

Architecture You Love
July 18, 2012

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JOHN ROBERT OXENFELD (1927-2012)

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A graveside service will be held at Oleander Memorial Gardens at 11am on Thursday July 19, 2012 with Rev. John C. Misenheimer and Rev. Mark Opgrand officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 12 North Sixth St, Wilmington, NC 28401 or to a [charity of one's choice](#).



Architect John Robert Oxenfeld, 84, of Wilmington and Roaring Gap NC, died peacefully with his family on his side on Friday, July 13.

Oxenfeld interviewed by Kate Walker in 2012.

He was born in St. Louis MO. Upon completion of High School in Savannah GA, he entered military service in 1944 and attended NC State University and the University of Minnesota prior to serving on active duty in Belgium and France as a member of the American Graves Registration Command. Upon

charge, he attended and graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture in 1951. He worked for Warren Taylor and Finch Alexander Barnes Paschal in Atlanta; also Pollard and Altobellis. When Altobellis moved to Wilmington, Oxenfeld moved too and worked there from 1954-1955.

He started his own firm in 1955, taking on Haywood Newkirk as a partner in the early 1960's. Oxenfeld and Newkirk were the rock stars of Wilmington architecture, winning several state awards. Their partnership lasted until the early 1970's. The Doug Fleet House, below, was one of the award-winning designs.



Oxenfeld was a long time member of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, where he served as a member of the Church Council and as a Sunday School Instructor. As a very active civic volunteer, he selflessly served as a member of numerous organizations throughout his life. He was a member and chairman of the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners; Vice-President of the Wilmington Gycees; President of the Wilmington Lion's Club; Advisory Board Chairman of the Salvation Army; President of Saint John's Art Gallery; and member of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, Wilmington Historic Commission, Wilmington Planning Commission, New Hanover County Health Department, and Cape Fear Area Council of Governments. He was also a long time member of the Cape Fear Country Club in Wilmington and President of High Meadows Country Club in Roaring Gap, N.C.

Surviving him are his brother William George Oxenfeld and wife Bonnie of House Springs, MO and his wonderful sons and grandchildren: son John Robert Oxenfeld, Jr., his wife Elizabeth Ellis Oxenfeld, of Greensboro, NC and their children Jennifer Oxenfeld Aceves and her husband Nickalas Aceves and daughters Isabella and Bailey of Greensboro, NC and Anne Elizabeth Oxenfeld of Chattanooga, TN; son Thomas Edward Oxenfeld, his wife Jeanne Roy Oxenfeld of Ocean Isle Beach, NC and their children Laura Ashley Oxenfeld of Philadelphia and Nathan Thomas Oxenfeld of Asheville, NC; late son Gregory

son Oxenfeld's family of Lynette Schulz and children Abbey Jean Oxenfeld and Taylor Nelson Oxenfeld , all of Louisville, CO; and son Bryan Andrew Oxenfeld, his wife Cheri Smith Oxenfeld and their children John Dayton Oxenfeld and Sara Lynn Oxenfeld, all of Tega Cay, SC.

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