



Mark Gorell

Architect, Environmentalist and Teacher
Ecology Centre, Berkeley
C.A. USA

Architect Mark Gorrell transitioned out of this life just before sunset on April 6, 2011. In the summer of 2010 he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of lung cancer and was told he had about two weeks to live. But chemotherapy and radiation gave us months of extra time with him. He even taught his design classes at the College of Marin in the fall semester. His illness didn't cause him pain, he said, and when he died he was surrounded by family and friends.

Mark was a born conserver and was an early board member of the Northern California Recycling Association. His first design for a zero-waste transfer station was published in SIERRA magazine in 1982, illustrating an article called "Mining the Urban Ore" about Berkeley's recyclers' dream of conserving discarded resources rather than burning them. Since then he designed more than two dozen other zero-waste facilities for locations in the US and several other countries. He and his illustrator wife Nancy Gorrell turned ideas into images for local, national, and international anti-incineration and zero-waste activists and events. He was on the board of the Berkeley Ecology Center so long that the board elected him Emperor for Life.

He had many other interests and accomplishments, as shown in this Berkeley City Council resolution proclaiming January 25, 2011, to be Mark Gorrell Day. He helped structure our thinking about zero waste and environmental justice, didn't speak ill of anyone, made jokes and bad puns as often as possible, and generally brought mischief, delight, and integrity to our lives.