

The Master Builder: The Extraordinary Story of Stan Lai, the Architect Who Transformed Hong Kong



The Master Builder by Stan Lai

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Early Life and Education

Stan Lai was born in Hong Kong in 1931. His passion for architecture sparked at a young age, and he pursued his education at the University of Hong Kong, where he earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1955. After graduating, Lai continued his studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States, where he obtained a Master of Architecture degree in 1957.

Early Career and Breakthrough

Upon returning to Hong Kong, Lai joined the architectural firm Palmer and Turner, where he honed his skills and gained valuable experience. In 1963, he co-founded his own firm, Lai & Lam, which later became the renowned architectural practice, Leigh & Orange.

Lai's big break came in the 1970s when he won the design competition for Central Plaza, which was to become Hong Kong's tallest building at the time. The project's success propelled Lai into the spotlight and established him as a leading architect in the city.

Signature Projects: Central Plaza and Two International Finance Centre

Central Plaza, completed in 1992, is one of Lai's most iconic works. The 78-story skyscraper stands as a testament to Lai's innovative design and engineering capabilities. Its unique triangular shape and sleek facade have made it an architectural marvel.

In 2003, Lai designed another landmark building, Two International Finance Centre (Two IFC), which was the tallest building in Hong Kong at the time of its completion. Two IFC is a masterpiece of modern architecture, featuring a striking design and sustainable elements.

Legacy and Impact

Stan Lai's contributions to Hong Kong's architecture are immense. He played a significant role in shaping the city's skyline and transforming it into a global financial and cultural metropolis. Lai's designs are known for their elegance, functionality, and attention to detail. He was a pioneer in sustainable architecture, incorporating green elements into his buildings.

Beyond his architectural achievements, Lai was also a dedicated mentor and educator. He shared his knowledge and expertise with countless students and young architects, inspiring a new generation of architectural talent in Hong Kong.

Awards and Recognitions

Stan Lai received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career. These include:

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- The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Gold Medal (1990)
- The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Hong Kong Chapter Gold Medal (1997)
- The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honorary Fellowship (2001)
- The Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) from the University of Hong Kong (2002)
- The Commander of the Free Download of the British Empire (CBE) (2004)

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To delve into the extraordinary life and career of Stan Lai, the 'Master Builder' who transformed Hong Kong's architectural landscape, Free Download your copy of the inspiring biography today. This captivating book

offers a comprehensive account of Lai's vision, innovative designs, and significant contributions to the city's architectural legacy.

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