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Prominent architect Robert J. Verrier, founder of Chelsea's TAT, dies at 81

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Robert J. Verrier, a prominent architect who championed adaptive reuse of historic properties, died Aug. 23 at age 81 in Gloucester while vacationing with his family.

Verrier's work was renowned across the U.S., and throughout the course of his career he received more than 50 awards, including a National Historic Preservation Award from President Ronald Reagan in 1988. In 2011, he became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, the organization's highest honor.

His architecture and design firm, Chelsea-based The Architectural Team, celebrated its 50th anniversary this March.

"Our pledge for the next 50 years is to accelerate our efforts in creating positive change – from the development of affordable housing to the repurposing of underutilized urban assets through adaptive reuse, and the pursuit of more resilient and sustainable design solutions," Verrier wrote in a message marking the 50th anniversary.

BRIAN SMITH / THE ARCHITECTURAL TEAM

Bob Verrier, a prominent Boston-area architect
and founder of The Architectural Team in
Chelsea, died Aug. 23, 2021 at age 81.

"Architecture can play an important role in the generation of thriving, prosperous communities. Our firm was founded with this sense of purpose, and it fills me with pride to see the creativity and dedication our team members bring to work with them every day in pursuit of designing a better world."

Verrier spearheaded numerous adaptations of wharfs and mill buildings, schools and factories, with projects ranging from a former chocolate factory that sparked renewed investment in Dorchester, as well as revitalizations of Lincoln Wharf and Commercial Wharf, among many others.

"Verrier was an exemplary leader, an architectural visionary, and an inspiring mentor. He made a profound difference in the architectural industry, in communities across New England, and in the lives of countless individuals," his obituary states. "A consummate

optimist, and engaging storyteller, Verrier will be remembered most as a devoted husband, loving father, and loyal friend."

Verrier is survived by his wife, three children and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, his family requests that people consider charitable contributions to the Boston Architectural College or ROCA.

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