**Citation – Susan Rothwell**

Doctor of Architecture – Friday, 29 April 2022, 12.00noon

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Susan Rothwell to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Architecture (honoris causa) in recognition of her extraordinary contribution to the architectural landscape of Sydney and Australia more broadly over the last 50 years and for her exceptional commitment to promoting the academic purposes of the University’s School of Architecture, Design and Planning.

Susan’s impressive career as a renowned Sydney architect launched in 1972 when she graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Architecture. It was during her time at the University that Susan met fellow student Garry and their love and professional partnership blossomed. Working alongside her husband Garry Rothwell, together they have transformed the architectural landscape of Sydney and Australia.

Susan started her own company in 1974. Her personal approach and design skills soon entrenched Susan Rothwell Architects’ reputation for producing high-quality designs. Susan created some of Sydney’s most iconic homes in Palm Beach, the Eastern Suburbs and Mosman; the bespoke designs reflecting the individuality and personality of each client.

Alongside her professional life Susan made time to immerse herself in a hectic schedule of volunteer work, connecting with several cultural institutions across Sydney. Susan was a founding donor of the Museum of Contemporary Arts and a Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Foundation, supporting both exhibitions and collection purchases.

Susan was also an Art Gallery of NSW Foundation board member from 2001 until 2009, where she was heavily involved in the fundraising activities of the Gallery and used her influence to encourage others to join and offer support. Susan was involved in many of the Gallery’s major acquisitions, and generously donated the funds to enable the Gallery to acquire Centre of a City (2002) by Grace Cossington Smith.

In 2018, Susan was appointed to the board of the National Art School (NAS) and has been a committed and active Board Member, supporting the NAS to become widely acknowledged as the leading art school in the Asia-Pacific.

Susan is also Co-Chair of the NAS Masterplan Working Group, consolidating NAS’ relationship with the NSW Government and leveraging Government investment to attract further philanthropic support towards realising the regeneration of the heritage NAS arts and education precinct.

Susan was a member of the Foundation for the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, now Sydney Living Museums. The Rothwells made a $200,000 donation to the Foundation’s Endangered Houses Fund; a program that identifies significant at-risk properties and saves them from demolition or unsympathetic development. Their donation went towards restoring the significant early-colonial dwelling, Rouse Hill House in Blacktown.

In 2004, the Rothwells made a $50,000 donation to support the University’s Wilkinson Building studio refurbishment, Susan having remarked: “if you are in a well-designed atmosphere, it feeds your soul.” In 2013, Susan contributed to support Master of Architecture students to design sculptures for the annual Sculptures by the Sea as part of their ‘Urban Architecture Research Studio’ and later donated towards the University of Sydney’s Quadrangle restoration fund.

In 2018, the Rothwells made a generous donation to establish ‘the Garry and Susan Rothwell Chair in Architectural Design Leadership.’ The French architecture studio *Lactone & Vassal Architectes* are the inaugural appointees of the position, and their program of activities aims to elevate the standard of architectural and urbanism practice.

Outside of the arts, Susan is passionate about healthcare research. As a director of the NORTH Foundation, Susan brings her professional expertise to provide strategic oversight, financial management and performance review of the Foundation, in a quest to find solutions to real-world health problems. Susan has also funded a Research Fellowship in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy at the University of Sydney aimed at improving outcomes for frail elders.

Susan has used her energies and influence to give back to the community. She works tirelessly in the Arts and in community healthcare and has enthusiastically supported the education of the next generation of artists and designers.

Chancellor, I present Susan Rothwell for admission to the degree of Doctor of Architecture (honoris causa) and invite you to confer the degree upon her.