

Alan Peppard: Memorial honors former News architecture critic

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Even in death, **David Dillon**, former architecture critic of *The Dallas Morning News*, casts a long and interesting shadow over the city. Sunday afternoon, while the streets were nearly deserted during the Cowboy game, the auditorium at the Nasher Sculpture Center was filled to overflowing with journalists, civic leaders, architects and friends who came to a memorial service for Dillon.

One of the nation's foremost writers on architecture, Dillon retired from *The News* in 2006 and returned to his hometown of Amherst, Mass., to write and teach. He died unexpectedly of heart failure in June.

In his remembrance, Nasher Sculpture Center curator **Jed Morse** explained the mutual affinity that Dillon and Nasher's founder Raymond Nasher had for each other. "They were both [Bostonians](#), steeped in the history of art and architecture and with a passion for urban planning. They were both baseball fans. Fortunately, we were one of the places David liked."

Noted architect **Frank Welch** observed that Dillon lifted the veil of mystery about design for the lay reader. "His columns were so well read, and he educated not just architects. Increasingly, the public became attuned to architecture. It's a terrible thing that we lost David, but his lasting legacy is the education of a city."

Design of the times

Interior designer [Laura Hunt](#) voluntarily gave up the best view in Highland Park Village in the name of progress. From her lofty aerie above the HPV theater marquee, she could watch the glamorous customers roll in and out all day to serve their revolving credit overlords at Visa and [MasterCard](#).

Alas, she's moved to another part of the Village to make way for the Marquee restaurant and ongoing theater renovation.

But her latest design project gives her one of the best views of downtown.

Laura recently completed a designer showcase home in the Tower Residences at the [Ritz-Carlton](#) (just upstairs from [Dean Fearing's](#) self-named eatery). Last Thursday, the bold-faced name set poured into the Ritz to see the Hunt-designed home.

Among those on hand were philanthropist **Margaret McDermott** (widow of [Texas Instruments](#) co-founder **Eugene McDermott**), sisters **Nancy Halbreich** and **Janie McGarr** (daughters of the late Mayor Annette Strauss), philanthropic sisters **Nelda Cain Pickens** and **Nancy Cain Marcus**, as well as local [real estate](#) masters **Ellen Terry**, **Doris Jacobs**, **Joe Kobell**, **Molly Malone**, **Stuart Lee** and **Frank Purcell**. Representing Laura Hunt's family were two of her three brothers, fashion designer [Bradley Bayou](#), who flew in from LA and former Texas Secretary of State **George Bayoud** and his wife, **Vicki**.

John Zogg, managing director of Crescent Real Estate Holdings, the developer of the Ritz, was also on hand as was Crescent senior VP **Joseph Pitchford**.

Hunt for relatives

Just so you know, Laura could sell a game called Six Degrees of Laura Hunt. By blood or marriage, she's related to (or has been related to) most of the social directory: Hunts, Murchisons, Bayouds, Underwoods.

And she and **Ted Turner** are grandparents-in-law. Her daughter, **Gannon**, was married to his son **Beau**.

Laura and divorce lawyer (and former district court judge) **Lynn Skipworth Hunt** share an ex-husband and live on the same floor of the same building. Laura jokes that she's writing a book called My Ex's Ex.