



CONNECTICUT ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

By Art Sanders, FAIA,

On April 28th the Connecticut Architecture Foundation hosted a celebration of the Jane and Kevin Roche Scholarship Fund at the Yale School of Architecture.

This celebration acknowledged the many months of discussion and formulation between the Roche family and CAF Board Past President Jay Brotman. The CAF mission is to raise awareness of and expectations for the built environment through educational effort, particularly by giving grants and scholarships. The addition of this fund will enable CAF to increase scholarship giving in the future thereby benefitting more students.

Current CAF President Stephanie Degen-Monroe began the evening by thanking the Roche family for their generous gift. All of Jane and Kevin's children, Eamon,

The Celebration of the Jane and Kevin Roche Scholarship Fund at the Yale School of Architecture



Paud, Denis, Anne and Alice attended along with many of their extended family.

The lecture program honoring the architectural legacy of Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates began with a film about Kevin's approach to architecture through model building. He placed importance on internal and external views in and about his designs. The film offered an inside view of the office through staff speaking about Kevin's pursuit of perfection.

Eamon then spoke about the term "scholarship" and its importance to both his mother and his father, a key factor in the family decision to move forward with this fund.



Noted architecture critic Cynthia Davidson, a friend of Kevin and Jane Roche, introduced her recorded interview of Yvonne Farrell and Shelly McNamara of Grafton Architects, Dublin, Ireland. Like Kevin Roche, a 1982 Laureate, they are the 2020 Laureates of the Pritzker Architecture Prize. Also, Farrell and McNamara held the Louis Kahn chair at Yale in 2011 and had the opportunity to meet the Roches. They provided a marvelous review of the powerful and poetic work of Kevin Roche with parallels to their own work.

Brennan Buck, Senior Critic at the Yale School of Architecture, provided insight into the Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates design of the Union Carbide Headquarters in Danbury, CT. The building, "buried" in the forest south of I-84 is not a building you see from the outside, but rather you experience views of nature from inside.

Following the speaking program, the attendees gathered in the gallery for a cocktail reception with delicious hors d'oeuvres. In honor of Kevin's Irish heritage, guests were offered a choice of two signature Irish drinks.



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