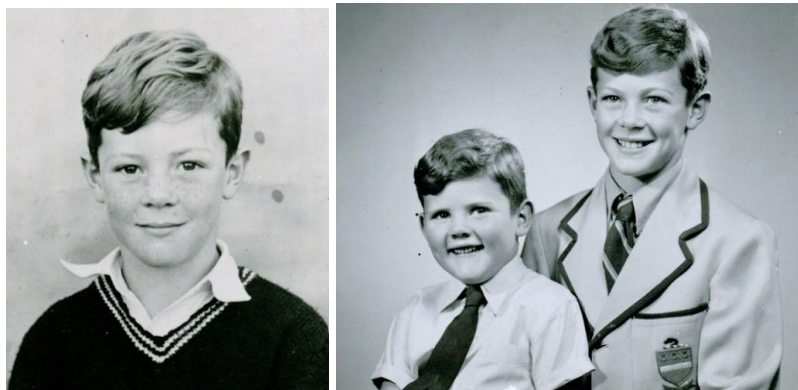




Richard Longley at around 65 years of age (The Stadium and the City, Vol 1, p.3, 2007).

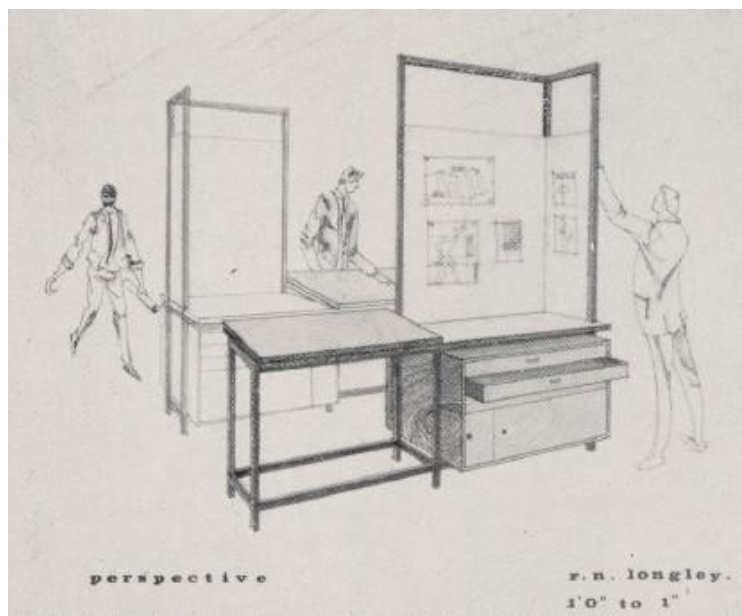
Richard Nicholas Longley (1942-2025) was born during the constraints of the Second World War on 27 September 1942 at Esher in Surrey, England to parents William Francis (1904-1980) and Joan Mary Longley (1911-2007), both teachers. Richard undertook his early studies south-east of London at Milbourne Lodge School, Esher, Surrey before migrating with his family from England to Australia on the *Orontes*, arriving at the Western Australian port of Fremantle in 1949. Richard had brothers Peter Jeremy b.1935 and John Francis b.1945. The family first settled at Floreat Park (where Frank and Jeremy suffered from contracting polio), and later at City Beach, in the coastal western suburbs of Perth.

Richard's father 'Frank' Longley taught at Hale School; Joan was a kindergarten teacher and later ran an art gallery. Their sons were highly talented: Jeremy taught at Guildford Grammar School and Scotch College; by the early-1960s 208cm tall Richard was studying architecture and was a national representative in basketball; renowned yachtsman John was to become a crew member of the famous America's Cup winner *Australia II* and led the Endeavour Replica project.



Richard Longley soon after arrival in WA; with brother John in the early 1950s (Longley family).

An excellent student, Richard obtained his secondary education at Hale School, and after graduating he elected to study architecture at Perth Technical College (PTC) in the three years 1962-1964. Richard's (often known as 'Ric') prodigious talent in basketball ensured the sport was also claiming a major part of his time, and in 1964 the St Louis University in the United States offered a four-year scholarship worth about £3 000 to the 22-year-old, but he decided not to accept, as the university did not provide a major course in architecture. From 1965 Richard may have moved to Melbourne, presumably working and playing basketball. Richard married 193cm tall equestrian athlete Sue Hansen at Melbourne in 1968 and they had sons Lucien b.1969, Griffin b.1973, and Sam b.~1975, but the couple were divorced in 1984.



PTC Year 3 student R.N. Longley's drawing of an office unit (*The Architect*, Dec 1964, p.42).

Journalist Boti Nagy wrote in later years of 'Ric' Longley's golden years in basketball, including the 1970 Australian States Championship, the first men's titles played at Adelaide's new Apollo Stadium: *The biggest on-court presence was West Australia's giant centre Ric Longley. A powerfully-built 208cm centre - considering a 201cm pivot was considered a beast in this era - Ric was something to behold. He dominated the tournament, single-handedly keeping WA in games in which it had no right to be competitive. Averaging 28.3 points per game, the next best tournament scorer was ACT's Ian Ellis who averaged 19. He also hauled in an average 13.5 boards per night, despite every team focusing on trying to minimise his impact.*

I sat there every night mesmerised by his talent. He wasn't just taller than everyone, he could play. It was no huge surprise he soon after was recruited to Victoria to play for Melbourne. In those early days of national competition, there was no great expectation for WA's club teams to perform against Australia's best teams. ... Ric represented the Australian Boomers in 1971 in New Zealand, played for WA nine times and Victoria four.



Ric Longley at left of photo – as a promotion for the 1975 Australian Club Championships at Adelaide, the tournament's four tallest players all agreed to walk across King William Street in the city from Rundle Mall (<https://www.botinagy.com/blog/1970/>),

John (Jack) Kent was in a design partnership with Longley c.1970-1973, at that time Richard had only completed three of the five years required for an architectural degree. Longley had been designing for Gillon & Osboine - a prominent Perth-based development and construction firm established in the 1960s, known for shaping early northern suburbs, including developing the Carine Glades estate. Finally completing his architectural studies in the 1970s, at thirty-seven years of age Richard Longley was registered as an architect in Western Australia during 1979 (reg no 892) and in 1980 was listed at 40 Cliff Street Fremantle.



Richard Longley with his three sons in the 1970s (Longley family).

Richard made his National Basketball League (NBL) debut for the inaugural Westate (later Perth) Wildcats basketball team in 1982, coming out of retirement to take the floor for that season. He became the oldest player in league history at the time. His sons Luc (218cm tall) and Griffin (203cm) also played a number of games in the NBL, with Luc forging a successful career in the USA's National Basketball Association (NBA). Journalist 'Griff' moved on to become CEO of Nature Play WA, whilst Sam (209cm) has been successful working as an actor, director and writer.

In 1985 Richard met Kateryna Arthur, welcoming step-son Paul into the family. During 1988 he travelled with Kat, Paul, Grif and Sam to Canada for Kat to take up a Canadian faculty research award. They then went on to New Mexico in the USA to visit Luc – who had taken his own love of basketball overseas in a manner that Richard had nearly undertaken in 1964. Richard and Kat were married in 1990 at their home at 28a Mouat Street Fremantle.



Mid-1990s architectural work in Indonesia – Lombok Hotel (Longley family).



Longley Architects' entries in the RIAA (WA) Awards of 1996: Woodward House, 72 Forrest Street Cottesloe; Lombok Hotel, Singiggi Beach Lombok; The Biscuit Factory, cnr South Terrace and Jenkin Street Fremantle (*The Architect*, Winter 1996, pp.16-17).

Longley entered three of his practice's projects in the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) WA Chapter Awards of 1996. A residence in Cottesloe, a hotel at Indonesia, and the conversion of the Biscuit Factory in Fremantle to residential use, demonstrating a wide scope of capability. The sensitive adaptation of places with cultural heritage values was further illustrated in perhaps his favourite project, the redevelopment of the Old Barracks - Tannery at 22 Russell Street Fremantle in 2003, which became the family residence and location of his office.



The Barracks at Russell Street Fremantle in 2003 (Longley family)

The redevelopment of the Old Barracks won both the Alterations & Additions Award, and Heritage Council Conservation Award in the RAIA WA Chapter Awards of 2004. The jury chair for the Heritage Award noted that:

The architect accepted and skilfully responded to his own incredibly challenging brief - the adaptation of a circa 1854 limestone building with multiple layers of history, as evidenced through its former uses.

The building was initially constructed as a barracks, then converted to cottages and stables, used as a warehouse in the early part of the twentieth century and operated as a hidden portion of a tannery for seventy-five years up to 1995.

The sympathetic residential adaptation has been clearly defined by the architect through the use of steel and glass allowing the limestone walls to be clearly identifiable as original fabric.

Principal conservation skills of patience, discovery and attention to detail are all clearly evident. The architect engaged appropriate building expertise and the conservation methodology and subsequent work to the limestone walls was specifically highlighted by the judging panel.

The original flat limestone roof has been retained and conserved. Part of the significant roof can still be viewed within the new residential use. The architect's willingness to engage with the building fabric, conservation procedures and to incorporate an appropriate use has resulted in a quality project outcome.



Old Barracks Fremantle – winner of the Alterations & Additions Award and Conservation Award
 (*The Architect*, Winter 2004, pp.22-23).



Richard with Kat at home in the architectural office in 2007 (Longley family).

The following notes are from a brief CV that Richard prepared when he began to work for the Gentra Group - a development company - in 2009: *Richard Longley's projects and major professional contributions include the following:*

A two hundred room hotel on the beachfront at Lombok Indonesia. The hotel is set in a pristine landscape and displays cultural and ecological sensitivities. The building form includes a major core building and chalet style units dispersed through the natural tropical landscape.

A one hundred room hotel at Christmas Island that responds to extremes of site constraints, climatic conditions and building difficulties due to the remote location.

A major master plan for the redevelopment of Turtle Island, Bali, involving multiple tourist and commercial buildings within a diverse cultural context and the necessity to work with marine biologists and landscape architects to ensure ecological and environmental sustainability.

Richard Longley has been appointed Consultant Architect and Town Planner for the Mogumber Project by the indigenous Coalition of Peoples. The project at the historic Moore River Native Settlement will include a historical data research centre, a wall of remembrance, art galleries, cultural trails, indigenous housing and guest accommodation. The project involves the Aboriginal Land Trust, The Heritage Council of WA and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Richard Longley has been appointed by St Catherine's College, University of Western Australia, to develop the design for a Centre of Excellence on the St Catherine's site on the University Campus. This project involves residential buildings and auditoriums which have a core necessity to be at "the cutting edge" of sustainable architecture.

Richard is one of a six-person team on the Premier's Major Stadia Taskforce responsible for the analysis of building sites and architectural form for the eight hundred million new West Australian Sporting Stadium. Over two years this project has involved sensitive negotiations with multiple Government, community and sporting organisations.

Richard Longley is the Honorary Heritage Architect for Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra, a position he has held for 5 years.

After a long and highly-productive life, lauded as ‘a true gentleman, a loving partner and a proud parent’, multi-talented Richard Longley died 16 January 2025 at North Coogee aged 82 years. His brother John relates: *‘I think it worth noting that he was also a gifted artist which in a way led him to architecture. I am sure that if he had not gone down that path he would have been a successful artist. When he retired, he returned to his art and the paintings he produced at that late stage in his life were exceptional and showed his deep love of the sea.’*



Slides illustrating Richard Longley’s artistic influences (Bob Juniper taught art at Hale School) and talent, taken from a PowerPoint presentation he gave at the Maritime Museum Fremantle on 1 December 2011 - hosted by Bill Bunbury with Richard telling his story (Longley Family).

References:

‘Longley Family’, WA Museum Welcome Wall panel 318.

Ian Brayshaw, ‘£3 000 U.S. Bid Rejected’, news clipping with Longley Family, n.d., probably from *The West Australian*, 1964.

‘Loyola Cagers Face Australians Tonight’, *The Montreal Gazette*, 19 December 1967, p.31 (Ric at centre position is tallest on the Australian basketball team at 6’ 10” and weighing 220 pounds). The Tannery (fmr), 22 Russell Street Fremantle, HCWA register assessment 2004.

‘Entry 20046045: Redevelopment Old Barracks Fremantle – Richard Longley Architect’, letter with citation, 11 May 2004 from John Taylor chair of Heritage Awards assessors to RAIA, re RAIA Awards 2004: Heritage Conservation Category (JTA file 01404).

‘The Stadium and the City, Making the case for a world class stadium in Perth’, prepared by the Major Stadia Taskforce, Vol 1, May 2007.

Boti Nagy, ‘Vale the trailblazers Longley and Hughes’, <https://www.botinagy.com/blog/1970/> accessed 16 May 2026.

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Pers comms Bob Gare, Luc Longley, John Longley, Kateryna Longley, Scott Bradley, Jack Kent. Heritage Committee review: 18 June 2026 Last updated: 18 June 2026

Citation details:

Taylor, Dr John J., ‘Richard Nicholas Longley (1942-2025)’, Western Australian Architect Biographies, <http://www.taylorarchitects.com.au/Biographies.html> accessed DATE.