

## Citation – Corbett Marshall Lyon

Corbett Marshall Lyon was born in 1955 into a family of architects. His maternal grandfather, two uncles and father all trained as architects and his mother was an exceptional architectural renderer, therefore it was no surprise that he chose to study architecture at the University of Melbourne. A brilliant student, he graduated Bachelor of Architecture with first class honours in 1979 and won an ITT International Fellowship to study at the University of Pennsylvania, from where he graduated Master of Architecture in 1980. While in the United States he gained valuable experience studying under internationally respected figures Buckminster Fuller, Aldo van Eyck, Edmund Bacon and Steve Izenour and working in the Philadelphia office of renowned practice Venturi Rauch & Scott-Brown. In 1981, Lyon returned to Australia and, with architect brother Cameron Lyon, established Lyon + Lyon, then with Simon Hilbert, the firm Lyon Lyon & Hilbert. The practice quickly won a range of institutional, commercial and government projects, including the Butterfly House, Melbourne Zoo (1984-5) and on Prince's Bridge, Melbourne, the commemorative arch celebrating Victoria's sesquicentenary (1984). The firm's work was exhibited at the 1982 Biennale de Paris. Lyon founded Lyon Architects in 1991 and then Lyons in 1996 with Carey Lyon, another architect brother. Cameron Lyon re-joined the firm in 1998.

Corbett Lyon's deep understanding of university teaching, healthcare practice and workplace planning has meant that Lyons has been a leader in the provision of learning environments and laboratories across the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria for more than fifteen years. Significant projects include the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute, Queenscliff (2000), BHP Billiton Global Headquarters, Melbourne (2003), John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU (2009), the Melbourne Brain Centre, Parkville (2011), RMIT Swanston Academic Building (2012) and the multi-award-winning Queensland Children's Hospital, Brisbane (2014). The firm's dramatic experimental style has been recognised through numerous national and international design awards, and in 2000 Lyons was chosen as Australia's sole representative at the 7<sup>th</sup> Venice International Architecture Biennale.

Lyon and his wife Yueji have also had long-term interests in contemporary Australian art. Their patronage of leading young Australian artists since 1990 led to the establishment of the Lyon Housemuseum (2003-8), an award-winning hybrid residence and art museum designed by Lyon that contains over 300 artworks, including paintings, sculpture, installations, photography and video art. It is a focus of cultural activities related to contemporary art and architecture, including an annual lecture series on art, architecture, art history and museology. In 2012 the Lyons established the Lyon Foundation to provide a permanent future home for the Lyon Collection. Lyon has been a Trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria since 2012 and a Life Governor of the National Gallery of Australia Foundation since 2007. He is a member of NGV Contemporary, the Heide Museum of Modern Art Foundation, and the International Council of Museums.

Lyon has taught architectural design in the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning (ABP) at the University of Melbourne since 1984. He was appointed a Professorial Fellow in 2005, and since 2010 has held the title of Visiting Professor. He established an Advanced Practice graduate seminar in the Melbourne School of Design and has been a trusted and invaluable mentor to multiple generations of students and graduates, as well as fostering the work of younger firms of architects such as NMBW who, in 2009, designed the award-winning Lyons Melbourne studio office. He has lectured widely on art, architectural design, practice and design innovation in Australia and overseas including at the Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, the Architectural League of New York, and the Royal Academy, London. He has been a member of the Victorian Government's Design Review Panel and was elevated to Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects in 2002 and Life Fellow in 2014.

Corbett Lyon has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Australian architecture through his leadership of Lyons, one of Australia's most progressive design-based architectural firms; for his sustained and pioneering involvement in fostering public connections between Australian contemporary art and architecture, nationally and internationally; and for his involvement for more than thirty years in architectural education at the University of Melbourne.