

Tom Killian

1931 Webster Groves, Missouri. – 2024 New-York City, New York.



Tom died peacefully August 31, 2024 at 8PM.

An architect, artist and writer with lifelong intellectual curiosity and intellectual generosity, he was passionate about architecture, the history of architecture and about art: it is this passion that gave sense and purpose to his life. His energy, curiosity and delight in all things was a rare gift.

He graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Washington University in Saint Louis and in 1960 with a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, in Copenhagen. Before retiring in 1990 he was an Associate Partner in the architecture firm of Skidmore Owings & Merrill working closely with Gordon Bunshaft; in particular, on the design of the National Commercial Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, completed in 1983.

His drawings are archived at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and at Columbia University's Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, in New York, at the Canadian Center for Architecture, in Montreal, and at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum in Hartford, Connecticut. He is the author of several books on architecture, art and culture, and of numerous articles on these subjects.

He is survived by his daughters Alice and Sybil Killian and by his friend and life partner of 49 years, Françoise Astorg Bollack.

Tom Killian Obituary published in the New York Times September 6, 2024