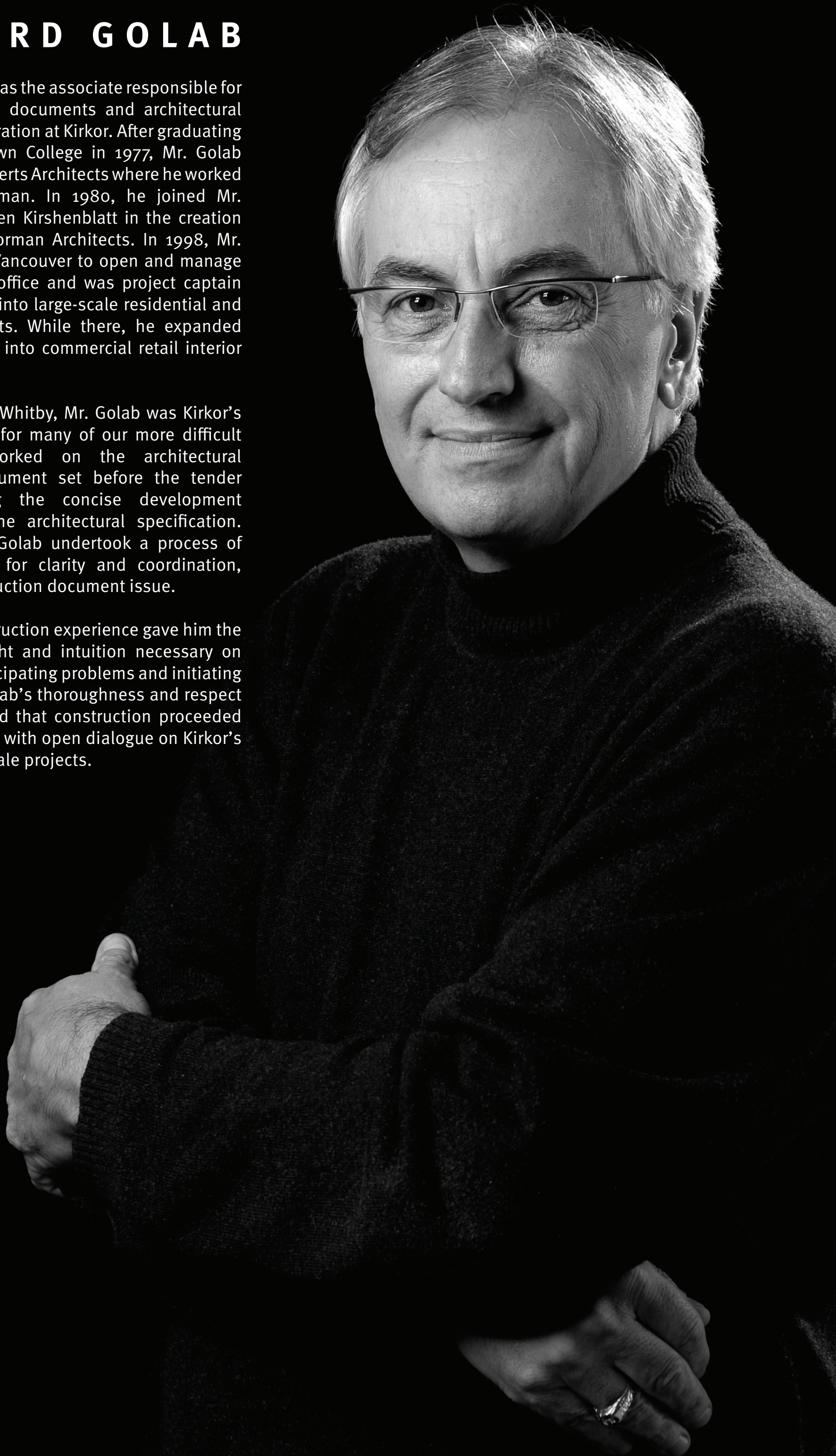


# RICHARD GOLAB

**Richard Golab** was the associate responsible for final construction documents and architectural contract administration at Kirkor. After graduating from George Brown College in 1977, Mr. Golab joined Zeidler Roberts Architects where he worked with Clifford Korman. In 1980, he joined Mr. Korman and Steven Kirshenblatt in the creation of Kirshenblatt Korman Architects. In 1998, Mr. Golab moved to Vancouver to open and manage Kirkor's satellite office and was project captain for Kirkor's move into large-scale residential and mixed-use projects. While there, he expanded Kirkor's expertise into commercial retail interior design.

Working with Mr. Whitby, Mr. Golab was Kirkor's on-site presence for many of our more difficult projects. He worked on the architectural construction document set before the tender period, ensuring the concise development and review of the architectural specification. Importantly, Mr. Golab undertook a process of continual review for clarity and coordination, through to construction document issue.

His years of construction experience gave him the seasoned foresight and intuition necessary on each project, anticipating problems and initiating solutions. Mr. Golab's thoroughness and respect for others ensured that construction proceeded without delay and with open dialogue on Kirkor's complex, large-scale projects.



**RICHARD GOLAB**

Dec. 3, 1957 - July 27, 2011

**My name is Steven Kirshenblatt.** Cliff Korman and I are the founding and senior partners of Kirkor Architects & Planners. On behalf of all the partners and staff at Kirkor, I would like to offer a few words to speak about Richard's long involvement with our firm.

Cliff and I started the company in 1981. Cliff met Richard five years earlier while interning at Zeidler Architects in Toronto. Cliff has prepared his own words that describe his feelings and gratitude for their long relationship that I will read after mine.

Cliff and I started with a handful of employees but were able to offer a style and expertise that soon brought us much work. Architecture, unlike art, has two distinct sides. Like art there is the creative design side and unlike art there is the technical and engineering side. Richard was the first of our employees that allowed us to provide great design with buildable technically correct expertise. That combination led to much success through the eighties.

Somewhere around 1988, Richard got an itch that took him to the Bahamas. It was an opportunity to enjoy the sun and sand and yachts. As the world economy declined in the early nineties, Richard was asked to leave the Bahamas and returned to Toronto. That period was also tough for Cliff and me. We were forced to downsize but when Richard expressed a desire to return to our firm, we knew we couldn't pass up the opportunity.

The economy slowly picked up and an opportunity to do work in Vancouver presented itself. We started work on two of our largest commissions, International Village and the Henderson Centre. Our client asked us to set up an office in Vancouver to help them through construction. Richard was our go to guy. He accepted the challenge and relocated to Vancouver for five years. He ran a small office for us and saw a number of projects built. Cliff and I put our faith in Richard to act professionally and to protect us and our client from much liability. He performed admirably. Richard had a style and way of instilling confidence in himself and Kirkor. He was excellent at managing general contractors who are a tough group to handle. He knew when to be tough and when to be their buddies. I was always impressed at the way he conducted himself at construction meetings.

With much of our work built in Vancouver, it was time for Richard to come home to Toronto. The Toronto development scene continued to grow through the 2000's. Our firm was responsible for tens of thousands of condo units. Richard as senior associate in the firm was on top of most of it. The last great project that bears Richard's stamp is the Toronto International Film Festival and Tower. The project is a 45 storey residential tower on top of a 6 storey podium housing the film festivals offices and five film theatres. The building is a landmark in Toronto's downtown core. Richard managed the production of construction documents and the construction phase. The gala opening was fantastic. I remember Richard beaming ear to ear as he proudly showed off his baby. He had much to be proud about.

Kirkor has continued to grow from these successes. The firm is much in demand. Richard had a big role in this accomplishment. It was very hard on all of us to see such a strong man get sicker and weaker from his illness. We prayed for his liver transplant to come. His passing has been difficult for all of us. We are sad to recall the passing of our late partner Mario and our devoted associate Marty. They together with Richard have left a continuing legacy that is so much stronger by their contributions. They are part of our family and will always be missed.



**My partner Cliff Korman has sent some words from his trip to Israel.**

**I would like to share his touching words:**

Richard and I first met at The Zeidler Partnership Architects office in the summer of 1976. It was our first jobs out of school. I was a junior design architect and Richard was a junior draftsman. We were assigned to the hospital division under Ed Phelp the project architect with Tony Di Silva as the project technologist. It was Tony who taught Richard his great drafting skills and how to put a building together. The three of them were assigned to ensure that what I was designing at the time, the Saint John Regional Hospital power plant, could actually be built. It was here side by side we formed a bond of professional kinship and personal friendship.

Over the next four years as the firm let me do larger and more interesting projects, it was always Richard whom I requested to detail them for me and make me look like I knew how to build a building and set up a package of drawings from design concept right through to construction documents. You have to remember, we drew soft pencil on Vellum paper in those days. Each sheet was a work of art in a way and took over 30 days to complete. Mr. Zeidler always said it only took 15 days maximum, which meant you had to work 15 hour days at the same pay with no overtime pay to complete the work on time and on budget. Richard and I spent many hours together. Around this time, a freelance senior draftsman joined our team, Jack McCloud, another fine friend of Richard and myself.

The boys always knew that I was planning to someday open my own firm, and when in 1981 this finally happened, Richard was the first man I asked to join the new firm I formed with Steven, Kirshenblatt Korman Architects. The first project he drew with us was 40 Eglinton Ave East, our first high rise. Since it's still standing today, I guess you could say we did well together. Richard learned his specification writing skills from another Zeidler staff member, Tosh Yamamoto, one of the best ever. As our firm grew, so did Richards skills and contributions to the firm. Christmas parties and summer BBQ's were his specialties. He was our man in Vancouver for the Henderson era, 1995 to 2003.

Richard was a private man, and though we knew each other for so many years, he never let us very far into his personal life. For this I am truly saddened, maybe if he had, we his friends here at his Kirkor family could have helped him more and maybe averted this tragedy. It is with a heavy heart that I am over in Israel at this moment and will miss his funeral, but I will say a special prayer here in the holy land, the centre of all religions, for my good friend, Richard, a kind soul and a gentle person, who never hurt or was a burden to anyone. He honoured his family at the time of their death, and we honour him today. God bless you my friend, the friend of Marty and Mario, those of Kirkor whom we have loved and sadly have gone before you. You will be missed.



**Shazad Mohammed adds the following:**

Over the years knowing Richard, one fond memory stands out, he always shared recipes with me. He knew I loved to cook and he would always call me up to share a recipe on making the perfect steak, salmon, roasted chicken, grilled vegetables, rack of lamb, these are just a few favourite things he liked to cook.

**Richard's Grilled Steak Recipe**

1" strip loin

Over high heat 400 degrees

4 minutes per side

Turn only once for perfect grill marks.

Let rest for one minute.

Salt and pepper to taste

**Another of our partners, Simon Ko, remembers Richard fondly with the following thoughts:**

I had the honour of getting to know Richard at Kirkor after he moved back to Toronto from Vancouver. In my mind, he is always a great guy to talk to on whatever topic you have in mind. He always listens and he always makes time for you. We had long discussions on architectural details in projects like Arc and Hullmark Centre, and Richard always tries to find better solutions for new-found problems. With his great wealth of knowledge in the architectural business, he is the one who can be counted to deliver a well-built building, and he has many to prove it. We are also an odd couple who drive the same car for over four years and we are proud to park our cars shoulder to shoulder, rain or shine (although his is always clean and shiny). We shared a great passion for cars as he has wonderful taste and sense for all good things in life. On the afternoon of the very day he passed away, I accidentally met Richard in the showroom of Downtown Porsche dealership. He was taking his time to stroll through the entire showroom enjoying every new car they offered. We sat on the sofa and chatted for 20 minutes about his optimism for his health, and as usual, he updates me on all the new models of Porsche, as if he knew them all so well. I was overcome with shock the next morning to find out he slipped away so suddenly and I regretted not having talked to him more the day before. But at least I knew he enjoyed his last day at the Porsche dealership savouring his passion. I knew he was happy. Richard, if there are cars in heaven, I think I know which model you will pick as your ride. And I am sure it will be super clean. Miss you.

Simon