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Property Council of Australia



MEDIA RELEASE

Industry luminaries to be inducted into the Australian Property Hall of Fame

Three Australian property industry luminaries – Ervin Graf, Bruno Grollo and Rino Grollo – will be invested into the Property Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony will take place as part of the 2014 *Innovation and Excellence Awards*, to be held at The Star Event Centre in Sydney on Saturday 17 May.

The Australian Property Hall of Fame was established in 2012 by the Property Council of Australia to honour property industry pioneers whose astonishing imagination, unbridled energy and keen entrepreneurial talents transformed Australia into a dynamic, prosperous society.

According to Property Council National President, Darren Steinberg, each of the inductees not only helped redefined the Australia's property industry but also reshaped Australia's urban landscape and how people live.

"All three inductees have been extraordinary visionaries within the industry and the Property Council Board is delighted to recognise their outstanding contributions to our industry and to Australian society," Mr Steinberg says.

The Australian Property Hall of Fame Inductees

- Dick Dusseldorp AO (2012)
- John Gandel AO (2013)
- Frank Lowy AC (2012)
- Stan Perron AM (2013)
- Sir John Pidgeon (2013)
- Ray Powys AM (2012)

Ervin Graf OAM

The founder of Stockland, Ervin Graf, graduated in architecture before leaving his native Hungary shortly after World War II. He came to Sydney as a bricklayer and, with a small loan, started in business in 1952. Mr Graf went public six years later by taking over the smallest company on the stock market, Stocks and Holdings. Today, Stockland is Australia's largest diversified property group. In June 2000, Mr Graf was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the building and property industries. Mr Graf retired as Stockland's chairman in October 2000, and sadly passed away in 2002.

"A true visionary, Ervin saw the potential of the property market as soon as he stepped foot on Australian soil. His achievements included opening the then tallest residential apartment building in the world outside the US, Park Regis Towers; he was also one of the first developers to build a drive-in shopping mall and bulky goods centre," Mr Steinberg says.

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The Voice of Leadership

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“One of his greatest contributions to the industry was revolutionising project funding. He introduced an internally managed property trust – a model that remains intact today,” Mr Steinberg says.

Bruno Grollo AO

Bruno Grollo and his younger brother Rino inherited a small concreting business from their Italian immigrant father, Luigi, transforming it into one of Australia’s largest privately-owned construction empires, Grocon. Mr Grollo took up tools on the construction site at 15, learning valuable lessons which have translated in truly remarkable achievements. His credits include construction of the tallest buildings in Melbourne including Rialto Towers and in Sydney with Governor Philip Tower.

“Bruno has a reputation as one of the smartest, toughest operators. Through hard work and technical virtuosity, he has changed city skylines and revolutionised Australia’s construction industry,” says Darren Steinberg.

“Bruno commanded tremendous loyalty from his workforce – something that is a great testament to his exceptional work ethic and practices,” says Darren Steinberg.

Rino Grollo

Rino Grollo continues his family’s longstanding tradition of property development in Australia. In 2000, Rino and brother Bruno divided their shares in Grocon to pursue new opportunities. Since 2000, Rino and his wife Diana have consolidated their companies and focused on the sport, education, tourism and community sectors. Rino’s son Lorenz is now managing director of the family’s construction company Equiset, while another son, Mark, manages the family’s aviation and aerospace interests. Their tourism concerns include the Mount Buller ski resort in Victoria, the Great Barrier Reef Undersea Explorer and the Ross River Resort, near Alice Springs. The couple’s biggest asset is their half-stake in Melbourne’s landmark Rialto building.

“Rino’s extraordinary contribution to our industry includes everything from local community assets to landmarks that have transformed our cities. Rino set high standards in management and service delivery, and is creating sustainable assets that are admired throughout the industry for their leadership in design, construction and environmental responsibility,” Mr Steinberg says.

For more information on the Australian Property Hall of Fame, visit: www.propertyhalloffame.com.au

To book your tickets to the Gala Dinner or for more information on the finalists of the 2014 Innovation and Excellence Awards, visit: www.propertyoz.com.au/awards

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