



Tuia Pito Ora
New Zealand Institute
of Landscape Architects

17 May 2023

Peter Rough

Life Membership Citation

Peter Rough was still at high school when he found his calling and has gone on to play a key role in shaping the landscape architecture profession in Aotearoa. His work has taken him from Canterbury to Auckland and Northland, a stint in the UK and back to Canterbury and the establishment of Peter Rough Landscape Architects followed by Rough and Milne Landscape Architects (now RMMLA).

In 1965, as a schoolboy, he began working with NZILA pioneer Robin Gay on a series of tourism related projects including the Hermitage at Aoraki Mount Cook. Appropriate because much of his leisure time then was spent tramping or climbing in the Southern Alps. This early grounding in some of New Zealand's most significant natural areas has been evident throughout his 49-year career and his commitment to a sensitive but pragmatic approach to landscape in Aotearoa.

Peter graduated from what was then Lincoln College in 1973 with a post graduate diploma in landscape architecture and began work the next year with the Department of Lands and Survey in its Auckland office. For four years Peter worked there and on secondment to a range of Northland district offices.

Soon after that, in 1975, Peter became an associate member of NZILA - beginning a long association with the Institute exemplified by a hugely significant contribution. He served on the Executive Committee in 1976/77 and again in 1980. He was a key part of the substantial work in 1980 to develop the Institutes' initial associateship guidelines, as chairperson of the executive education subcommittee. Peter went on to be an associateship examiner in 1982, 1986, 1989, and again in 2001. Peter was the first chairperson of the Canterbury Westland branch of the Institute in 1986/87 and was a committee member again in 1998 to 2001. In 1992 and 1993 he convened the NZILA design awards committee. From 2003 through to the present day, Peter has served on several Institute working groups including documentation development and landscape and visual assessment guidelines.

In 1976 he was awarded a Mobil environmental grant to attend the IFLA congress in Istanbul as the NZILA delegate. A three-month study tour followed, looking at the role of landscape architects in coastal landscapes in Turkey, Greece, Italy, France and Britain. It was after this Peter became a key figure in integrating legislation, policy, planning and design requirements into guidelines for change in coastal landscapes. Notably he was involved with policy for the establishment of maritime parks in the Hauraki Gulf and the Bay of Islands, and land use and planning studies for Russell, North Cape, and the Waitangi National Reserve.

A two-year stint in the UK began in 1978 where he worked for a large multidisciplinary engineering, landscape planning and design firm. He presented a paper written by Robin Gay to the 1979 IFLA Congress in Cambridge, England.

On his return to Aotearoa, Peter joined the Landscape Section at Lincoln College in 1980, working as a studio tutor for two years until he formed his own practice. His part time involvement with Lincoln in teaching studio-based projects and professional practice continued through to the late 1990's.

Peter established Peter Rough Landscape Architects in 1983 and his work included major projects including a hotel development in Queenstown, equestrian and commercial centre proposals for Castle Hill, numerous commercial, residential, and rural design projects. During the 1980's and 1990's Peter developed long standing relationships with several clients including the Christchurch College of Education, Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Rudolf Steiner School resulting in enduring design outcomes.



Tuia Pito Ora
New Zealand Institute
of Landscape Architects

During the 1990's, Peter took on the role of mentoring recent graduates from the School of Landscape Architecture at Lincoln University. He unselfishly 'lent' his name to both the practices of Rebecca Lucas in Queenstown and Paul Quinlan in Kaeo. For several years these two operated under the Peter Rough Landscape Architects banner, benefiting from Peter's experience and sage advice and at the same time they both could meaningfully contribute also to Peter Rough Landscape Architects. This typified Peter's approach to growing people within the profession, as well as the profession in total.

It was also during this time Peter forged a reputation within the landscape planning field, preparing landscape and visual assessments followed by evidence for a wide range of clients. Peter's work on aquaculture projects in Pigeon Bay, Banks Peninsula and energy projects for Meridian across Aotearoa exemplify best practice and have helped shape our understanding of the landscape and landscape assessment within the profession.

In 2010 the practice merged with Tony Milne Landscape Architects to become Rough & Milne Landscape Architects and he continued to work on a wide range of projects for government departments, regional and district councils, state owned enterprises, and private clients throughout the country.

Following his retirement in 2014 Peter continued to see through projects to completion and has provided an invaluable mentoring role for Rough and Milne Landscape Architects and now Rough Milne Mitchell.

Peter has also lent his skills to several community organisations including the Christchurch Civic Trust Board and is currently serving as Chairperson of the Lyttelton Museum committee as they embark on a significant post-earthquake rebuild project. And we understand that after a long battle resource consent has finally been granted for this!

As Tony Milne notes "Peter has always been a willing contributor to the life of the profession in his typically understated and considered way. Over the years and as his experience has grown Peter has been very instrumental in shaping the profession of landscape architecture in Aotearoa.

"He is extremely highly regarded and respected by the profession. Peter has unselfishly given 49 years to the profession of landscape architecture in Aotearoa, contributing immensely to its evolution and the landscape of our country."

Peter's outstanding service and contribution to both NZILA and the landscape architecture profession is warmly celebrated and acknowledged by his peers in this Life Membership award of Tuia Pito Ora.