

## 2013 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

### **Alice Ross Carey**



Alice Ross Carey began her career in the 1970s, when, building on her experience as a carpenter, she established the country's first all-female contracting company. She entered the Master of Architecture program at the University of California, Berkeley in 1974 and after obtaining her degree, worked for local design firms including Esherick, Homsey, Dodge and Davis, one of the preeminent design firms associated with the Bay Region Style.

In 1983, Alice established Carey & Co., among the country's first woman-owned architectural practices specializing in historic preservation. In this highly competitive, then male-dominated profession, Alice Carey's firm was nonetheless a quick success. In 1991, Carey & Co. was selected to be the historic preservation architect for the rehabilitation of the buildings in San Francisco's Civic Center that were damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. Among these were the San Francisco City Hall and War Memorial Opera House. Notably, the Civic Center is designated a National Historic Landmark District, one of few in the country. Also in 1991, the firm was a member of the architectural team for the rehabilitation of the Oakland City Hall, another civic building damaged by the earthquake.

At Carey & Co., Alice pursued projects and clients that respected not only her commitment to historic preservation, but to adaptive use and keeping buildings actively occupied, not as mere monuments to the past. She led numerous rehabilitation projects throughout the State of California, extending the life of some of the state's most important historic buildings, including among others, the California State Capitol, the California State Library and Courts, Berkeley City Hall, Stanford University's Main Quad Buildings, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Marin County Civic Center. In the City of San Francisco, Alice's design expertise and vision for preservation revived, beautified, or benefited some of the city's

most recognized and treasured landmarks such as the Palace of Fine Arts, the Metropolitan Club, the Old Mint, Noe Valley Library, and structures in Golden Gate Park.

Alice's influence on the state's built environment cannot be measured in terms of numbers of buildings or projects alone. In addition to an unwavering commitment to preservation values to maintain the best of the communities in which she worked, Alice brought skill, style, spark, and wit to all she touched. Alice Carey died on July 27, 2013, at the age of 64. Her legacy endures.

Learn more about Alice Ross Carey and her work: <http://archives.ced.berkeley.edu/collections/carey-alice>