

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Famed architect announces new scholarship

Noted Australian architect Richard LePlastrier has used the occasion of opening a lecture theatre at the UTAS School of Architecture and Design to launch a new scholarship.

The Rory Spence Travelling Scholarship will allow Architecture and Design students to travel abroad to develop both their architectural and life education. The scholarship is funded by Vos Constructions and Sieglinde Karl, who was the partner of former Architecture lecturer Rory Spence.

The new lecture theatre is named the Rory Spence Vos Construction Lecture Theatre, after Spence, who died in 2004 and Vos Constructions, who carried out the renovations on the old railway building which became the School of Architecture and Design.

Mr LePlastrier, 72, is a much-recognised Australian architect.

Last month he became the first non-Dane to receive the Dreyer Foundation Award, given each year to one architect and one lawyer who make a valuable contribution to society. In 1999 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Mr LePlastrier grew up in Perth, Hobart and Sydney; over his long career he has worked with and been influenced by artist Lloyd Rees, Sydney Opera House architect Joern Utzon and traditional Japanese architect Masuda Tomoya.

He is known for his exploration of experimental, economical designs, promoting sustainability in building design. His designs are the antithesis to affluent, luxurious, architecture – restrained and simple but unconventional.

**Rory Spence** made a valuable contribution to UTAS students' exposure to architecture through his Quaker upbringing in Newcastle UK, his architectural studies at Cambridge University and his extensive knowledge of European architecture gained through travel and research.

He devoted the last 20 years of his life to studying and writing about Australian architecture, drawn especially to the ideas and buildings of Richard LePlastrier. Rory's partner, artist and jeweller Sieglinde Karl, still lives in Tasmania.

Vos Constuction was represented by company director Harry Vos.

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