

## John Balint



The Eva and Emery Balint Award Donor

My father, Emery Balint, was a civil engineer who migrated with his family to Australia from Hungary in 1939. In 1962 my father set up the School of Building at UNSW. He was the inaugural professor of the school and encouraged students from all walks of life particularly from the construction industry to better themselves by becoming professionals in this industry, through the then building degree course. My brothers, Michael, Tony and I set up this scholarship to perpetuate his memory by encouraging students in the future to follow their dreams in the way in which my father encouraged his students to follow their passions and dreams.

## Tam Nguyen



UNSW Alumnus, graduated in (2004) and BE Associate Lecturer

I chose to study at UNSW primarily for its reputation as being one of Australia's leading universities. I was attracted to its high value on quality education, research excellence and international engagements.

I completed a Bachelor of Science (Arch), and am undertaking a higher research degree. My degree has helped me develop essential skills in leadership, creativity and innovation, all of which has contributed to gaining valued employment. Studying at BE imparted a strong cultural and social awareness that has prepared me for the range of interactions within the profession.

I currently work at UNSW BE as an Associate Lecturer in the Architectural Computing program. I teach a number of subjects within this program, including core courses, undergraduate and postgraduate electives. I am undertaking research on intelligent, responsive structures, involving sensing and actuating technology.

Studying and working at BE is stimulating, challenging and progressive. Its interdisciplinary approach encourages cross-collaboration and fosters a rich, diverse learning environment. Its strong industry support and international links make it the ideal place to develop professional skills and attributes. Being a part of BE is being a part of a vibrant, dynamic and diverse community.

## Don Aroney



Executive Director Operations, Brookfield Multiplex, UNSW BE Alumnus, Bachelor of Building (Honours) (1992) and University Medallist

I chose my degree because at the time it provided a unique mix of engineering, accounting and construction—essentially a project management degree, in a field/industry which was very dynamic. Students were encouraged to link into businesses to get experience (linking theory with practice)

I joined Multiplex (now Brookfield Multiplex) in 1989 (my 2nd year of uni), it had a great reputation and prominence in delivering high profile quality buildings on time and on budget. The company builds, engineers, develops and maintains property and infrastructure around the world. We are also a competitive contracting and development business who create large scale and complex landmark buildings, commercial structures and major infrastructure projects.

I also worked as a construction manager in the UK office, working on significant projects such as Wembley Stadium, the Chelsea Sport and Leisure Centre, and The Knightsbridge, an exclusive residential development overlooking London's Hyde Park.

Now as Executive Director of Operations I have ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Brookfield Multiplex operations, promoting excellence across the entire operational spectrum.

As a former student at UNSW Built Environment and having worked my way up through one of the most influential development businesses in the world, the one piece of advice that I would give to a student who is thinking about their future at UNSW would be value every experience and opportunity you get, and recognize that you are always learning.

## Tony Owen

B Sc., BArch 1990, Principle Tony Owen Partners.  
M.Arch, AAD, Columbia University, NY, NY

Tony Owen Partners is a Sydney-based practice with 25 staff. The practice explores new modes of sustainable design using digital technology to respond to changing environmental conditions at a micro design scale.

Tony graduated from UNSW BE with the University Medal and the Board of Architects Prize. He won the BHP Student Biennale national design prize twice in a row.

Tony received a Fulbright Scholarship and Byera Hadley Fellowship in 1993 and used it to study advanced architectural design at Columbia University in New York where he was awarded the graduation design prize. He worked with some of the leaders in contemporary design philosophy at the time and explored contemporary approaches to design.

We asked Tony about his time at UNSW BE

**What appealed to you about UNSW and your degree course/ how did it help you to attain your professional goals?**

We were at UNSW at a very interesting time. All the lecturers had studied during the 1970's and there was still a sense of anti-establishment and rebellion from them. We were taught by people like Peter Kollar and Russell Jack who are now considered legends. It was the start of deconstruction and after a very conservative period in architecture there was a sense that something very different and exciting was starting to happen.

**What were your highlights at BE?**

I did a studio design with Andrew Frost at Blackwattle bay. For the jury, instead of being in the studio we took over the library and turned it into an event. It was really the first time a design jury became a whole school event. In those days no one did anything like that, but now it is common place.

**What sets BE aside from other universities?**

Because of technology, architecture is entirely different to what it used to be. Today a school is defined by its ability to grasp the lead in exploring the impact of digital technology.

# BE Profiles

