

ARTS AND CULTURE PRIZE

Name: **Leandro V. LOCSIN**

Date of Birth: **August 15, 1928 (Age: 64)**

Citizenship: **Republic of the Philippines**

PROFILE

Mr. Leandro V. Locsin was born in Silay, Negros Occidental. He nurtured a deep love for music in his early childhood and later went to the University of Santo Tomas to become a pianist. While earnestly pursuing the visual and performing arts at university, he found himself attracted to the world of architecture. After completing two years of liberal arts and music studies, he shifted to the school of architecture.

In 1954, two years after his graduation, Mr. Locsin was commissioned to design the Catholic Chapel of the University of the Philippines. His original, round church building design granted this 27-year old architect sudden fame. Thereafter, his prodigious, notable architectural works have included public buildings, residences, hotels, commercial structures and churches. His characteristic design can be seen in the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex which has reshaped the urban landscape. His works abroad include: the world's largest palace in Brunei, which is his largest single work, and the Philippine Pavilion Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan.

He believes that true Philippine architecture is "...the product of two great streams of culture, the oriental and the occidental, seemingly so different and so opposite..." which is genuinely reflected in his works. His designs blend and unite the unique characteristics of the climate of Southeast Asia and the traditional forms of the Philippines and produce a profound harmony in its modern buildings. His versatile and unique designs enjoy broad recognition and, in 1990, he was awarded the proclaimed National Artist for Architecture by the President of the Philippines.

His commitment does not remain in architecture alone: he designs stage sets for modern dance and publishes books about oriental ceramics. He is truly a man of culture that the Philippines can take pride in.

MAJOR WORKS

Architectural Works:

Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice, University of the Philippines, Quezon City, 1955

Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Manila

Theater for the Performing Arts, 1969

Folk Arts Theater, 1974

Philippine Center for International Trade and Exhibition, 1976

Philippine International Convention Center, 1976

Philippine Plaza Hotel, 1976

Philippine Pavilion Expo '70, Osaka, Japan, 1970

Makati Stock Exchange Building, Manila, 1971

Istana Nurul Iman (Palace of the Sultan of Brunei), Bandar Seri Bagawan, Brunei, 1984

Supreme Court of the Philippines, Manila 1991

Books:

The Architecture of Leandro V. Locsin, New York and Tokyo, 1977