

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**Honorary Degree Citations  
The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*,  
conferred on Dr. Spaxman  
Thursday, June 16, 2011**

Mr. Chancellor, at the very root of the word civilization is "city." Few have done as much, here and abroad, to make cities more liveable, human, and civilized than Ray Spaxman, whom I am pleased to present to you today.

As Vancouver's Director of Planning between 1973 and 1989, Ray Spaxman was central to what has been called the downtown renaissance of Vancouver. The population of the city was rapidly rising when Ray Spaxman's discretionary planning approach encouraged public and community participation in the planning process; he worked with neighbourhoods and developers to achieve sustainable goals and long-term benefits for the city and its residents. The Spaxman model aimed for mixed-use developments that balanced high population densities with green spaces, commercial life, and a dynamic street presence. Ray Spaxman thought in terms of sustainable and dynamic neighbourhoods, the very essence of vibrant city life.

After leaving the director of planning position, he established his own company, The Spaxman Consulting Group that has advised on such projects as The Gastown Heritage Management Plan, the planning agency of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. There is hardly an area of Vancouver's city plan