



Karl Frederick G. (Ric) DuPuy

May 19, 1942 - August 21, 2020



Karl Frederick Griffenhagen DuPuy, AIA, professor emeritus of architecture at the University of Maryland, passed away at this home in Washington, DC, on August 21, 2020, from heart failure. He was 78.

The second son of Elbert Newton DuPuy, an obstetrician, and Ruth Christine Du Puy (nee Griffenhagen), Ric - as he was known in his younger days - was born in 1942 in Beckley, West Virginia. He grew up in Quincy, Illinois, where he was an Eagle Scout and traveled to England in 1957 for the World Scout Jamboree. He was a varsity wrestler at Quincy Senior High School and at Dartmouth, where he was a beloved member of Beta Theta Pi and Casque and Gauntlet. He attended Dartmouth on a Naval ROTC scholarship and was an enthusiastic participant in summer training. He had chosen the Marine option and was looking forward to becoming a Marine officer upon graduating. However, his pre-commissioning physical disclosed a congenital spinal defect that precluded active duty and may have prolonged his life. Ric's point-of-the-spear enthusiasm for all challenges in Navy training might well have been a liability had he served on active Marine duty in the Vietnam era.

Ric was well served instead by earning graduate degrees in architecture in 1967 from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design and in 1969 from the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, which he attended on a Fulbright-Hays scholarship. As he writes in his essay in our Fiftieth anthology, *The Road Less Traveled*, "Professor Hugh Morrison suggested the University of Pennsylvania's graduate program in architecture with Louis I. Kahn at the forefront. Robert Venturi and Edmund Bacon provided the theory and urbanism components.... While at Penn, I was fortunate enough to win a Dales Travel Fellowship, yielding four months of intense travel in and around Europe, studying architecture and experiencing cities, landscapes and cultures. This trip convinced me that I not only wanted to practice architecture, but also to share my observations with others.... I have been teaching the theory and history of urban form, as well as architecture and urban design for 35+ years."

In 1969 Ric joined the City of New York as an urban designer, working on such projects as the revitalization of the emerging neighborhood of TriBeCa. In 1972 he married Margaret (Peg) Kepner, a fellow Fulbright-Hays scholar in radio astronomy whom he had met on the way to the Netherlands. They were among the pioneering residents of NoHo, living in a loft apartment they renovated in a former leather-goods factory. In 1977 they moved to Washington, DC, and Karl took up a post teaching at the University of Maryland's fledgling School of Architecture. Over a career spanning more than four decades, Ric taught a range of courses, most famously the long-running and popular Arch 654, 'Urban Development and Design Theory.' He was also a pillar of the school's design studio sequence, serving as a demanding and supportive director for more than 170 students' master's theses. A colleague described Karl as "unique in his ability to work effectively between his two passions, urbanism and design craft." Beloved by his students, who compiled lists of his colorful 'DuPuyisms,' he was a five-time winner of awards for outstanding teaching. In 2004 he was awarded the AIA Potomac Valley Chapter's Paul H. Kea medal for Architectural Advocacy.

Ric loved to explore the world and his energy and curiosity were contagious. He and Peg spent most of 1976 camping around Europe in a Volkswagen van, including more than a month behind the Iron Curtain. Having won an Indo-American Fellowship to study the historical evolution of Indian urban form, he spent 1983 exploring India along with Peg and their two-year-old son. He frequently led student trips overseas, and for more than a decade he spent most springs running the school's semester-abroad program at Kiplin Hall in the north of England.

In addition to his high school and college wrestling, Ric played rugby while in Delft and enjoyed swimming, squash, and golf. Throughout his life he loved classical music and live theater, especially his sons' performances.

A committed urbanist and believer in cities throughout his life, Ric was also a lover of nature, never happier than when exploring the outdoors with his family and friends, whether canoeing on Little Lake Sunapee, backcountry camping on an island in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, Hiking the Milford Track in New Zealand, traversing the Crib Goch to Snowdon in Wales, rambling over the fells of England's Lake District or enjoying the view from the top of Mt. Moosilauke, a mountain he was proud to summit again last summer, the only '64 to do so in conjunction with his fifty-fifth class reunion.

Ric is survived by his wife of 48 years, Peg Kepner, his sons Frederick (Rick) and Paul D'07, his younger brother Bill, and a host of friends, Beta brothers, relations, colleagues, and former students.

[This tribute draws heavily from the obituary published online by Dignity Memorial. Despite the fact that a preponderance of his friends know him as Karl, I have called him Ric where others would not. I am writing for his Dartmouth classmates who will remember him not as Karl, but as Ric. mp]