

COULSON TOUGH, FAIA



George Mitchell and Coulson Tough, circa 1985

Coulson Tough

Was recruited by George Mitchell in 1973 to leave his post as Vice President of the University of Houston and Join The Woodlands Corporation as Vice President of Community Development to oversee design and construction of commercial buildings in The Woodlands. For 30 years he worked closely with George Mitchell and Cynthia Mitchell on a host of market leading development projects in addition to commercial building development including the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, selection and acquisition of art for public places in this community, design and construction of the initial classroom building at The John Cooper School, redevelopment of some 19 historically significant buildings on the Strand and other streets in Galveston, design and construction of The San Louis Hotel and adjacent Condominium, two major buildings on Texas A&M Campus and other projects as described in his bio below.

Coulson Tough joined The Woodlands Corporation May 1973. Previously he was Vice President at the University of Houston following a career with the University of California. He graduated from the University of Michigan after service in the Air Force in World War II.

With The Woodlands Corporation he was responsible for design and construction of commercial facilities and buildings in The Woodlands. He retired in May 2003 after 30 years of service.

During this period he and his staff completed over 132 projects which included major buildings and remodeling of other facilities. Buildings completed included the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, The Woodlands Conference Center, the Mitchell headquarters building, the Houston Area Research Center, three village shopping centers and The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. He represented The Woodlands Corporation on the design and construction of The Woodlands Mall and The John Cooper School, among other similar projects.

While at The Woodlands Corporation, he was also responsible for projects in Galveston and other properties. The projects included Pier 21 development, the Pirates' Beach Center, the San Luis Hotel, the San Luis Condominiums, and Harbor House Hotel in Galveston among many smaller projects.

During the period of construction of buildings, economic conditions fluctuated often in the Houston region. This required sophisticated knowledge of budgeting and scheduling in a complex engineering and construction environment.

Early in the development of The Woodlands, he established the art and sculpture program. He supervised the selection and placement of art and sculpture. Represented works are titled: Tomorrow, Disc II, Revoluta and many others. This program has been included in local and state

publications. He was awarded a Fellowship by the American Institute of Architects for his work in architecture.

After the retirement, he represented George Mitchell in planning and constructing two major buildings at Texas A&M University with a budget about \$90,000,000.00. Mr. Mitchell donated about 50% of the costs.

While he was employed, he remained active in community affairs as a Trustee for CISD, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Lone Star College Advisory Board, YMCA Board of Managers.

September 5, 2017