm of Jackson Walker specialised in school design and master planning, and soon became educational experts within Victoria, completing award-winning projects such as Lauriston Girls School (1969), Princes Hill High School (1972), and interstate; the Canberra School of Music (1970-6). Jackson's collaboration on the design of the Harold Holt Swimming Pool, Glen Iris (1969) gave the firm a second specialty, sports structures. At the University of Melbourne, Jackson’s firm designed a new residential wing at St Hilda’s College (1971) and Deakin Court (1973-5).

After Evan Walker entered state politics in 1978, Jackson continued to practise in his own name and oversaw the firm’s growth into a highly respected national and international practice encompassing offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, London, Vietnam and China. Under his leadership the practice has completed an impressive range of projects in Australia and overseas, ranging from schools and universities to libraries, sports arenas and recreational spaces, commercial offices, hospitals, hotels and airports. Important embassy commissions include the Singapore High Commission, Canberra (1985) and the Australian Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (1989). Other notable projects include the Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra, the office tower at 120 Collins Street, Etihad Stadium, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Attorney General’s Office, Canberra, the Great Southern Stand and the Northern Stand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the Olivia Newton John Cancer Centre, Heidelberg, the Australian Film, Television & Radio School, Sydney and the Commonwealth Games Village in Delhi (2010).

Jackson’s work within the practice has been recognised with a number of prestigious awards, including the RAIA Interior Architecture Award (2003) for the County Court of Victoria, Melbourne, the RAIA Presidents Award for Recycled Buildings for the Immigration Museum and Hellenic Archaeological Museum (1999), and the RAIA Environment Award for the Science Faculty Building at Sunshine Coast University, Queensland (1998). In 2007, Jackson in collaboration with others won the prestigious RIBA Lubetkin Prize for Southern Cross Station, Melbourne (2006), an award given annually to the most outstanding building outside the European Union.

As an educator, writer and architect, Jackson has received many awards over the course of his career. In 1981 he was the first Australian architect to be awarded the Sir Zelman Cowen award, which is widely recognised as Australia’s leading award for public buildings. In 1987, Jackson was honoured with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal, and on 26 January 1990 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for his services to Architecture.

Daryl Jackson was invited to give two lectures to the Royal Institute of British Architects during the 1980’s “South of the North Atlantic Axis and East of Ayers Rock” - 1983 – a talk about the transformation of western architectural discourse to a regional context. “Yet Another Synthesis? Architecture - Urbanism, Substance and Style”; a lecture on his work, later in the decade. Daryl Jackson has four books published, illustrating his works. “Daryl Jackson Architecture, Drawings and Photographs” (published by McMillan 1984): Jackson wrote the text with freehand exploratory drawings, Jaro Safer illustrations, and John Gollings, the photography. For “Master Architect Series II”, Images Publishing 1996 – Daryl Jackson published the essay, “Yet Another Synthesis? Mortality of architecture, immortality of the city”.

In 2006 Melbourne University Press, Published a Jackson text “Evolutionary Modernism” with an Introduction by Patrick McCaughey. Daryl Jackson writes: “the act of design is the central synthesis, a process that is intellectually biased, evaluative and critical, creative and conceptual. I am always searching for an architecture that might better communicate ideas about life, that position our evolving reality, in space and time"
“Daryl Jackson Folio” by Images Publishing 2007, illustrated a range of Award winning and International projects that fit within his theoretical framework:

- Intervention and Transformation
- Urbanism and Identity
- Abstraction, Association and Memory

Outside his practice, Jackson has participated in various significant cultural organisations, holding positions at various times, as Chairman of the Australian Film Institute, Trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria, Member of the Victorian Council of the Arts, Vice President of the Melbourne Cricket Club, President of Wesley College, Melbourne, and Chairman of The Heritage Council of Victoria. Jackson has also spent time teaching at RMIT and was a visiting Professor of Architecture and Design at the University of NSW in 1982. He has made important contributions to the architectural community through his work as an RAIA Councillor and his participation in RAIA conventions and awards juries. In recognition of this service he was made an RAIA Life Fellow and Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Ballarat University, in 2006, conferred an Honorary Doctorate to Daryl Jackson, for his conservation project in the historic centre of the city.

Throughout his career, Jackson has maintained strong links with the University of Melbourne. Since 1987, he has been the University Master Planner and was responsible for University of Melbourne Master Plans in 2000 and 2008. In the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, he holds a position as Professorial Fellow and exhibited his work in 2010 as part of the ABP Alumni Retrospective Series. Daryl Jackson has made a profound contribution to the architectural, urban and cultural fabric of the University of Melbourne, to Victoria and its capital, and to Australia.