

Alan Lester, former Architect AIBC

AIBC Vancouver Island Chapter Memorial Note

Our departed long-time Vancouver Island colleague, Architect Alan Lester, passed away in Victoria September 13, at the age of 94.

A naive of Birmingham England, born in 1927, Alan Hugh Lester arrived in Victoria in the late 1940s, and initially worked in association with the architectural offices of Wade Stockdill Armour, at a time managing their Nanaimo and Courtney offices. He wrote his licensing exams in 1956 along with Ron Thom, and with friend Ben Peterson - with whom he would form a partnership in 1964: Peterson + Lester. For decades this firm was very active and well-regarded on Vancouver Island.

Peterson + Lester were known for their many modernist-idiom architectural projects, such as the Queen Victoria Inn, additions to Margaret Jenkins School, the Saunders Building and the Phoenix Theatre at UVIC, the Victoria Coast Guard Base buildings, the elegant cantilevered concrete entryway to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, as well as a number of commercial and office buildings spread through the region. They were also active in the 1960s renovations to Victoria's Bastion Square, including the 'Village Faire' rehabilitation of the old Burnes Hotel. Throughout Victoria and Vancouver Island they also authored Spectrum and Reynolds Road schools, a number of community recreation centres, and many credit union branch offices.

Alan continued through his later years as a superb water-colour artist, even as his vision declined - his creativity continued undiminished.

On behalf of the Vancouver Island Chapter, we extend this message, with condolences, to Alan Lester's family on his memorial site.

Chris Gower,
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Chair, Vancouver Island Chapter,
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