



Planning the Third Annual Film Event in Early 2021

The Connecticut Architecture Foundation film festival started with a grant and has evolved into a successful annual architectural event.

The Connecticut Architecture Foundation is planning the third annual film event in early 2021. The 2019 and 2020 events each featured a film on a revered and renowned Connecticut-based architect. The first film, "Kevin Roche: The Quiet Architect" detailed the life and work of Kevin Roche (6/14/1922 - 3/1/2019). The second film, "The World's Tallest Architect," featured the accomplishments of Cesar Pelli (9/12/1926-7/19/2019). Both Kevin Roche and Cesar Pelli received the coveted Pritzker Architecture Prize.

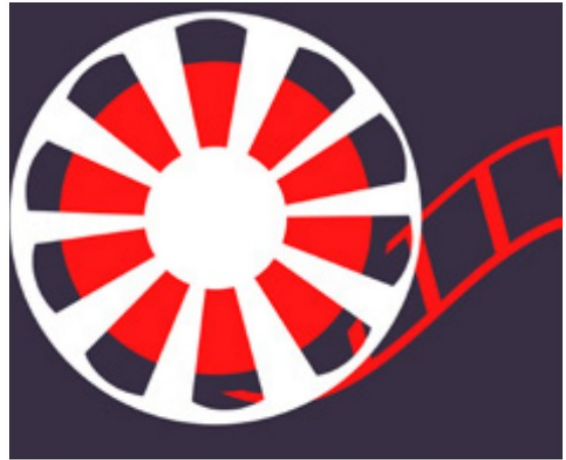
Long before either film event, the Connecticut Architecture Foundation in 2016 awarded a grant to John Flahive, of Wavelength Pictures, to produce the Kevin Roche documentary. Tom Haskell, then Foundation President requested that Mr. Flahive allow the Foundation to premiere the documentary when it was completed. This foresight laid the groundwork for the festival!

The first festival was held on January 25, 2019, at the Wesleyan Campus Ring Family Performing Arts Hall. The Hall is part of a group of buildings that make-up the Center for the Arts designed by Kevin Roche. The evening began with a reception at the campus Russell House. A crowded cocktail hour (a memory of past times) was peppered with anecdotal toasts and talks from colleagues and friends of Kevin Roche. The Kevin Roche documentary immediately followed the reception. Once gathered in the Ring Family Performing Arts Hall, the audience was delighted by remarks by Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen,

author of Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment. Signed, donated copies of Ms. Pelkonen's book were sold at the event as part of the fundraiser. The movie traced the life of Kevin Roche - personalizing the architect AND his work, including his dynamic presentations. In the film, Kevin's wife Jane Wryly noted that, at age 90, Kevin stopped working on Sundays. Through ticket and book sales and event sponsors, funds were successfully raised for Connecticut Architecture Foundation grants and student scholarships.

A year later on January 24, 2020, the second festival featured the Cesar Pelli documentary, "The World's Tallest Architect," produced and directed by Sebastian Neville. The event was held at the Golden Center, the beautiful Cesar Pelli-designed addition to the Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel at Yale. The Golden Center, built in 2006, provided the perfect event setting. The reception experience was heightened by the seamless ability to move from the reception in the atrium to the Lecture Hall for the movie.

Delicious food in a beautiful setting became the back drop for friends new and old to connect before the movie screening. Sarah Woodford, the Saint Thomas More Library Director and Celia Toche, a Senior Associate at Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects both spoke during the reception, each offering perspectives as a building user and as part of the project architecture team,



respectively. The Foundation's own Michael Crosbie, professor at University of Hartford's College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture and author of books about Cesar Pelli, also spoke. Following the film, Sebastian Neville concluded the evening by recounting his experience producing the documentary. Attendees could not help but leave the event uplifted and inspired.

Celebrating architecture and offering an evening of inspiration, these film events have successfully raised funds for the Connecticut Architecture Foundation grants and scholarships. They have brought us together....as architecture does! When we explore the events' origins, we see how a grant played a pivotal role! It is worth pausing to recognize the important role grant and scholarship funds can play in shaping outcomes.

Stay tuned and please plan to join us for the 2021 film event!

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