

Tullio Inglesè: Chronological Biography

Tullio Inglesè was born in **1938** in Roccacaramanico, a remote mountain village in Abruzzo, Italy, and grew up there during World War Two. The village was occupied for six months by the Nazis near the end of the war.

In **1947**, at the age of nine, Tullio emigrated with his father, a shepherd, who had concluded his eight year service in Mussolini's fascist army to which he had been inducted. Tullio was finally reunited with his mother who had come to the United States when he was just two months old. The family settled in Watertown, near Boston.

Tullio graduated from Watertown High School in **1958** and attended Wentworth Institute of Technology, where he received an Associate in Science Degree in Architectural Engineering. During summers and after graduation from Wentworth in **1960**, he worked as a carpenter for local builders. He also served in the Army in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

In **1961** Tullio was admitted to the school of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma, where after four years, he received a Bachelor of Architecture Degree. Most of the professors were disciples of Frank Lloyd Wright and had a strong influence on his work. He met architect/philosopher Paolo Soleri who lectured there and, after graduating in **1965**, became one of his first apprentices at the Cosanti Foundation in Arizona.

At Cosanti, he lived in the Earth House, one of Soleri's early designs, and worked on earth-cast concrete buildings, as well as architectural drawings of Arcologies – cities contained within single megastructures. He considers Soleri's concept of Arcology (architecture + ecology) a significant contribution to urban design.

In **1967**, he became Project Designer for Harvard University where he did conceptual designs for two parking garages, faculty/student housing and the Graduate School of Education Library for which Benjamin Thompson was principal architect. The Library is located on Brattle Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

While at Harvard, he met and married Judith Caplan and returned to Cosanti to finish drawings of one of the Arcologies. On his way back to Cambridge, he was interviewed by Louis Kahn in Philadelphia, who agreed that he could work with him starting in two months. It was a perfect interval to visit his relatives and village in Italy, which by now was inhabited by only fourteen people including one of his aunts and her family. Meanwhile, Louis Kahn's project was shelved and Tullio, instead, worked for Walter Gropius at the Architects Collaborative in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In **1969**, he was awarded a Compton Fellowship by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where, as a graduate student, he studied architecture and urban design for two years. During this time he was a teaching assistant at M.I.T. and also taught design for a year at the Boston Architectural College.

Soon after, he and Judith homesteaded in Hancock, New Hampshire where Tullio worked for a short time with architect Peter Garland. In **1972**, they moved to Amherst, Massachusetts where he worked on a building commissioned to Paolo Soleri, proposed to be built in Amherst. However, the project was never realized.

Tullio started his own design practice, TIA Architects (Tullio Inglese Associates) and founded Nacul Center for Ecological Architecture. Nacul Center is a non-profit organization (501-c3) established for the research, development and teaching of principles of ecological design which guide his work at TIA Architects. *Nacul*, a merging of the words NAture and CULture, refers to the art and science of building and living in harmony with nature.

At Nacul Center, he works on socially responsible, sustainable designs with a small staff, interns, and students in the peaceful atmosphere provided by the former Wesley Chapel which they have renovated. Since **1972**, he has instructed over 400 students and interns at the Center. He lectures and conducts workshops on green design at various colleges and universities. Tullio also teaches intensive design/build workshops at Yestermorrow in Vermont.

He has designed a great number of custom homes, most incorporating green design principles, and has designed generic solar houses which have been built in various parts of the country. He also has designed a number of residential renovations and additions.

Since **1978** Tullio has assisted his wife Judith, a nationally known artist, in the installation of her ceramic murals on public buildings.

For five years (**1980-1985**) he did joint venture projects with Peter Kitchell (Inglese • Kitchell Architects). Together they designed and supervised the construction of residential communities in Connecticut. He has been principal architect of two mill conversions, as well as two waste treatment plants.

In **1986** Tullio started Nacul Products and Resources in order to supply local builders with natural, non-toxic construction products otherwise not available to them. Nacul Center has also conducted seminars and lectures to educate the public, and builders especially, about environmental health issues stemming from synthetic building products, as well as about alternative methods of building healthy homes and buildings.

He has been interviewed on local radio and television including *The Kitty Today Show* and, in **1986**, his work was the subject of a half-hour television special, *Blueprint for the Future*.

Tullio's work has been exhibited at several universities and also at Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, the Northampton Center for the Arts, and the Toward Tomorrow Fair at the University of Massachusetts.

He has received a Governors Design Award in **1986**, an Excellence in Sustainable Design award from the Boston Society of Architects in **1990**, a Solar House Award, an International Compact House Competition Award, and several Historic Preservation Awards.

Inglese • Kitchell Architects has formerly received a Northeast Utilities grant to design a model sustainable house. Tullio has received a Fox Foundation Grant, a construction grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and an Experimental Communities Research Grant from M.I.T.

More recently, he has been sponsored by the American Hardwood Export Council to conduct workshops in Japan on green design. He was also sponsored by the American Forest Association to lecture at the International Green Design Conference in Seoul, Korea in **2000**. In **2008** and again in **2010** Tullio was invited to speak at The World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE) in Japan. There, he spoke on *The Ecological Benefits of Building with Wood*.

With the help of his interns, he has completed pro-bono projects for a number of non-profit organizations committed to socially responsible work. Among these are Nuestras Raices, Cuvilly, Sunray Meditation Society, Nueva Esperanza, and the Watertown Center for the Arts. He and his interns have also designed a generic house for Habitat for Humanity.

He has written a number of articles and pamphlets on his projects and has been included in several publications, most notably *Peter Kitchell, The Amherst Years; A Guide Book to Appropriate Technology* (U-Mass), and most recently (**2006**), *The Earth Knows My Name – Food, Culture and Sustainability in the Gardens of Ethnic Americans* by Patricia Klindienst. In **1993**, he self-published a novel, *Ren: Dreams of an Architect*. Tullio is currently working on a manuscript, *Principles of Ecological Architecture*.

He has designed five proposed communities including, Ecoville (4,000 people), Aquila (50,000 people), Aquarius (30,000 people), Solstice One (140 people) and Andromeda (1,000,000 people). He had the opportunity to promote his design for Andromeda in Shanghai, China after lecturing in Japan at the WCTE. Currently he is organizing a Green Team to help design and build Andromeda, a macrostructure proposed for China.

In **1980**, he began the Nacul Center Gallery which exhibits the work of local artists. The Gallery commissions help support his pro-bono work for other non-profits. The Gallery has also made donations to organizations such as The Karuna Peace Center, the Jessica Hayes Scholarship Fund at the University of Massachusetts, and the victims of hurricane Katrina. The Gallery space is used for fundraising performances which benefit non-profit organizations, such as the Amherst Soup Kitchen and others.

Tullio is a member of a number of organizations including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Western Massachusetts Society of Architects, the Boston Society of Architects, the American Institute of Architects, the American Farmland Trust, Greenpeace, Artists for Peace and Justice, The Library of American Landscape History, among others.

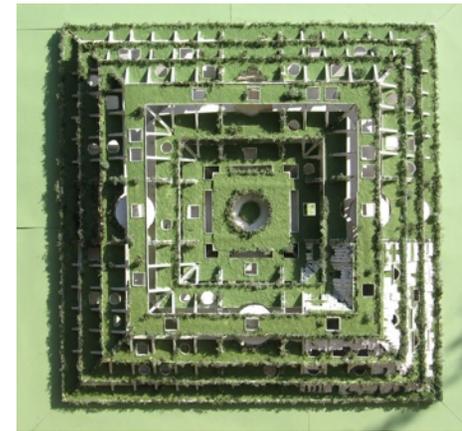
He lives in Leverett, Massachusetts in one of his Queen Truss Houses which he and Judith built in **2000**. They have five children; two are adopted from Vietnam and Cambodia, and one from the United States.

“Architecture is rapidly becoming an environmental science rooted in the fundamental principles of ecology. All principles of ecological architecture must be seriously considered and incorporated into each and every project.

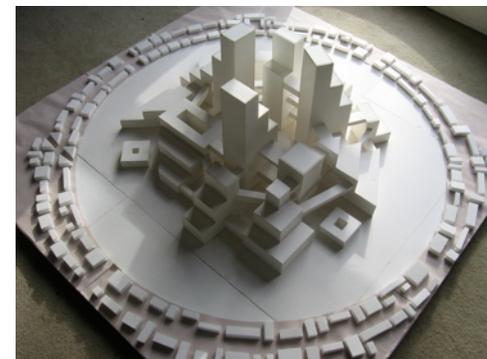
Architecture must transcend materials and methods (technology) and transform sticks and stones into inspiring places in which to work and live. Architecture is the most natural link between the material and spiritual world and a logical means of sustaining evolution in a positive direction. Within the framework of consciously directed evolution, architecture has a divine purpose.” TI



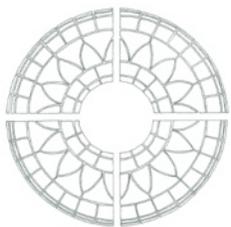
Inglese house in Leverett, MA



Aquila, an eco-city prototype



Andromeda, an eco-city proposed for China



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