



SPOTLIGHT

# “A PLACE OF AESTHETIC AS WELL AS INTELLECTUAL EXCITEMENT”

## **Trent University: One Of The Most Ambitious and Comprehensive Design Commissions In Canadian History**

Trent is an architectural treasure, planned over an unprecedented three-year period by one of Canada’s most renowned architects, Ron Thom.

Trent was the only university of the era that was designed as a complete, collegiate institution comprised of a collection of scholarly villages situated around a central library complex. The design won several contemporary awards for its innovative style of mid-century modern architecture in a natural setting.

Thom’s design team crafted, commissioned, and oversaw each component of the building from the outside in – from the gardens to the lighting fixtures and furniture, in a “total environment” style that quickly became famous capturing the unique “spirit of place” of the area.

The Trent commission drew on the resources of Ron Thom’s gifted designers, architects, draftsmen, and staff, including Paul Merrick, Norm Hotson, Alastair Grant, Peter Smith, Bill Lett Sr., Dick Sai-Chew, Robert Montgomery, Paul Martel, Bob McIntyre, Paul Barnard, Daryl Morgan; engineers Ted Crossey, Roly Bergmann, Morden Yolles and others.

Spouse and colleague Molly Thom managed much of the interior design component and was charged with procuring Trent’s now iconic furniture produced by some of the most popular mid-century modern designers. Highlighted among these treasures are Swan, Series-7, and Ant chairs by Arne Jacobsen, Falkenberg chairs, side tables and chairs by Muller & Stewart and Eero Saarinen, dining chairs by Hans Wegner, and diamond chairs by Bertola. Some of the most prized pieces remain the dining tables, coffee tables, and lighting fixtures designed by Thom himself.

Trent’s architecture is a modern marvel, that together with the University’s significant art and sculpture collection, continues to inspire students and visitors alike.

**With your support, we can preserve the Ron Thom legacy and ensure the continued care of our built heritage, interior design, natural, and sacred spaces.**