



Lars Hunt Peterssen

November 3, 2020

Lars Peterssen, 64, co-founder of Peterssen/Keller Architecture in Minneapolis; died November 3, 2020, at home in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, of complications of frontotemporal degeneration. Husband R.D. Zimmerman was at his side.

Born in Long Island, New York, Peterssen came to Minnesota to attend Carleton College and graduated from there Magna Cum Laude in Physics, class of 1977. He earned a master's degree in architecture at the University of Minnesota and later taught at the school. Peterssen's architectural prowess, reflected in his body of award-winning work, demonstrated his mastery of modern and traditional design. Before his passing, the American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA-Minnesota) honored him with the 2020 Special Award for his contributions to architectural education, advancement of technology, and mentorship to architecture professionals.

Lars met R.D. in 1976 while the two were studying Russian at Leningrad State University, and the two became lifelong friends, moving in together in 1979. Lars loved to travel, and the two made frequent trips to Russia as well as Italy and numerous other European countries. His strength was his kindness, he had numerous friends, and he was forever close to his parents and sisters.

In the next chapter of Lars' incredible career, he co-founded Peterssen/Keller

Architecture in 2009. Guided by a passion for organic modern design and a uniquely collaborative design process, the firm grew rapidly. Over the next decade, they completed over 200 residential and boutique commercial projects for clients all over the country, and won numerous awards and accolades for the firm's work.

Lars loved Minneapolis. On August 1, 2013, Lars & R.D. became the state's fourth legally married same-sex couple. They made countless contributions to the community through mentorship, engagement, and philanthropy. Lars's elegant, thoughtful designs continue to shape residential architecture across the region and his friendships with clients and colleagues endure forever.

Beloved husband of seven years (together for 41) of Robert Dingwall "R.D" Zimmerman. Faithful companion of Chica the longhaired chihuahua/terrier mix and Henri, the supermutt. Dear brother of Laurie (Ken) McManus and Kristen (Steve Chiodi) Peterssen; loving uncle of Sean, Kelsey, and Brandon McManus. Lars is also missed by in-laws Charles (Mary) Zimmerman, Scott Rea, and James (Parker) Rea and their children Scott Zimmerman and twins Campbell and Gardner Rea.

Preceded in death by parents Martin and Virginia (nee Hunt) Peterson and beloved canines Koli, Loki, and Pronto.

Celebrations of Lars' life were held in 2021. Cremated remains are to be buried in the Wacker family plot at Chicago's Graceland Cemetery on September 28, 2024.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com

Previous Events

Burial of Cremated Remains

SEP 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

Graceland Cemetery
4001 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60613
<http://www.gracelandcemetery.org>