By Paul Goldberger

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Avant Garde Modernist Will Alsop Dies

Known for his use of color and unorthodox forms, modernist British architect Will Alsop spearheaded such eye-catching projects as the Sharp Centre for Design at OCAD in Toronto and the Blizard Building at Queen Mary University of London—just to name a tiny handful of his buildings—could walk away without a doubt that he was an architect of his generation. His career is a testament to the idea that architecture—especially architecture in the UK—has always been an art form as much as a service.

Will, who died of cancer on May 8 at 70, was a master of Drama. From the Peckham Library in South London to the North Greenwich tube station, to the Sharp Centre for OCAD in Toronto or the Blizard Building at Queen Mary University of Technology and the Canterbury Shaker Village, everything he built was an act of imagination, a kind of play that not only enlivened the environment but also invigorated the design field. Will also did a lot of teaching and writing, including a memoir titled Will, which was published in 2008. His most recent book, The Future of Architecture: How Will Alsop Sees Us, was released in April. He was 70 years old.

Will has inspired generations and impacted many lives through his work,