

In Tribute – Dale S. Brookie, AIA



**Dale S. Brookie, AIA
(1942-2014)**

The profession of architecture has lost one of its longtime leaders and a cherished colleague. Dale Brookie passed away on July 27 in Kirkland, Washington at the age of 72. One of the founders of NAC|Architecture, Dale was instrumental in embedding a culture of client advocacy, service and design engagement that permeates our firm today and has made our clients some of our best friends. He measured our success by the number of lives that our architecture touched in deep, meaningful, life changing ways. The young people whose lives were enriched by educational environments nurtured under Dale's participatory design leadership numbers in the hundreds of thousands.

Dale graduated from the School of Architecture at Montana State University in Bozeman with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1965. Dale began his professional career in Spokane, Washington working for Culler Gale Martell Architects. He and Ron Tan soon began their own firm of Tan Brookie and later added Moritz Kundig together founding Tan Brookie Kundig Architects in 1970. Dale's passion for educational architecture flourished with his participation as a founding principal of Northwest Architectural Company in 1979 and the winning of

Spokane Public School District's competition for 13 new elementary schools. Dale was a visionary believing there was no goal too large. Envisioning a firm that could serve the entire Pacific Rim, Dale was one of our original pioneer principals who commuted from Spokane and then transferred to our Seattle office providing leadership in expanding our geographic reach. Rather than spreading west though he spread our reach north and south along the I-5 corridor and then east into the Rocky Mountains with school expansions for Colorado, collaborating with his brother Dean Brookie's architectural firm in Durango. Dale's no-mountain-too-tall attitude instilled so deeply within the culture of NAC has certainly contributed to the firm's current reach now stretching from Alaska to California and from Hawaii to Massachusetts.

Dale served as president of the American Institute of Architect's Washington Council of Architect's. Under his leadership legislation was enacted that mandated the selection of architects for public projects be based upon qualifications. That legislation has served as a model for qualifications based architectural selection laws in other states. Dale was also a leader within the Construction Specifications Institute in the northwest region for most of his career where he served in a number of roles including president of CSI in Spokane. Dale was an avid supporter and leader in the Council of Educational Facility Planners International.

All who work at NAC or with NAC not only when Dale was active but even today, are impacted by the indelible impression he has made on this firm. He loved his work and had a special passion for schools and creating wonderful places for students. He brought integrity to everything he did; he wanted to do right by everyone he met. He expected the best from everyone and he gave people the chance to be their best. Person, professional, patient and persistent were his trademarks. He always had time for people in the office or elsewhere, regardless of how busy he might have been, and at the same time he would drive like a mad man to be at some distant location for a client night or day. Each of us measures ourselves by the benchmarks that Dale has set.

The words of some of Dale's clients give insight. Robb Stanton of Lake Stevens School District recalls "Cavelero Mid High was one of Dale's last projects ... before he retired. I will remember several things about Dale: his calm, reasoned guidance during the development of the program and educational specifications for the new school, his excitement about what 40 acres of horse pasture could become, and his statement while developing the design, permitting and construction schedule for the new school that there may be something that keeps us from opening this school on our aggressive red schedule, but it wasn't going to be us, and that we would continue working towards opening a year early until something stopped us. Nothing did, despite the many challenges that we faced, and we opened Cavelero much earlier than what would be considered reasonable. We've expected the impossible from our architects ever since, and I believe they silently curse Dale for this even today." "He had a great impact on the learning environments in Lake Stevens and I'm sure he will continue to as we look at Highland in preparation for our next elementaries. I am indebted to him for what he taught me during my first projects with the district, and we are all better off because of his work on our behalf."

Dale retired from Northwest Architectural Company, now NAC|Architecture in 2006. Not letting the challenges of diabetes and heart conditions hamper his enthusiasm for life he enjoyed travels to China, lots of golf, the Mariners, travelling with family, and time spent with grandchildren often at the shoreline family cabin at Spirit Lake, Idaho. Recently returning from visiting his older brother Jim, who was hospitalized in Denver, Dale passed away at home in Kirkland. He was preceded in death by his wife Pat, who passed away at a young age leaving Dale a single parent. He is survived by his daughters Kim Hauck (Kevin) and Kelly (Tom) and son Brant (Jen), his brothers Dean and Jim, and grandchildren Madison (20), Kiara (17), Thomas (16), Zoey (4), James (3) and Nicholas (5 months).

A Tribute to Dale will be held on Wednesday August 27th, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Carillon Point – Woodmark Hotel, Bayshore Room, 1200 Carillon Point, Kirkland, Washington, and early in September at Sprit Lake, Idaho.