

2013 IN MEMORIAM

Alice Ross Carey



Alice Carey (M. Arch., 1977), an award-winning preservation architect and advocate who was involved in the restoration of some of the Bay Area's most important buildings, died in San Francisco on July 27 of lung cancer. She was 64.

Carey was founder and owner of Carey & Co. Architects, one of the earliest practitioners of historic preservation in the San Francisco Bay area. Her firm, started in 1983, specialized in a variety of architectural preservation services including the restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures, design through construction, building documentation, historic evaluations, historic research, building conditions analysis, materials conservation, historic structure reports, planning, history, and sustainability in California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah. The firm's historic rehabilitation projects included many culturally significant buildings including San Francisco City Hall, San Francisco War Memorial Opera House, California State Capitol, San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts, the Taoist Temple of Kwan Tai (the last intact functioning Chinese Joss House on the Pacific North Coast and the oldest in California), and Frank Lloyd Wright's last design project – the Marin Civic Center.

Ms. Carey dedicated much of her time on the boards of many historic organizations, including the College of Environmental Design Archives at UC Berkeley, to which she also donated select records from her practice; San Francisco Architectural Heritage; and the 640 Historic Preservation Foundation.

"She was a master at working with the client to convince them to do the right thing in terms of preservation and rehabilitation," said Wayne Donaldson, Chairman of the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. "She'd sit down with a client, walk through the details and by the end, the owners thought it was their idea."