In the fall of 1984 we published Volume 6, Number 1 of Places, on “The Future of Urban Open Spaces.” It was the first issue of the magazine published under the direction of James Falson — a fine issue, sparkling with a new cover design, a revised layout, and reinvigorated content. At the time, Jim made the creation of Places possible not only through his wisdom and experience in publishing and through the contributions of staff from his design office, Fulson & Partners, and from ID magazine, but through the adoption of our goals as a mission for the Design History Foundation, which he chaired.

It has been a splendid period in the life of this journal, and we have all gained enormously from his steady vision and graceful, generous administration. As a friend and colleague he was incomparable — steady, always positive, always attentive, calm and directed. Working with Jim also brought us to Pratt Institute, and the development of an enduring relationship with that fine institution. For nearly thirty-five years Jim served on Pratt’s Board of Trustees, many of them as Chair. He was recently honored with its renowned Reed Kostellow award.

Some time ago, Jim turned the active role of publisher of Places over to others, but he continued to lead the Design History Foundation. In that role, he formed the spine of our organization, providing support, encouragement, and decisive guidance whenever we needed him . . . which was often. It is with utter grief that we must now report his passing. He died April 29, 2004, in Charleston, RI, in the house that he built so that he and his wife, Priscilla Lambert, could live by the shore.

We dedicate the journal to his vision, and to the memory of his grace.