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December 22, 2018

AIA Newark & Suburban Architects

To all our members

Re: **Gerard F. Schaefer**
July 25, 1952 – November 17, 2018

I was not sure on how to say this but I decided to write a letter to members of the AIA, especially The AIA Newark & Suburban Section. A distinguished member of our organization passed away last month. Many of you have never met him. I know him well. Gerard Schaefer, Gerry was my friend. He was more than that, he was my mentor.

Gerry interviewed me and hired me for my first job after graduating from NJIT. Once hired, he began teaching. I was never an employee just drawing toilets and other repetitive, mundane low level work. Gerry taught me and made me do everything. Drafting, specifications, field work, even meeting with clients at an early age. Gerry was a very active member of our organization and made me join, almost immediately becoming an Associated Member. Gerry and his wife Joy published a quarterly newsletter called the "Rostrum". They did almost everything. Not only did they write most of the articles but they printed it in their own home and distributed copies to all members, never taking credit for doing so. I could not just be a member, he insisted I had to be active. Like many after me, I moved up from a Board of Director through the ranks to become President. I got involved with the Student organization at NJIT as a connection to Newark Suburban members because Gerry said I was the right person for the job. When NJIT decided on a Beaux Arts Ball as a fundraiser Gerry bought tickets for my wife and I to attend as we were raising young children on an Architects salary. He did this more than once.

The list goes on. When Herman Litwack grew old and had a hard time getting around it was Gerry who often picked him up at his West Orange apartment and drove him to our N & S meetings. There is nothing in this letter that is meant to be about me, it is about what Gerry did for me. As a member of our profession I hope to be a mentor to others as Gerry was to me.

God bless you Gerry.

Very truly yours,

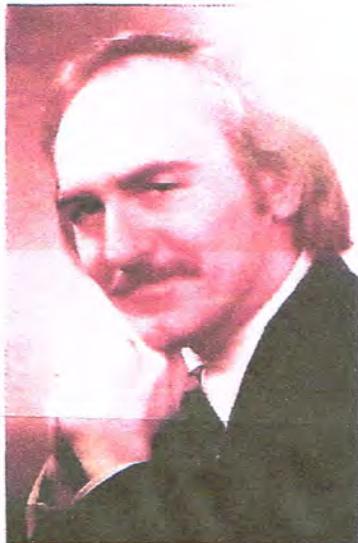
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter T. Ricci". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Peter T. Ricci, A.I.A.

*Provided by Louisville Memorial Gardens &
Funeral Home East*

Gerard F. Schaefer

July 25, 1932 ~ November 17, 2018 (age 86)



Gerard F. Schaefer, 86, of LaGrange, husband of Joy Stafford Schaefer, passed from the gravitational bounds of this earth to fly on November 17, 2018 at the Episcopal Church Home in Louisville.

He was born in New York, NY on July 25, 1932 the son of the late Henry & Ruth Buckley Schaefer. He was a graduate of Pratt University in New York where he received a degree in interior design and went on to architecture becoming a member of the AIA. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran.

Besides his wife he leaves to cherish his memory, children, Hannah Mudd (Chris), Kyle Blackwell (Becky), Brian Blackwell, and 3 grandchildren, Sydney Abigale "Abbey" Mudd, Althea Madison Mudd and Porter Martin Mudd.

His deteriorating body and mind that held him captive are no more and his spirit is set free. He taught much; turmoil, temper, selflessness, creativity, compassion, acceptance and love. He has been and will be missed.

Services

**SERVICES ARE TO BE
ANNOUNCED**