Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Bing Thom, one of Canada’s pre-eminent architects. His futuristic designs, radical in their essence, are the products of a mind that knows exactly what it wants to create. His gifts have enhanced the livability of many cities, and his uncompromising vision has earned him the admiration of peers around the world.

While still a student, Bing Thom worked with Arthur Erickson and Geoffrey Massey, assisting with the design of our Convocation Mall, classroom complex and transportation centre. After graduation, he continued his association with Arthur Erickson, and was instrumental in the design of the emblematic Vancouver Law Courts. In 1980, he founded Bing Thom Architects, and his name quickly became synonymous with architecture notable for its order, logic, and clarity.

Bing Thom has left his unique imprint on many cities. With each new building, he creates a sense of identity and place for its inhabitants. From the stunning glass profile of the Aberdeen Centre to the sinuous interior of the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, and from the master plans for the cities of Dalian and Yuxi in China to the Surrey Central City Project, the home of Simon Fraser University’s new Surrey campus, his built environments expand our ideas about architecture and its function in the environment. Praised for their craftsmanship and painstaking attention to detail, his buildings reflect the aspirations of the people who live and work in them.

Bing Thom’s talent and generosity extend to the entire community. A founding director of the Chinese Cultural Centre, he has also served on the building committee for the Vancouver Public Library. And as passionate champion of the Lower Mainland, he has done much to make Vancouver a livable and uniquely designed city. For his outstanding contributions to architecture, he was installed a Member of the Order of Canada and for his service to the country he was recognized with the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Award.

Mr. Chancellor, throughout his long and impressive career, Bing Thom has challenged our ideas about architecture and its function in society. His designs enrich the lives of citizens around the globe; his vision and opinions stimulate rigorous and exciting public debate. This university’s international leadership in contemporary architecture owes much to Bing Thom’s work on the original core of the Burnaby Mountain campus, and our ability to sustain that legacy has been assured by our good fortune in inheriting his design for the core facilities of the new campus in Surrey. Today, in honour of his many contributions to architecture and to society, including his important contributions to Simon Fraser University, I ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon Bing Thom the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.