

William D. Kendall, FAIA (1942 - 2013)

BY ROBERT A.M. STERN

WILLIAM D. KENDALL, FAIA, WAS BORN IN SHATTUCK, Oklahoma, on March 17, 1942, and died in Houston on Monday, February 25, 2013. For over two decades Bill was both a close friend and a valued professional collaborator of mine and I am pleased and honored to tell his story.

Bill earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1966 and Bachelor of Architecture degree cum laude in 1967 from the University of Houston, where he received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal. He received his Master of Architecture degree in 1970 from Rice University. After working at several firms during his college years, Bill joined Wilson, Morris, Crane & Anderson (later S.I. Morris Associates) in 1968, where he became a partner in 1973. In 1978 Bill and Hal Weatherford founded KWA after they had the opportunity with their predecessor firm to collaborate as associated architects with Philip Johnson on Gerald Hines's landmark Pennzoil Place. Bill and Hal had moved to New York to work on the Pennzoil project in Philip's office. Bill recognized an opportunity when he saw one, and with this project as a model he developed his vision of an architectural practice organized specifically to provide technical collaboration with design architects. In 1980, James Heaton joined the firm and the name was changed to Kendall/Heaton Associates. Since its founding Kendall/Heaton Associates has enabled design architects to focus on what they do best: design. Under Bill's leadership, Kendall/Heaton honed its edge as a firm that delivered excellence in construction documentation and project administration, working closely and collaboratively with premier design firms worldwide. Kendall/Heaton was named Firm of the Year by the AIA Houston Chapter in 2004, in no small part because of Bill's leadership and strength as a mentor. His office felt like a family and Bill extended that family to include clients, designers, and consultants around the world.

During Bill's long tenure as President of Kendall/Heaton, the firm associated with 28 world-class ar-



James Heaton and William Kendall.

chitects on projects including over 100 corporate headquarters, office buildings, and cultural, institutional, educational, and religious buildings in countries around the world. With my own firm, Robert A.M. Stern Architects, Kendall/Heaton collaborated on major commercial developments in Boston; Philadelphia; Allentown, Pennsylvania; Washington, DC; Barcelona; Mexico City; and Aspen, Colorado.

In addition to the firm's collaborations with Robert A.M. Stern Architects, Kendall/Heaton was sought out by leading design firms around the world. Kendall/Heaton's collaborations with firms led by Pritzker Prize winners and AIA Gold Medalists includes work with Pelli Clarke Pelli, Philip Johnson and John Burgee, Kevin Roche and John Dinkeloo, Tadao Ando, Rafael Moneo, Pei Cobb Freed, Santiago Calatrava, Foster + Partners, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, Renzo Piano, and SANAA. The firm won global recognition working as executive archi-

tect on projects including the Alice Pratt Brown Hall for the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, with Ricardo Bofill; the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House in Dallas, with Norman Foster; the Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth, with Tadao Ando; the Owens-Corning World Headquarters in Toledo, Ohio, with Pelli Clarke Pelli; and Milstein Hall at Cornell University, with OMA.

In 1995, at the age of 53, Bill was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects for excellence in practice and service to his profession. He was honored as Distinguished Alumnus in 2008 by the University of Houston's Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture. He served on the Board of Directors for AIA Houston, the University of Houston Architecture Alumni Association, and the Rice Design Alliance.

Bill's legacy lives on in Kendall/Heaton, now led by his partners and supported by the global network of clients and collaborators that he and they supported.