

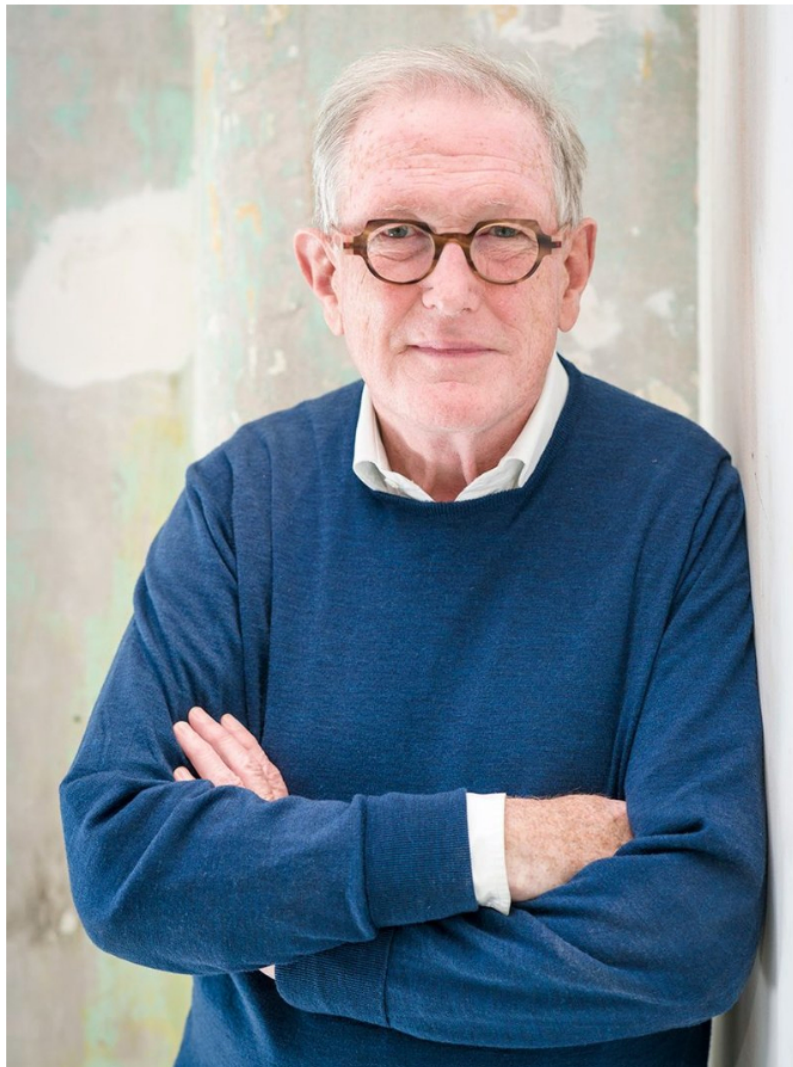
Culture  
Obituary

# Michael Squire (1946-2023)

4 August 2023

Words: Peter Murray

Entrepreneurial architect who nurtured and developed London's urban character with sympathetic modern buildings often in stone, concrete and brick



Michael Squire. Credit: Squire & Partners

At the northern end of Tower Bridge is the entrance to a visitor centre leading to the elevated walkways which look down on the bascules below. The small cabin of glass and steel is an early work by Michael Squire, completed in 1993. It encapsulates a design approach that would inform his practice as it grew to become one of the most significant contributors to London's changing face in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The centre sits comfortably against the iconic grade I structure. It fits in,

## Most popular

- 1 Leeds South Bank regeneration: river turned asset
- 2 Becca Thomas: Postcard from Ventnor, Isle of Wight
- 3 Crescent and correct: Acme's beachfront Folkestone housing
- 4 Medina House in Hove is new and old at the same time
- 5 Hollaway Studio's weathered steel extension complements 18th-century Kent house
- 6 Polymathic architecture graduates could be valuable skills pollinators
- 7 Why architects should take a closer look at the Low Value Disputes procedure
- 8 Fieldwork's brick ribbon extension wraps up a bigger, better family home

**FUTURE LEADERS 2023**

Essential training for early career architects

Starts 6 September

Book now

RIBA # Architecture.com

## Related



but there is no architectural conformity, no gothic detailing. 'We do modern buildings – not historical pastiche,' Michael would say.

Look to the east from Tower Bridge and you see Vogan's Mill, a 17-storey white residential tower. It looks like a newbuild but is in fact a retrofitted grain silo. Look west, and there is One Tower Bridge with its bricky, balconied, New London Vernacular vibe, an architecture that responds to the Foster glassiness of More London on one side and the Victorian warehouses of Butlers Wharf on the other. The skyline is pierced by a slim 20-storey tower emulating the serrated skyline of the chimneys and cranes of the old Port of London and its industrial past.

Squire's 1998 Brook House in Park Lane, designed as the practice recovered from its decimation in the recession of the early 90s, launched Michael Squire Associates into the world of high-quality residential at a time when London was becoming a honeypot for the international wealthy. The brick and stone building was an appropriately contextual addition to the eclectic streetscape of that urban motorway.



Tower Bridge visitor centre. Credit: Squire & Partners

Later works investigated the use of Portland stone or precast concrete to create an architecture that harked back to the stone and rendered terraces of 19<sup>th</sup> century London with a nod in the direction of Rafael Moneo's Murcia City Hall, a style that reached its apotheosis with buildings like the offices for Unison on Euston Road, Southbank Place and Chelsea Barracks. This 'white period' exhibits a deft handling of stone that feels totally at home in the heart of London yet also transferred successfully to the Middle East in the Msheireb development in Doha. At Chelsea Barracks, where Squire & Partners, together with Dixon Jones, was responsible for the masterplan and some of the buildings, Michael delivered a powerful piece of city that sits comfortably with its Cadogan and Grosvenor neighbours.

The practice has also carried out many refurbishments and retrofits over the years. One of the most spectacular is Space House on Kingsway, designed in the 1960s by Richard Seifert, thus bringing together the work of two architects who have had such a significant impact on central London. The project is due for completion later this year.

Architecture runs in the family. Michael's grandfather was JC Squire, the poet and editor who founded The Architecture Club in 1922 with the aim of enlarging 'the public appreciation of architecture'. His father, Raglan Squire, was one of the earliest global architects, jetting to jobs in the Far and Middle East. Michael's first job was with his father in Jakarta and Bahrain. Raglan also undertook private development, something which was frowned upon in those days by the RIBA.

Anthony Blee, 1935-2023, modernist architect and heritage consultant



Michael Hopkins (1935-2023)



Elain Harwood (1958-2023), English Heritage's best known public figure



Chelsea Barracks. Credit: Jack Hobhouse

Michael inherited his father's entrepreneurial gene, but by then the RIBA had softened its views on development. When the practice rebranded as Squire & Partners and moved from South Kensington to gritty King's Cross in 2001, he started a café next door to cater for staff as well as the general public. He developed three fine townhouses in Clapham, and moved into one himself.

The most recent office move in 2017 to Brixton was even more ambitious. Not only did the converted Department Store provide offices for the practice, it included retail and restaurant spaces as well as a shared office business. Michael was a proud *patron* of the rooftop Upstairs bar and dining space where he would host parties for the Architecture Club, of which he was a long-standing committee member and supporter.

Michael was proud to describe the firm as commercial – that it was profitable and well run. In spite of the unexpected suddenness of his death, a long-standing succession strategy was in place and the firm is now led by his son Henry, and fellow partners Tim Gledstone and Murray Levinson. He is survived by his wife Rosy and children Henry, George, Richard, Charles and Miranda.

*Peter Murray is co-founder of New London Architecture and a past master of the Architects' Company*

---

**Region:** [United Kingdom](#)

**More:** [Michael Squire, Tower Bridge, Architecture Club, Peter Murray, Squire and Partners, Profile](#)

**Share this article**



# RIBA tribute: Michael Squire (1946-2023)

RIBA President Simon Allford pays tribute to Squire & Partners founder Michael Squire.

10 May 2023

RIBA President **Simon Allford** said:

"I am very sad to learn of the passing of Michael Squire.

Michael came from a dynasty of architects, and after working with his father, Raglan Squire, on projects in Jakarta and Bahrain, he founded his own award-winning practice in the late 70s.

His work changed much of the fabric of modern London, with many award-winning buildings on challenging sites including Southbank's Shell Centre, One Tower Bridge, and the Chelsea Barracks master plan.

His own practice's awards include the 2018 RIBA National Award for The Department Store, described by judges as 'a stunning building which demonstrates exquisite and sensitive restoration, filled with beautiful material choice, attention to detail and wonderful spaces'. This building with its restaurant, bar, office and club has become a centre for architectural debate and celebration - which is entirely appropriate as Michael himself continued his family's long-standing engagement with architectural discussion, and in particular, the Architecture Club.

Michael was a highly valued member of the profession, sharing his fifty years plus of expertise in informal discussion - he was an engaging conversationalist and skilled listener - and more formally on many awards juries and appraisal panels. Michael studied architecture under the tutelage of Sir Leslie Martin and Sir Colin St John Wilson, and he himself became an inspiration to many of his peers as well as the next generation: most recently he served as a visiting critic at the London School of Architecture.

I shall always remember Michael as a thoughtful and generous man, who built a much-admired practice, then helped pass this practice on to the next generation. He was a fine architect who, with remarkable and admirable consistency, designed, and on occasion also developed, very fine architecture.

My thoughts are with his family and friends. He will be missed by them and all of us who knew him."

## Latest updates



## NEWS

## Tributes paid to Michael Squire

By Ben Flatman | 10 May 2023



### Industry peers pay tribute to the founder of Squire and Partners

Leading architects have been paying tribute to the life and work of Michael Squire, founding partner of Squire and Partners, who died on 4th May.

RIBA President Simon Allford said: "I am very sad to learn of the passing of Michael Squire.

"Michael came from a dynasty of architects, and after working with his father, Raglan Squire, on projects in Jakarta and Bahrain, he founded his own award-winning practice in the late 70s. His work changed much of the fabric of modern London, with many award-



Source: Squire and Partners  
Michael Squire

winning buildings on challenging sites including Southbank's Shell Centre, One Tower Bridge, and the Chelsea Barracks master plan.

"His own practice's awards include the 2018 RIBA National Award for The Department Store, described by judges as 'a stunning building which demonstrates exquisite and sensitive restoration, filled with beautiful material choice, attention to detail and wonderful spaces'.

"This building with its restaurant, bar, office and club has become a centre for architectural debate and celebration - which is entirely appropriate as Michael himself continued his family's long-standing engagement with architectural discussion, and in particular, the Architecture Club.

"Michael was a highly valued member of the profession, sharing his fifty years plus of expertise in informal discussion - he was an engaging conversationalist and skilled listener - and more formally on many awards juries and appraisal panels. Michael studied architecture under the tutelage of Sir Leslie Martin and Sir Colin St John Wilson, and he himself became an inspiration to many of his peers as well as the next generation: most recently he served as a visiting critic at the London School of Architecture.



Entries now open!

Most popular

Most commented



Michael Squire dies aged 77  
1



Green light for Piercy & Co's plans to demolish and rebuild 1960s office



We need rural housing that meets people's actual needs  
2



Fast and smart: Mixergy launches integrated heat pump cylinder



Past RIBA presidents and celebrities join calls to halt Liverpool Street station plans  
1



Norman Foster says he would "love to talk" to King Charles III about architecture  
1



Henning Larsen and Feilden & Mawson submit Cambridge life science plans

"I shall always remember Michael as a thoughtful and generous man, who built a much-admired practice, then helped pass this practice on to the next generation. He was a fine architect who, with remarkable and admirable consistency, designed, and on occasion also developed, very fine architecture.

"My thoughts are with his family and friends. He will be missed by them and all of us who knew him."

---

***We know we would never have built our own studios in Southwark but for the confidence gained in following his example***

---

Graham Morrison, Bob Allies and Jo Bacon of Allies and Morrison shared the following statement: "Michael was urbane, consistently elegant and always friendly - qualities that permeated his architecture and which subtly influenced his peers.

"Starting out, we loved the little white residential tower he built at Butlers Wharf. We know we would never have built our own studios in Southwark but for the confidence gained in following his example.

And, for a practice such as ours, following a few years behind, he was, without any hesitation, always generous and encouraging. Over the years, we lost count of the times we competed. We didn't always lose but, when we did, we couldn't have lost to a nicer rival."

Chris Dyson, principal and founder of Chris Dyson Architects said: "I recall receiving my first RIBA Part 1 job offer from Michael Squire after completing my BA at Oxford Polytechnic (now Brookes)... My enthusiasm had impressed him, if I recall correctly, as I was inadvertently offered a Part 2 salary!

"A call later came through and Michael suggested we meet again and after much generous conversation he suggested I apply for a practice like Richard Rogers where he thought my interests might better align... I applied but heard nothing!

"A few years later after time at the Mack in Glasgow, I obtained the job I had dreamed of at James Stirling and Michael Wilford's office - I had found my path! Only for that to be further modified by the premature death of James Stirling, at a younger age than Michael Squire.

---

***...leaders like Michael Squire leave the world in a better place both professionally and personally***

---

"Such is life and much like a good project we are required to use our imaginations, pull the levers of change and embrace the new.

"Michael's generosity seemed not to know bounds and I think this comes across in the practices work and ethos - something to learn from. His practice is now capably lead by the partners who have been associated with the successful recent projects of the office - Chelsea barracks and their own offices to name a couple.

"At the Architecture Club Michael would annually throw open the doors of the top floor of Squire and Partner's magnificent office. An annual event for a club his grandfather part founded and now a thriving organisation whose ambition is to further the consideration of good architecture among both the public and architects.

"The practice builds thoughtfully composed, high quality and extremely well detailed projects at all scales and will no doubt continue to flourish under the next generation that succeeds Michael.



**Downen Farmer bags planning for Lewisham infill scheme**



**In pictures: Haworth Tompkins and White Arkitekter complete Malmö theatre project**



**Birmingham's tall buildings policy is in danger of becoming a free-for-all**  
3

"A huge loss for us all. However, leaders like Michael Squire leave the world in a better place both professionally and personally, for which we should be very grateful.

"My thoughts go to Michael's family and the staff of Squire and Partners – he will be missed."

Postscript

"

Squire & Partners Squire and Partners UK



RELATED ARTICLES



News

### Michael Squire dies aged 77

9 May 2023

Squire & Partners founder died after short illness, practice says



News

### Squire & Partners increases height of tower scheme previously refused for being too tall

21 February 2023

Developer Berkeley seeking approval from Sadiq Khan for three towers in Paddington up to 39 storeys in height



News

### Squire & Partners reveals plans for £200m City block facelift

15 February 2023

Plans include outdoor workspace on every floor

LOAD MORE ARTICLES

NO COMMENTS YET

## Have your say

Tweets from @BDonline

Building Design



# In his own words... Michael Squire

By Liz Hamson



May 15, 2023

Share this: Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Email

BE News editor-in-chief Liz Hamson recently interviewed Squire & Partners founder Michael Squire, who passed away earlier this month, as part of a series of interviews with built environment industry legends. Speaking over Teams from the Squire & Partners office at The Department Store in Brixton, London, Squire gave his read of the current market, looked back at some of his career highlights and shared his hopes and aspirations for the firm's future.

Here are some of the highlights from the interview:

### On the start to 2023

We've probably had more new inquiries than we have for a very long time. That doesn't necessarily mean that they will convert into reality and fee-paying work, but I'm optimistic.

### Current focus

[Residential] is something that has led to quite a lot of our work over the past few years, but it is very much less than it was. We do a lot of less valuable work now, but lovely and interesting work I enjoy, on workspace. We built our own little building at the rear: it's built of CLT, it's very sustainable, it's very likeable. We run it ourselves and it's a very successful little building and we're doing quite a lot of those for people at the moment.

### Proudest achievement

A building that I am very proud of and I love, which I think has had a radical impact on where it is, is The Broadway, which is just completing. It is highly mixed development, with retail at the ground floor; three or four storeys of offices and then residential in towers that have amazing outlooks. It's a lovely building. It's got a sort of personality.

### The Squire & Partners ethos

What I always say, and I hang on to it as hard as I can, is that the projects we're interested in, we can't always choose, we've got a business to run, but what we want to do is projects where the client has a real commitment to delivering a quality product and a quality design.

We don't say every building we build must be a prima donna. We actually quite often feel the appropriate building for where we are should be quite sophisticated, quiet rather than noisy, but The Broadway is just a little bit noisy and I love it for that.

### Refurbishment vs demolition

You just can't have rules that say, I only want to refurbish every building, because some buildings have ceiling heights you can hardly stand up in. They're awful buildings, they don't work, they don't fit where they are and we should be bold enough to replace them. Equally, wherever I've had a situation where I've had to or wanted to keep something - like the building I'm in now [The Department Store in Brixton] - it has in the end resulted in something more special and unique. You wouldn't have designed something like this yourself if you were starting from new.

### Architectural style

Well, I love the use of interesting and original and quite striking materials. I don't like the word style, because it slightly implies that it's going to be short skirts this year and long skirts next year. Buildings have to be there for a very long time and my feeling is that they're all about how they're made, how they're detailed, what their materials are and how they are relevant to where they are. Kenneth Frampton talked about critical regionalism. It was the next step on from modernism. I believe a building has to have ingrained in it something of the history of the culture and the sense of the place. It's not really a style, and it's much harder work.

### The Department Store

We had a very disciplined approach to dealing with the building. We just said, we just peel away everything we can, and wherever we can, we just get back to what underlies it all. Then we had a rule that if we put anything new in it had to be black, copper or bronze. So when you look at the building, it's very calm, because there are not a lot of ideas. It's one approach. Everyone who comes here loves it.

## LATEST INSIGHTS

**In his own words... Michael Squire**

May 15, 2023 | Liz Hamson

[Read more](#)

**Modular still has a crucial role to play in building our way out of the housing crisis**

May 15, 2023

[Read more](#)

**Why occupier behavioural change is hampering the drive to net zero - and how gamification can help**

May 12, 2023

[Read more](#)

Advertisements

**BE AN ADVERTISER OR SPONSOR**

Find out more

[Click here](#)

**BE CONNECTED**

We offer a wide variety of business-critical content and networking services to suit every budget

[Read about our services](#)

**BE ALERT**

Now live! Register today to get our new daily newsletter, with all the latest news, views and analysis, delivered straight to your inbox - for FREE!

[Sign up now](#)

## BE SOCIAL





## Why Brixton?

It is a residential location (rather than an office one), but it is a very well-connected residential location. I had a client who said to me when we first came here: 'What are you doing in Brixton? That's not an office location at all.' I said to him: 'Go out of your office, turn right across Piccadilly, and you'll see this big round blue thing with a red stripe across it and that's called the underground. I know, you've never been on it before, but give it a try. Go down, get on the Victoria line and you'll be here in 20 minutes.' Anyway, he arrives and says to me: 'You lied to me, Michael.' I said: 'Well, OK, maybe it took you 25 minutes.' He responded: 'No, it didn't. It took me 12 and a half.' It's very accessible, but I don't know how many people have really come to appreciate that. And it's quite lively.

## Early favourites

Did we have a really special early project? One of our quite early ones, which still exists was the ticket office on Tower Bridge. It's quite a cool little building. We put a lot of love and effort into that. It was about 1979/80. Another was Vogans Mill, a group of warehouse buildings east of Tower Bridge. It was a very small footprint and quite tall. We had to rebuild it, but we rebuilt it exactly the same size. It's still a scheme I really love.

## Your darkest hour

My darkest time was 1989 to 90, when property just stopped. We had grown very quickly and triggered a lot of work. We'd become a practice of about 50 people, having gone from two of us. We thought we were flying, and this crash came along and it stopped. I think I went a year without getting a single new project. I personally had to sit there and make 25 people redundant on a single day, and they were friends. It was personal, it wasn't pleasant and it was a deep challenge, but we did it and we survived. I think an awful lot of people take those decisions too late.

## Growth aspirations

We're about 150. We had in our partners' agreement that we never wanted to be more than 120. We never wanted to become a factory. We are still kind of a family.

## Take on the planning system

It's an enormous subject. The fundamental issue is the democratic process, and I believe deeply in democracy. Anyone can see that it may be a seriously flawed system, but it's about the best one anybody's got. But when you get politicians who are, quite naturally and obviously, driven only to consider what the public might think of a particular proposal, that isn't necessarily going to be the right answer.

## Market outlook

I thought when we got out of Covid we would see a serious amount of development. Putin's war has slightly upset all of that. Long term, though, I'm optimistic, because I do believe there's an awful lot of money that wants to do stuff. Fundamentally, there are a lot of people who want to develop.

## Future of the business

I'm in every day. I work pretty serious hours. I love what I do. But, on the other hand, I appreciate the firm needs to move on. My son Henry, and fellow partners Tim and Murray have taken over most of the management of the architectural practice. Step by step, I will leave more for the others.



## PREVIOUS

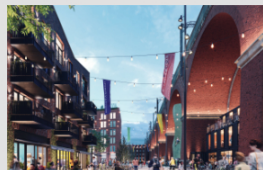
[Modular still has a crucial role to play in building our way out ...](#)

## RELATED STORIES



**Gateley Smithers Purslow opens new Cardiff office**

[Read more](#)



**English Cities Fund appointed to lead £250m transformation of Stockport**

[Read more](#)



**Leeds office take-up activity hit record high in Q1**

[Read more](#)



**Howard de Walden completes trio of Harley Street lettings**

[Read more](#)

## ABOUT BE NEWS

BE News is the only free-to-air online news service to cover the entire built environment industry. Produced by BE Content Solutions, its mission is to connect and inform the whole community – spanning commercial property, the residential sector, construction, architecture, planning and engineering – via one platform.



## EXPLORE

[Top Stories](#)

[Insight](#)

[BE Informed](#)

[BE Connected](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## OUR SERVICES

[Register for BE News](#)

[Register for newsletter](#)

[Events](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Charities](#)

## USEFUL LINKS

[Acceptable Use Policy](#)

[Cookie Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

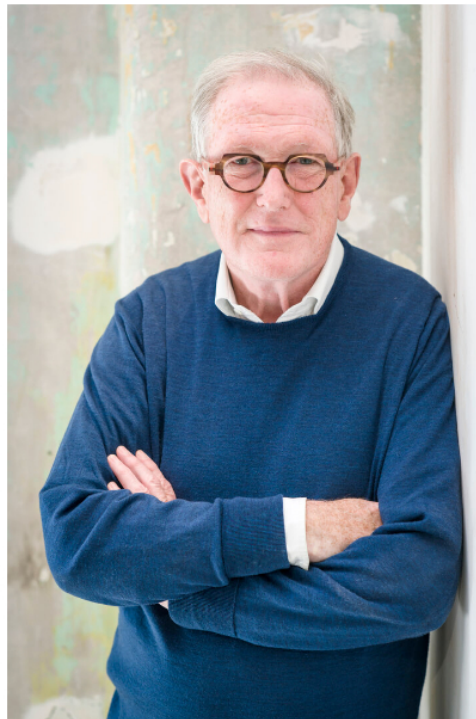


© BE NEWS 2022

WEBSITE DESIGNED & BUILT BY [WHITE LABEL](#)

# Squire & Partners founder Michael Squire dies aged 77

10 MAY 2023 • BY GINO SPOCCHIA



1/15 Squire & Partners' founder Michael Squire

Source: Squire and Partners

Michael Squire, the founder of London-based practice Squire & Partners and the architect behind many high-end projects across the capital, has died aged 77

His family said on Tuesday (9 May) that Squire passed away following a short illness, almost half a century after he co-founded his practice with Paul Harrison in 1976, as Michael Squire Associates.

Squire was born in 1946 and studied architecture at St John's college, Cambridge, before working with his father, architect Raglan Squire, in Jakarta and Bahrain. He then returned to the UK to establish his own company.

The firm is responsible for several major London schemes, including the redevelopment at One Tower Bridge (2017) and a masterplan for west London's Chelsea Barracks (ongoing).

ADVERTISEMENT



Other notable projects in the past 47 years include Unison's Euston Road headquarters (2011), a luxury residential scheme at Ebury Square (2014), and the retrofit of the Department Store in Brixton, south London, where the firm has been based since 2017.

Squire & Partners has won multiple design awards over the past five decades, including RIBA London and National Awards for the Department Store in 2018.

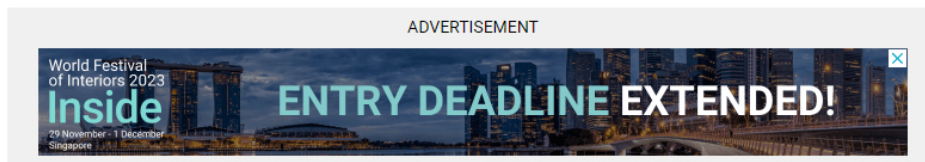


Source: James Jones  
Squire & Partners' Department Store

The Edwardian building, once home to a Bon Marché department store before later falling out of use, was retrofitted by Squire & Partners from 2015 to 2017. The practice has also built a reputation for interior design, having outfitted the Stratton Street offices in Mayfair, London.

Squire was a prominent figure in British architecture throughout his five-decade-long career. He was a notable presence at industry events at the RIBA, New London Architecture and Open City, and served as a jury chair for the RIBA Awards and as a member of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea's Architecture Appraisal Panel.

He also followed in his father's footsteps by participating in [The Architecture Club](#), founded by his grandfather, the poet John Squire.



Squire continued working until his death, reviewing designs on the practice's latest projects. The practice is now headed by his son Henry, and fellow partners Tim Gledstone and Murray Levinson.

In a statement, the practice said: 'We are all in shock and still absorbing the loss of an extraordinary man, who touched the lives of so many around the world through his work as an architect and his warm and generous personality.'





Source: Squire and Partners  
Squire & Partners' Chelsea Barracks

'His fearless entrepreneurial spirit led Squire & Partners from South Kensington to King's Cross and finally to the purchase of a dilapidated Edwardian department store in Brixton.'

The practice said the Brixton scheme 'set a new benchmark for adaptive reuse of old buildings and is a manifestation of Michael's generous and inclusive nature.'

His family described him as 'first and foremost a family man who loved nothing more than being surrounded by his wife and children, to whom he devoted so much love and time.'

'He also enjoyed sailing on the Solent and was an avid Chelsea fan. His youthful energy, love of life and mischievous humour will be hugely missed by all that knew him.'

Squire is survived by his wife of 45 years Rosy; his children Henry, George, Richard, Charles and Miranda; his first wife Pansy; his brother Roger and his seven grandchildren, Otilie, Felix, Oscar, Alfie, Isabel, James and Sienna.

## Tributes

### **Mike Stiff, founder of Stiff + Trevillion Architects**

Michael was, without doubt, one of the kindest and most supportive architects I have met. I got to know and love him as a fellow panellist on the original Kensington & Chelsea design panel, and our friendship developed as fellow committee members of The Architecture Club. I was not expecting this terrible news, and I am still in shock. Our profession has lost a great architect, a leader and a hero.

Farewell my friend

### **Phil Haddleton, principal at BentallGreenOak, the client behind the recently completed 78 St James's Street scheme**

As a team, we were always in awe of what Michael and his team had created at their Department Store in Brixton. It was an old building but was so ahead of its time in terms of what the workplace of the future could look like.

It was the leading inspiration for our [78 St James's Street scheme](#) and Michael was instrumental in creating and driving that vision forward. He had a particular gift for articulating his design concepts and persuading others to embrace his ideas. His presentations were always captivating and inspiring, and he was a master of selling the dream.

### **Brian Harris, EC Harris**

We all remember Michael for his exuberance and sense of fun. He lived life to the full and touched the lives of all those around him. His architectural practice, Squire & Partners, grew rapidly over the years since 1990 through his huge and persuasive personality, and with his design skills and a formidable group of partners behind him, the practice has had a truly significant impact on London, particularly the West End.

His buildings, of which there are very many, have so intelligently reinterpreted the language of London architecture, always making a welcome statement. His passing is indeed a loss to our industry, and to his many friends.

### **Paul Finch**

Michael was an urbane and witty man, a highly skilled architect in the high-end residential sector, and an imaginative creator of brilliant office space for the practice, translating from Kensington to Kings Cross and then more recently Brixton. We will miss his journey de vivre.

### **Peter Murray, NLA co-founder**

I heard the news of Michael's death soon after leaving a meeting of the Architecture Club Committee, a meeting Michael would normally have attended. The Club was founded by Michael's grandfather J C Squire, the poet and founder and editor of the London Mercury. Michael's father Raglan was the Secretary of the Club prior to WW2 and later became the first of the jet-setting global architects but fell

foul of the RIBA Disciplinary Committee when he undertook a bit of local development, which at the time was frowned upon. Michael had similar entrepreneurial instincts and the development of the firm's splendid current office in The Department Store at Brixton is testament to his commercial and architectural skills. But these days the Institute's position is rather different and the building received an RIBA Award.

Michael made a huge contribution to London's built environment over his career. His architecture was contemporary but contextual, the glass and stone facades of buildings like One Southbank Place, Clarges or Chelsea Barracks to me typified his approach and sit so comfortably with London's tradition of Portland stone and render. Michael was a generous, charming man, so full of life and enthusiasm that his unexpected death came as a particular shock.

#### **Simon Allford, RIBA president**

I am very sad to learn of the passing of Michael Squire.

Michael came from a dynasty of architects, and after working with his father, Raglan Squire, on projects in Jakarta and Bahrain, he founded his own award-winning practice in the late 70s.

His work changed much of the fabric of modern London, with many award-winning buildings on challenging sites including Southbank's Shell Centre, One Tower Bridge, and the Chelsea Barracks master plan.

His own practice's awards include the 2018 RIBA National Award for The Department Store, described by judges as 'a stunning building which demonstrates exquisite and sensitive restoration, filled with beautiful material choice, attention to detail and wonderful spaces'. This building with its restaurant, bar, office and club has become a centre for architectural debate and celebration - which is entirely appropriate as Michael himself continued his family's long-standing engagement with architectural discussion, and in particular, the Architecture Club.

Michael was a highly valued member of the profession, sharing his fifty years plus of expertise in informal discussion - he was an engaging conversationalist and skilled listener - and more formally on many awards juries and appraisal panels. Michael studied architecture under the tutelage of Sir Leslie Martin and Sir Colin St John Wilson, and he himself became an inspiration to many of his peers as well as the next generation: most recently he served as a visiting critic at the London School of Architecture.

I shall always remember Michael as a thoughtful and generous man, who built a much-admired practice, then helped pass this practice on to the next generation. He was a fine architect who, with remarkable and admirable consistency, designed, and on occasion also developed, very fine architecture.

My thoughts are with his family and friends. He will be missed by them and all of us who knew him.



Squire & Partners' Waverton scheme in Mayfair

COMMENT AND SHARE



TAGS