

RICHARD BLAGBORNE
Strategic Planner, International Exposition Consultant and Planner, Architectural
Consultant, Planner, Designer and Creative Facilitator

INTRODUCTION

Richard Blagborne's extensive career has included responsibilities for strategic planning, master planning, urban planning, programming, architectural design, project management administration and operations management.

After graduation from the Faculty of Architecture at the University of British Columbia in 1970, he was employed by Arthur Erickson Architects for thirteen years, wherein he managed comprehensive international projects in the Middle East and at home. Subsequently, he has collaborated with many firms on a variety of local and international projects.

Mr. Blagborne's interest and profound knowledge of international expositions has led to senior appointments with master planning teams with Vancouver Expo86, Seville92 and with several independent international exposition teams. His expertise in this field continued in participation with Bing Thom Architects, of Vancouver, in the Shanghai2010 World Exposition competition.

His diverse experience, and natural ability to lead and inspire has attracted clients with a variety needs, including visitor planning for The National Capital Commission in Ottawa, master planning for Wisconsin State Fair Park and the City of Vancouver Hastings Park, museum planning for the State of Rhode Island, and consultant for a Tall Ships event in Connecticut.

From his home in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia, Richard Blagborne often collaborates with specific project teams in an integrated process by relocating to project or team office locales for significant periods. His attention, skill, and ability in the conceptual phases of projects has led to many roles as a creative facilitator, advising and assisting clients to refine project goals and the specific strategies necessary to achieve them.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS

EXPO 2010, Shanghai, China

Advisor, Designer, Planner: Mr. Blagborne provided analysis and creative functional concepts to Bing Thom Architects during development of a proposed Shanghai Expo2010 Master Plan during a 2004 competition for ideas. An international exhibition of a 680-hectare urban redevelopment planned for 10 million visits was utilized as a catalyst.

Expo 2000, Hanover, 1997

Advisor: Mr. Blagborne was invited to Hanover, Germany and given a contract to review the overall planning of the International Exposition with specifications to comment on development of the themed areas.

Expo 98, Lisbon, 1993

Consultant: Mr. Blagborne was on the project management team for the 1998 Lisbon International Exposition with W.S. Atkins of London England, Bechtel Corporation of the United States, and two local Portuguese firms to contest the international competition. After lengthy submissions and negotiations the team won the competition. The Portuguese organizers subsequently abandoned the competition and awarded contracts via a different route.

Expo96 Budapest

When Vienna withdrew from the 1995 Vienna/Budapest International Exposition, Hungary continued alone and solicited approval from the International Bureau of Expositions. Consulting contracts with this exposition included:

Planning Review

The Program Office for the 1996 International Exposition in Budapest requested a Planning Review of existing work and preparation of planning recommendations prior to final submission to parliament for powers to continue with the project.

Consultation

Specific advice and support was given to the Director, before and during the submissions along with review sessions with the official international expositions approving committee (B.I.E.).

Expo96 Marketing Strategies

This was a subcontract to a Canadian Consortium contracted by the Budapest Planning Office to attract major sponsors.

EXPO92 Seville, Spain

In 1986 Mr. Blagborne was invited to give a lecture to the local architectural institute on the topic of international exposition design. A contract was given with the Commissioner General planning team, and was extended to the State Corporation created to complete the design, construction and operation of the exposition. Residency was mandatory in Spain during the first two years, with special projects completed in Canada. Mr. Blagborne's responsibilities under the Divisions of the Sociedad Estatal para la Exposicion Internacional, Sevilla, included:

Director of the International Master Plan Team

1987 –As Director of the Master Planning Team assembled in Seville Mr. Blagborne produced an overall master plan of the exposition site. The Plan Director was used as the basis for site design and construction.

Advisor to Senior Department Executives

1988-1992 (General) - A contract was developed to provide advice and assistance to the Commissioner General, General manager, and Director of Design and Construction of the Expo92 Corporation, and was subsequently extended to include senior staff of Contents, Participants and Operations departments.

Exhibit Design Research Consultant

1989 (Contents Division) - An international search of exhibit design and fabrication firms with experience in expositions, evaluation of their capabilities prior to the competitions for design of contents in the Expo92 Theme Pavilions.

Planner for La Cascada - Area Plan

1990 (Planning Division) - Site planning and landscape design of a specific 8-hectare parcel (Area Cascada) within the exposition site as a demonstration of planning process. (In collaboration with The Schnadlebach Partnership - landscape architects from New York, New York.)

Advisor for Expo 92, Seville, Technomagica

1988 (Planning Division) - A team was assembled in Canada to develop the concepts of a separate project to present imaginative and relevant possibilities for an amusement zone. The workbook produced illustrated design criteria, demonstrated examples and recommended development strategies.

EXPO86 Vancouver

Vice President, EXPO86 Corporation - Planning & Development, 1984-1986

Planner: As Vice-President, the major task was to unite the Site Planning Division with the Theme Division to form a new Planning and Development Division with a staff of up to 80 and responsibility for all site planning, landscape design, architectural design of the corporations own buildings, exterior theming and the theme pavilions including exhibits. Most design was completed by spring of 1985 and Phase One of the exposition successfully opened in May of that year. The Planning and Development Division was then absorbed into the Construction and Operations divisions of the corporation

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dubai Exhibition Center, Dar Al- Handasah, Dubai, UAE, 2006

Master Planner, Consultant: As Master Planner for the Dubai Exhibition Center, Mr. Blagborne developed the plan for a 530,00 meter square trade exhibition facility with adjacent hotel, commercial, retail, and residential support areas. The project, near three million meter square floor space on a 250 hectare site, is presently in architectural planning and is scheduled for completion in 2008 for clients: Dubai World Trade Center and Dubai Department of Civil Aviation.

Rhode Island Heritage Museum, Providence, Rhode Island, 2005

Exposition Planner, Advisor: Mr. Blagborne developed and evaluated alternative programs and plans for the Heritage Harbor Museum intended to be Rhode Islands state history museum.

Hastings Park and the Pacific National Exhibition, Vancouver, BC, 2004

Exposition Planner, Advisor: Mr. Blagborne evaluated and developed alternative programs and site plans for Vancouver Hasting Park and the Pacific National Exhibition. Site alternatives ranged from a lightly developed natural park to a permanent amusement park.

Wisconsin State Fair Park Master Planning, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2000-2003

Exposition Planner, Advisor: Mr. Blagborne's contract included the development of an improved Master Plan involving consensus amongst the participants. The State initiated planning and construction of a complete re-development of a 200-acre site used for the annual State Fair. Major new buildings would expand the role of the facility, permitting year-round operation and more events. The first phase, a 200,000 square foot Exposition Hall opened in July 2002. Detailed design and development of subsequent phases is underway.

Canadian National Capital, Ottawa -Hull, 1991 - 2000

Advisor, Facilitator: Mr. Blagborne was commissioned by various planning agencies in the Nations Capitol to develop concepts and strategies for improving visitor experiences. Canada's National Capital includes major institutions in addition to the Houses of Parliament, such as the National Gallery of Art, several national Museums, the National Theatre, the National Library etc.; all connected by important public spaces.

Parliament Hill Visitor Centre - Public Works and Contracts, Canada

Mr. Blagborne provided advice during the planning of new visitor Centers integrated into the proposed Parliament Hill renovations and re-development.

Parliament Hill Visitor Strategies - House of Parliament, National Capital Commission

Mr. Blagborne facilitated discussions and developed a strategy for integrating an effective visitor programming and facilities into the renovated Houses of Parliament. This Visitor Initiatives Program was presented to the Speakers of Parliament and the Senate, plus the Minister of Public Works. It was recommended for inclusion in the phases of Parliamentary Precinct planning.

Sparks Street Mall Workshop - Public Works

Mr. Blagborne facilitated a one-week workshop resulting in recommendations for new planning strategies for the important and controversial public space located between the Houses of Parliament and the downtown core of Ottawa.

Long Term Program for Canada House - National Capital Commission

Mr. Blagborne facilitated planning meetings, completed analysis and synthesized a creative vision for a future centre for the national capital visitors.

Confederation Boulevard Programming Study - National Capital Commission

Mr. Blagborne facilitated a study including workshops and a workbook presentation of ideas for improving visitor experiences in the central area of Canada's Capital.

Cannery Row Study, 2001

Advisor: Mr. Blagborne acted as advisor to Senator Pat Carney on the proposed redevelopment of the Richmond, British Columbia, Canada waterfront containing one of the last historic cannery rows still extant.

OPSAIL2000CT/New London, 1999

Advisor, consultant: A contract was given to advise and assist the team of OPSAIL2000CT, an organization funded by the State of Connecticut, during the planning of their Tall Ships event in July 2000. The event took place on the re-developed waterfront of New London and Groton. The re-development included a mixture of state, municipal and private projects including a new city pier and waterfront, a restored historic fortress, a new state commercial pier, a new high-speed train/ferry terminal, a major waterfront research facility for the Pfizer Corporation and several residential rehabilitation projects.

Milwaukee Landing

Master Planner, Facilitator, Advisor: Milwaukee Landing was a visualization project in collaboration with Producers Workshop of Vancouver, Canada, for the Milwaukee Redevelopment Corporation. A major new urban attraction was planned for development on the site of an abandoned power station in the the city core.

Cheers - Boston, Massachusetts, 1992

Planner, Facilitator: A study was completed in association with Producers Workshop for Hampton House Ltd., owners of the building in which the original Cheers bar was located. This project, one of the most popular visitor attractions in Boston, was analyzed and future development proposals were presented.

PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

Science Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1982-1983

Project Architect: - a contract with Arthur Erickson Architects International to act as Project Architect leading a team responsible for design of a 13,000 square meter Science Centre, including exhibits, for the Saudi Arabian National Centre for Science and Technology. The project involved visiting and analyzing Science Centres around the world with a sensitive cultural adaptation of this western idea to a Saudi Arabian culture.

Government Office Block, Victoria, British Columbia, 1981-1982

- a contract with Vladimir Plavsic Group as Project Architect for the British Columbia Buildings Corporation Y Lot building. This was a 40,000 square meter, energy-conscious, office building planned to house three ministries on a very important site in the Provincial Capital.

Fintas New Town, 1979-1980

Project Architect: - a project completed as an employee of Arthur Erickson Architects International. The role was Resident Project Architect for Fintas New Town, a project for the National Housing Authority of Kuwait. This 400,000 square meter, \$1.2 billion project, was planned as the second major urban centre in the country. Responsibilities included liaison with all government ministries and agencies as well as managing the local office of Arthur Erickson Architects in Kuwait City.

Sawaber Housing Project, 1977

Resident Architect: - a project completed while on contract with Arthur Erickson Architects International as resident architect on the Sawaber Project Development Study in the centre of Kuwait City, Kuwait. This experimental 900 unit - housing complex for the National Housing Authority of Kuwait, was an imaginative design response to the problem of attracting middle income Kuwaiti citizens back into the urban centre.

Shaughnessy Medical Centre Master Plan, 1974-75

Project Director: - project responsibility for Arthur Erickson Architects as Assistant Project Director for the Long Range Master Plan of the Shaughnessy Medical Centre. This complex programming and planning project required liaison with five existing hospitals in the design of a 1070 bed tertiary care medical facility which would also be the major provincial teaching facility.

CONTACT

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