

## Arnall "Pat" Connell

Arnall T. "Pat" Connell (October 12, 1923 – June 13, 2018), retired Georgia Tech professor of Architecture, cofounder of Atlanta Landmarks, and a principal figure in saving the Fox Theater, has died at the age of 94.

Born in Temple, Georgia, and growing up in Atlanta, Mr. Connell graduated from Georgia Tech High School then enlisted in the Navy and trained to fly the Douglas SBD Dauntless. After World War Two he earned a Bachelor of Science in Architecture in 1953 and a Master of City Planning degree in 1955 from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

From 1957 to 1963, Connell was an Associate Professor of Urban Planning at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. While teaching at Ohio State, he also served as the Principal Planner for the Columbus City Planning Commission (1958-1961). Revival of Columbus' German Village was among his accomplishments during his tenure. Mr. Connell also taught at Columbia University in New York City, New York, and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. While in Washington D.C. he was on staff of the National Capital Planning Commission and worked on Mrs. Lyndon "Lady Bird" Johnson's project to beautify Washington D.C.

In 1967, Mr. Connell returned to Atlanta and became an Associate Professor of Architecture at Georgia Institute of Technology, teaching classes covering urban planning and renewal and historic preservation.

In the early 70s, Mr. Connell became a pioneering champion of historic preservation in the Atlanta area. When Mr. Connell was chairman of the Atlanta Civic Design Commission, Mr. Joe Patten, the unofficial caretaker of the Fox, contacted Mr. Connell about news that the Fox was scheduled for demolition. Together, they enlisted participation from Fox organist Bob Van Camp and other Fox enthusiasts and formed Atlanta Landmarks to save the Fox. This small group of forward thinking politicians, civic leaders and celebrities founded the "Save the Fox" movement. Within four years, after major donations and support from some of the most prominent Atlanta citizens, the Atlanta's Fox Theatre was saved from demolition. His other accomplishments include being instrumental in preserving the Pasaquan site in Buena Vista, GA, Castleberry Heights, and the Sweet Auburn neighborhood revitalization.

After retirement, Mr. Connell and his late wife Martha, cofounded the Great American Gallery, and then The Connell Gallery. Together, they provided Atlanta a premier art space with a unique vision, promoting some of the finest artists in contemporary crafts and fine arts objects. Many of the works that they curated now reside in leading museums and private collections all over the U.S.

As a Georgia Tech professor of Architecture, chairman of the Atlanta Civic Design Commission, and founding member of Atlanta Landmarks, Mr. Connell has left an indelible mark throughout Atlanta and Georgia.



He is survived by his three sons, Timothy, John, and Thomas Connell, two granddaughters, Kendra Russell and Kate Connell, and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will take place at H. M. Patterson & Son-Spring Hill Chapel on June 23 at 11 A.M. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

The above account was drawn from an [obituary published](#) in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, June 17, 2018.