



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES

# The L.Peter Kollar Memorial Prize

*Prize Protocol*

UNSW FOUNDATION LIMITED  
November 2005

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# 1 *The prize*

## 1.1 *Preamble*

L. Peter Kollar taught for over 40 years in the University of NSW within the Faculty of the Built Environment (formerly the Faculty of Architecture). He made a unique contribution to architectural education in Australia based on a profound insight into the nature of the 'human condition' informed by a deep understanding of the great Spiritual Traditions of the world. His *Principles of Design* lectures to generations of first year students in the faculty were a demonstration of the exceedingly practical way that such an insight may guide the designer in attempting to understand and meet people's needs most comprehensively and holistically. Over the years Associate Professor Kollar developed a suite of courses that complemented and elaborated these principles.

The Traditional light that Peter Kollar shone on the design act (in particular the architectural design act) illuminated for his students magnificent and mysterious timeless truths about art, architecture, design and the human condition that are of utmost importance to those who would aspire to make a lasting contribution to scholarship and/or practice in any of the arts or sciences but in particular, in architecture.

In the Preface to his internationally highly acclaimed PhD thesis, *Symbolism in Christian Architecture*, (UNSW collection) Peter Kollar wrote:

".....in traditional societies all aspects of life are sanctified, and by living in the presence of God every action tends to reflect the Divine Principle. Symbols are then not invented by human imagination grafted upon some necessary action and unnecessary frill. Action performed in the best possible manner - in the presence of and, as it were, instead of God - is transformed and becomes the sign, the image of the Principle reflected on a given plane of human activity. In this transformation the usefulness of the act is not only not lost, but becomes more effective, since it includes in its operation not merely the physical and mental but the spiritual as well.

"Architecture, as a field of human activity modifying the physical environment for human use, is inseparably bound to the physical and mental functioning of the human being and meets man already on the corporeal plane, embracing his physical body. One may say that in sacred architecture this functional bond is taken as a starting point, a *punctum saliens*, and is developed symbolically to correspond to

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the 'whole man' including his spiritual aims. This approach is not restricted to the place of worship only: indeed, in traditional societies it permeates the entire fabric of the built environment comprising the humblest individual dwelling as well as the layout of a small village or a large town".

In this as in all of his work Peter Kollar endeavoured to allow others a glimpse of the deep insight he acknowledged he had been given into the Traditional understanding of the world, an insight informed, as he was ever anxious to grant, by those scholars of what has been called the 'Perennial Philosophy' who preceded him. He endeavoured to instil in his students a thirst for knowledge about these things in the certainty that such knowledge can inform meaningful human endeavour in our age as it has done in all Traditional cultures always addressing the whole human condition, body, mind and spirit.

The courses developed by the late Associate Professor Kollar are currently taught by Harry Stephens and Paul Walsh, former students of the late Peter Kollar and are available to students in the Faculty of the Built Environment as elective courses and/or to the wider university community as General Education elective courses.

This prize is established to honour the memory of this extraordinary man, scholar, teacher and architect, and his profoundly focussed life's work.

### **1.2 Name**

The Prize will be known as *the L. Peter Kollar Memorial Prize*.

### **1.3 Purpose**

The Prize will be awarded in order to perpetuate the memory of the late Associate Professor L. Peter Kollar and to promote within the UNSW academic community, the principles he upheld.

## **2 Funding Arrangements**

### **2.1 Donor Contribution**

UNSW gratefully acknowledges the gifts from friends and colleagues of the late Associate Professor L. Peter Kollar totalling \$....., which makes the award of the Prize possible. Additional gifts may be provided at any time.

### **2.2 UNSW Contribution**

UNSW will contribute an amount of \$....., which will

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result in an initial Prize Endowment of \$.....

### ***2.3 Management***

The donation will be managed by the UNSW Foundation on behalf of UNSW. The funds will be invested in the UNSW Foundation Endowment Fund with the objective of maintaining its real value through time.

### ***2.4 First Award***

The first award will be made a minimum of twelve months after the receipt of the funds and/or once the earnings from the total endowment are of a sufficient level to support the award. The first Prize is intended to be awarded in 2006.

## **3 *Amount of Prize***

The value of the Prize will be set each year by the UNSW Foundation Board having regard to the long term earnings potential of the Endowment Fund and the need to maintain the real value of the donation.

The minimum value of the Prize aims to be \$..... per annum, and availability is subject to annual review

## **4 *Selection of a Prize Winner***

### ***4.1 Annual prize***

The prize will be an annual prize, one prize to be awarded in any one year.

### ***4.2 Eligibility***

To be eligible for the Prize the student must be enrolled in any year of one of the undergraduate programs within the UNSW Faculty of the Built Environment and to have produced, as normal core or elective coursework, a work of outstanding scholarship that conforms to the following Selection Criteria.

### ***4.3 Selection Criteria***

The Prize will be awarded to a student whose work in the opinion of the judging panel is excellent scholarship making a significant contribution to the promotion of human dignity and social and environmental responsibility with respect for the whole human person in a whole world - the tripartite human nature comprising spirit, mind and body in a world with its corresponding

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spiritual, subtle and physical dimensions. The work may be in any form - written, drawn or other - but must be accompanied by a written statement of no more than three hundred words explaining how the above criteria have been met in the work.

#### **4.4 Application**

Students will be required to make application for the prize by submitting their work in A4 format by such date as determined annually for assessment by the judging panel. The work is to be submitted to the student's Head of Program.

#### **4.5 Judging Panel**

The judging panel is to consist of the Head(s) of the Program(s) of the contenders for the Prize with Harry Stephens and/or Paul Walsh or their nominees, representing L. Peter Kollar.

#### **4.6 No Award**

The Prize will not be offered unless there is a student of sufficient merit and/or where the real value of the donation needs to be preserved, the latter determined on the recommendation of the UNSW Foundation.

## **5 Selection Process**

The Prize winner will be selected on the recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment based on the advice of the Judging Panel.

## **6 Alteration of Protocol**

This protocol sets out how UNSW presently intends the Prize to be awarded and managed. Elements of this Protocol may be altered from time to time by UNSW as it considers appropriate.

Any unresolved difficulties with the interpretation of the operation of this Protocol will be determined by simple majority resolution of the UNSW Council

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# 7 Signatures

**Dated:**.....

Signed for and on behalf of L. Peter Kollar by:

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**Witness**

Signed for and on behalf of the University of New South  
Wales and the UNSW Foundation Limited by:

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**Witness**

Signed for and on behalf of the Faculty of the Built  
Environment by:

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**Witness**