

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **LARRY ALAN DOLL**

*September 1, 1948, Ithaca, New York - July 21, 2018, Austin, Texas*

Larry Alan Doll, sixty-nine, Associate Professor Emeritus of Architecture, taught at The University of Texas at Austin for forty-two years, starting in 1975. Doll was the first in his family to graduate from college, receiving his professional undergraduate degree in architecture from Virginia Tech and his master's degree from Cornell University. That "firstness" influenced the depth of his commitment to the values of the University along with how he taught and administered: with a deep appreciation for how much education—and especially an architectural education—could mean to the maturation of young men and women and the development of their talents. His many students and colleagues continue to cherish his memory and his influence upon them.

Doll's teaching focused on architectural design (from fundamentals to advanced), on visual communications (he was a wonderful draughtsman and early adopter of 3-D computer-aided design software [3D CAD]), on architectural theory, and on the history of architecture since 1975. He served as Assistant Dean of Architecture from 1983 to 1993, and he was Founding Director of UT Austin's Summer Academy in Architecture (est. 1979), a program for high school students of diverse backgrounds designed to spark interest in studying architecture. Doll also held visiting teaching positions at Virginia Tech, Cornell University, and the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1985, Doll established the first European study abroad program for UT Austin architecture students. Over 600 students have participated and consistently report—even thirty years later—on the life-changing impact of their exposure to modern and historical architecture in

an academic context. As someone who had never traveled outside of the United States until he was in his late thirties, Doll found the success and transformative impact of the program a special source of gratification. In 2009, UT Austin's Center for American Architecture and Design published *Drawing on Uncertainty*, a collection of sketches Doll completed between September 30 and December 6, 2005 while on the European study abroad program.

Doll's teaching, architectural practice, and life were guided by what he called Four Positions, rather than mere building for its own sake:

*architecture is a medium of cultural exploration and production;*  
*architecture penetrates the transparency of our senses, reminding us that we see, we hear, we feel, and we are in the world;*  
*architecture is both critical of and reflective of environmental, social, economic, political, and historical realities; and*  
*architecture uses all of the world's resources with care, and so must be worthy of the resources it consumes.*

A Registered Architect in Texas, Doll focused his architectural practice on single-family residences and smaller commercial buildings. He built his own first home in Westlake Hills, widely known to be a gem. The second, all-adobe home he designed for his wife, Laura, and himself in 2001 was included in *Marfa Modern* by Helen Thompson with photographs by Casey Dunn. He and Laura were grateful for the welcoming attitude of the Marfa community and the strong sense of connection it afforded them.

Doll is survived by his wife of forty-seven years, Laura Ring Doll, whom he met when they were undergraduates at Virginia Tech in 1969. His brother, Michael Doll, of Chambersburg, Virginia, and a nephew, Peter Benjamin Doll, of San Jose, California, also survive him. His broader family includes brother-in-law Dan Ring of Atlanta, and sisters-in-law Dot Nesbitt and Cynthia Foster of Alaska and California, respectively, as well as numerous nieces and nephews in various locations. Larry Doll also wished to acknowledge his love and gratitude for the deep

connection he and Laura shared for the last twenty years with the Saucedo family of Austin: Juan, Veronica, Victor, Petra, and their children.

Beloved by students and colleagues alike, Doll leaves a lasting impression and impact:

*I met Larry perhaps twenty years ago at an event or a conference. There was something about him—a genuine enthusiasm, a generous and open demeanor—that indelibly etched into my mind such that whenever I thought or heard about UT, an image of Larry would pop up. As a result of that association, UT seemed to me to be a place of warmth and collegiality, a place I wanted to be. When I arrived last year and finally had a chance to talk to Larry at length, I began to understand why he elicited such emotions. He was the heart of this school, indeed, he was its hearth. He emanated such an aura of warmth that connected us all as family. I am so grateful to have had those few months to get to know the man behind the image. I will miss him dearly and hope that his presence continues to linger in our halls.*

-Michelle Addington, Dean and Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture

*Larry put his heart and soul into the Europe Program, and we, as a group, are so grateful for his lasting impact on this incredible experience. I am honored to have been a part of his final class of Europe students, for we all relished in the opportunity to learn and grow alongside him as we traveled. Larry had so much love, enthusiasm, and energy to give, and I am so thankful that his legacy will continue on with the Europe Program and UTSOA (the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture). He will be sorely missed by every member of #utsoaeurope2017.*

-Caroline Stacey, Bachelor of Architecture student

*Being on Larry's last trip with the European Study Abroad Program, I felt that he had a special connection with our cohort; although I'm sure students from programs past would say they felt that same connection through Larry's passion for travel and architecture. I know that he and his wife, Laura, provided me with invaluable advice and assistance while abroad and beyond. For instance, after seeing my Facebook status in need of a ride from the airport, he simply commented, "We'll be there," and the two arrived with their dog Murphy in tow. Larry and Laura have continued to be an encouraging force as I prepare to graduate from UTSOA and hope to move abroad, inspired by my time in his program. I feel so lucky to have known such an open-hearted, quick-witted and skilled professor. Thank you, Larry.*

-Kai James, Bachelor of Architecture student

*While traveling, Larry demonstrated an insatiable curiosity for the world around us and helped our students to see what was not self-evident. Larry conveyed genuine enthusiasm in sharing the joys and pleasures of understanding extraordinary buildings and cities.*

-Elizabeth Danze, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA), Bartlett Cockey Regents Professor in Architecture

*As my first design instructor at The University of Texas, Larry Doll had a lasting and indelible impact on my thinking as a designer. He instilled in me an authentic sense of wonder about the role architecture plays in our world and it was a pleasure to teach alongside him.*

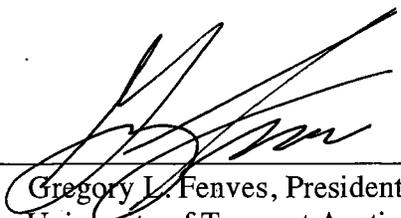
-John Blood, Distinguished Senior Lecturer

*First as an administrator and instructor, who assisted greatly in my opportunities as a student and in my sheer survival, then as a mentor and cherished friend, Larry was without question the greatest singular influence on my life and career. He epitomized all that one would wish to emulate and I was truly blessed to have known him and to have him take an extraordinary interest in my success. A debt owed and one that I seek to repay on a daily basis.*

-Charlton N. Lewis, Senior Lecturer, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

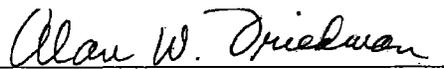
*I taught with Larry, laughed with Larry, and admired Larry from near and afar for forty-two years. We shared our craziest theories in the quiet of Goldsmith courtyard; we wrangled in loving mockery of each other's positions on every review and at every committee meeting we could. We lunched, dined, visited, and shared family life, some years sporadically, some years regularly. Larry was a beacon of talent, insight, competence, and integrity at our school. I miss him. We all do.*

-Michael Benedikt, Professor



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Gregory L. Fenves, President  
The University of Texas at Austin



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Alan W. Friedman, Secretary  
The General Faculty

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professor Michael Benedikt (Chair), Professor Elizabeth Danze, and Assistant Dean Charlton N. Lewis.