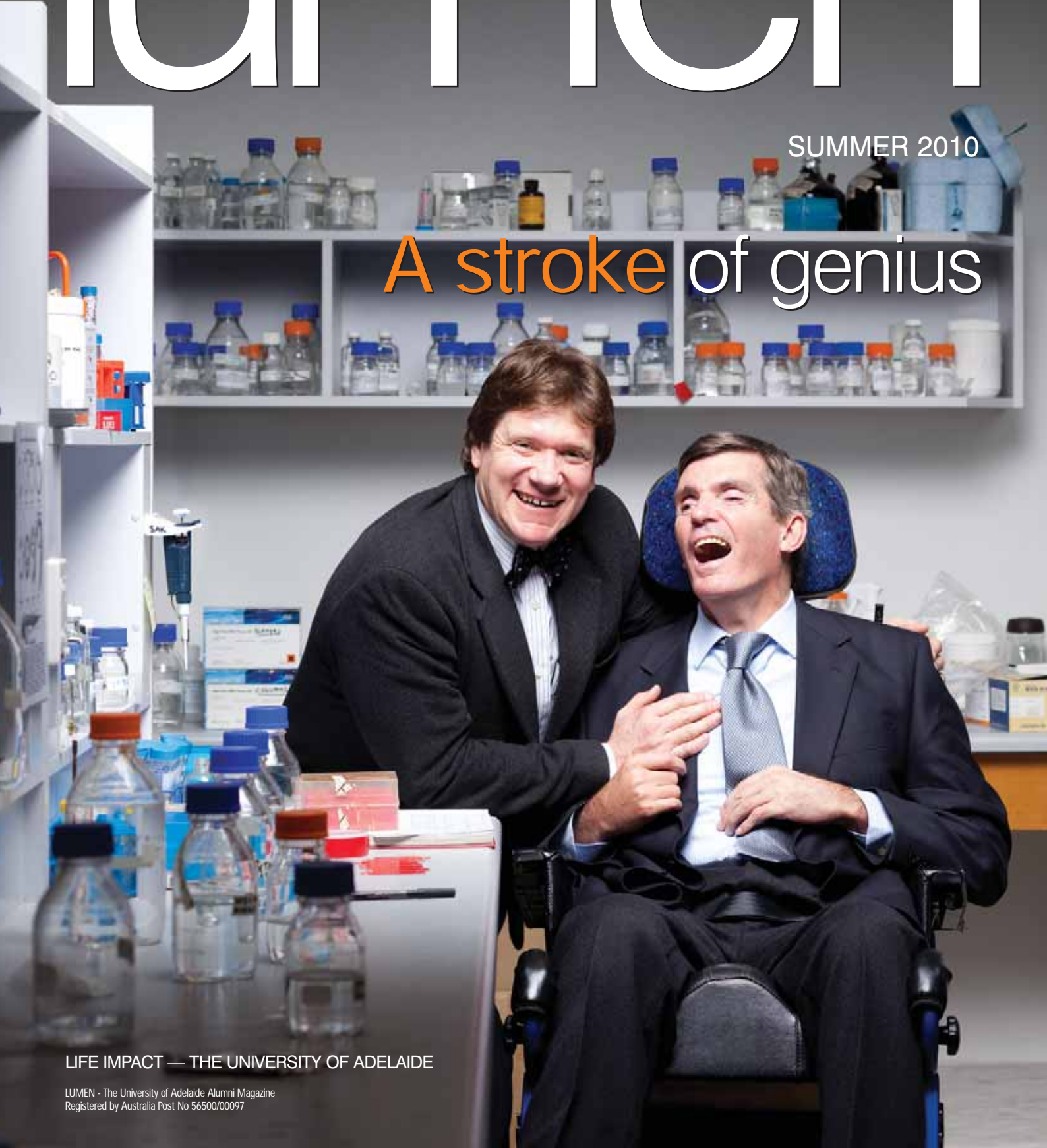


The University of Adelaide Alumni Magazine

Lumen

SUMMER 2010

A stroke of genius



LIFE IMPACT — THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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GLOBAL

— IMPACT —

From the Czech Republic to the jungles of PNG and the bustling streets of Tokyo, you'll find an Adelaide alumnus in almost every corner of the world. Ben Osborne profiles three outstanding alumni who cross the boundaries of culture, country and comfort in the quest to make a meaningful contribution to the world around them.



With so many alumni working in diverse fields around the world, we want to know whom you'd like to see profiled for Global Impact. Tell us by emailing ben.osborne@adelaide.edu.au



Changing the face of Japan

Riccardo Tossani

Bachelor of Architecture (Hons), 1980

Designing one of Italian fashion icon Giorgio Armani's newest Tokyo stores is the perfect global blend for architect Riccardo Tossani.

Since graduating from Adelaide with a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours) in 1980, Riccardo has lived and worked in Italy, the United States (including obtaining his Master of Architecture at Harvard), and since 1997 — and perhaps most importantly — Japan.

It's a world view which has been ingrained into Riccardo from an early age, growing up in a multicultural environment in Adelaide with a strong focus on Italian history, culture and language.

At age 26, and after three years of running his own practice, he decided to expand his intellectual horizons beyond Australia by embarking on a "journey without itinerary to discover both the world and a deeper ideological purpose."

After practising in Florence, Italy, Riccardo studied at Harvard and then spent nine years working up to being a senior member of renowned Los Angeles firm Johnson Fain Pereira (now known as Johnson Fain), including a stint opening their Guam office in the South Pacific.

Riccardo worked on a diverse range of projects during that time, including a Superconducting Supercollider in Texas, a new CBD for Bangkok, a new town plan for near Sacramento, California, as well as resorts in Micronesia.

While studying at the University of Adelaide, Riccardo developed a fascination for Japan after seeing images of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic pavilions by famed Japanese architect Kenzo Tange.

"I was fortunate enough to have visited the country for business purposes, but I realised that more time needed to be spent there if I were to understand anything beyond the superficial," he said.

"I thought six months or so should do it. More than 12 years later, I have barely scratched the surface."

Riccardo began what was initially a sabbatical in Tokyo, but which developed into starting a new practice with his Japanese-born wife, fellow architect Atsuko Itoda, whom he had met while working in California.

His firm's work has subsequently won numerous Japanese awards, expanding his multicultural operating environment and global professional reach.

"All this for me has meant an exciting and productive career, where in just 12 years my firm has completed a body of work that would have taken at least twice as long in most other places, and where my design principles and ideologies continue to be exercised by an ever-broadening world view," he said.

www.tossani.com