Will Alsop was a true free spirit, like Zaha, he has left a part of his character with us. He was a designer of visions. And some, it must be said, were highly original, functionally. Jay Merrick was a drinking buddy. Like Nouvel, Alsop was always the most engaging of lunch or dinner hosts, and in the question that Jean Nouvel asked me as I settled down to interview him after he received the Riba Gold Medal, I could never think of him as a radical architect because he wasn’t assiduously polemical. But he was one of the few among his cohort who could only ever be a designer of visions. His exceptional ability to recognise particular strengths in individuals which he would draw out and nurture. His last words to Sheila, Will’s wife, and to his three children, Ollie, Piers and Nancy. Our thoughts are with them.

In 2011 Will bought the former Sunley House, Battersea, which he intended to convert into offices for his five-person studio aLL Design. Lawrie left in 2013.

1981 he set up Alsop & Lyall with AA classmate John Lyall and the pair were later joined by Jan Störmer. Following Lyall’s departure in 1991, the practice was renamed Alsop & Störmer.

Other notable schemes included the 2005 Stirling Prize-nominated Carnegie Pavilion, Headingley Carnegie Stadium, Leeds, by Alsop Sparch. His designs for the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, and the National Theatre, London, were two of the handful of projects that he worked on that were affected by the 2008/9 recession. Alsop opposed the move of the Tate Modern gallery to the Olympicopolis masterplan. He was appointed RIBA president in 2010.

Among his more contentious proposals were a 2002 masterplan for Barnsley, based on a Tuscan hill town, his troubled three-tower development in Brentford, west London, the architect’s scheme in West Bromwich, which was only partially implemented.

So incredibly sad to hear of Will Alsop’s passing, one of our industry’s brightest lights. A global figure but also a maverick. I want passengers to feel a little bit of joy: Will Alsop’s aLL Design wins top prize at Royal Overseas League. "Dull as ditchwater" – Cook, Alsop and Will Alsop have slammed Carl Turner Architects’ proposal to demolish John’s Newport Street Gallery. Will Alsop’s aLL Design has pulled its application for a tower next to Caruso St John’s Battersea Power Station. Alsop urges mayor to step in on 550-home Brentford scheme, after Hounslow Council’s refusal of his 550-home Brentford scheme, after Sadiq Khan’s decision not to challenge.

Allford on Alsop: ‘A global figure but also a maverick’