

# The Honorary Graduand: Emeritus Professor Lal Balasuriya Hon FIA (Sri Lanka)

**The Orator: Professor Elena Marco**

**Emeritus Professor Lal Balasuriya Hon FIA (Sri Lanka) is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Arts.**

Prof. Lal Balasuriya is a Chartered Architect and Urban Designer. A Past President of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects and elected Honorary Fellow in 2009.

Former, Head of Department and Dean, Faculty of Architecture, at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

He obtained the BArch with (Hons) at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK in 1973 and a Masters in Urban Design at the College of Art, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh UK in 1987.

He served in the Faculty Board and Council of the University of Moratuwa and was a Peer reviewer for Improving Relevance and Quality in University Education, at national level. Appointed Acting Vice Chancellor on three occasions. With over 45 years' experience in academia, he was elected Emeritus Professor of the University of Moratuwa.

He was a Facilities Development Consultant to a funded project of the Ministry of Vocational & Technical Training.

Later, on retirement from the University of Moratuwa he took up the post of Head of School, City School of Architecture, CSA, Colombo, a contract which he tenured for 11 years and share his academic skills and experience with the younger staff, while maintaining a strong academic partnership with UWE.

In his early career, he worked in Architectural firms such as Valentine Gunasekera Architects, Colombo and Luder and Jones Partnership, Architects and Planners, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. After obtaining his degree, he worked as Housing Architect at the Washington New Town Development Corporation, UK. On return to Sri Lanka in 1975 he was appointed Snr Architect at the State Engineering Corporation, Colombo. Later, in 1978, he decided to pursue a career in academia.

His main contributions to Architectural education were in the field of Urban Design, where he introduced Contextual Architecture to design; and lectured in the Technology stream. He facilitated the use of computers to the Department of Architecture in the early years of AutoCAD. Later, as Director, Post Graduate Studies, he introduced continuous assessment systems and intensive formulation of Design Briefs to the programme. He prepared the curriculum for the proposed Masters Course in Urban Design and directed a team to formulate the teaching syllabus.

Nevertheless, he maintained his professional development by practicing as a Chartered Architect. Has many residential and commercial buildings to his design credit and as a qualified Urban Designer, was a consultant to many regional planning projects in Sri Lanka.

His publications range from the field of, Low-income Housing, Quality of Life in Urban Housing, Architectural Education, Teaching Philosophy for Contextual Architectural Design, Profession and Environment, Green Architecture; to the fields of Career guidance, training of youth for employment and Corporate Governance and Productivity.

He was Honorary Secretary, of the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA) in 1996/98. and Former Chairman Architects Registration Board (SLIA) 2003/05. He served in many Boards and committees at national level and was involved in National development programmes while being a Vice President for over 10 years at the Organization of Professional Associations (OPA), where he chaired the Career Guidance and Skills Development committee and initiated a training programme for the year 2004 Tsunami affected fisher folk in the coastal regions, to teach them basic construction skills as new vocations; and to self rebuild their destroyed houses.