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UNM Dean Emeritus of Architecture and Planning George Anselevicius Dies



Roger Schluntz, dean, UNM School of Architecture and Planning, notified the school's students, staff and faculty of the death of George Anselevicius, who served as the school's dean from 1981-93. He continued to teach and be a vital member of the school's family until his death.

Photo: George Anselevicius

The School will be hosting a memorial celebration honoring of the life and work of Professor and Dean Emeritus George Anselevicius, FAIA, on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008.

Commencing promptly at 10:30 AM, the event will be held in the auditorium of Pearl Hall, 2401 Central Avenue NE, in Albuquerque.

For his contributions, he was honored this February with "George Anselevicius Day at UNM," which included a proclamation signed by President David J. Schmidly.

Of Anselevicius's death, Schluntz wrote, "For over 28 years Professor and Dean Emeritus George Anselevicius, FAIA, has graced the UNM School of Architecture with his energy, intelligence, creativity, and considerable wit in making the School of Architecture and Planning one of America's premier places for us study, teach and work. We have all benefited, directly and indirectly, from his unique combination of skills, idealism and penetrating insight.

George has left a wonderful legacy throughout his long and distinguished career. We will continue to be inspired by his passion for design and we shall indeed miss him in our daily discourse and study."

Early in his career, Anselevicius, a Lithuanian immigrant, was an architect in London, Chicago, New York and Detroit. His first teaching job was at the Institute of Design in Chicago in 1949. After three years, he returned to practice and while in St. Louis was offered a position at Washington University. He established a private practice with Roger Montgomery, who later became dean at Berkeley, and they received several design awards for projects in the St. Louis area.

He then became chair of architecture at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard. Then he was off to SUNY Buffalo to help them get their program accredited.

"In 1981 I was offered the deanship at the School of Architecture and Planning at UNM. I accepted, as I was always interested in the Southwest and my wife, Evelyn, had a studio in Mexico," he said in a February interview.

After becoming dean emeritus in 1993, he continued to teach a housing studio as a seminar on typology. "As dean or chair I always taught studios because they link me to students," he said.

An important aspect of his career has always been his connection with foreign schools. "Those connections, their faculties and students helped me grow," he said. He was a visiting professor in India, Switzerland, Mexico and Jerusalem, to name just a few.

Anselevicius was honored by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture for his work to advance the quality of architectural education.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn.