

PROFESSOR KEITH CRITCHLOW

16th March 1933 – 8th April 2020

May we be guided by Truth
-May we have Beauty revealed to us
& May it result in good.

Pythagorean invocation by Professor Critchlow



Keith Critchlow, who passed away on 8th April, the night of the special Paschal moon, was, with Brian Keeble, Kathleen Raine and Phillip Sherrard, a founder, in 1981, of the review *Temenos*, out of which grew, in 1991, the Temenos Academy.

In a filmed interview made in 2018, *The Art of the Ever-True*, which may be viewed on the Academy's website, Keith described himself as a 'pattern seeker' not a 'geometer', which he referred to as 'a very particular mathematical discipline'. He was also an architect, artist, scholar, and a renowned visionary teacher. His virtuosic lectures, Keith standing between two screens – showing a dazzling flow of images of Nature, sculpture, paintings, geometrical designs, quotations from Plato to Chief Seattle – could transform people's lives, re-awakening their sense of wonder in Creation.

Temenos was just one small part of a richly creative life. Keith Critchlow was educated at Summerhill School, St Martin's School of Art and the Royal College of Art. In 1984 he founded,

with Paul Marchant, the Visual Islamic Arts Studio in the RCA Painting School, which developed into the Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts (VITA) department; it later moved to The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, with Keith as Professor and Head of Research, and is now incorporated in The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts, in Shoreditch, London. The many beautiful buildings Keith designed as architect include the Krishnamurti Centre, Brockwood Park, Hampshire and the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences in Puttaparthi, India. Another important project was the charity KAIROS, which organised visits to sacred sites such as Chartres Cathedral and published a newsletter, full of Keith's ideas and research, and worksheets of practical geometry.

Keith was among the speakers at the Temenos Conferences 'Art and the Renewal of the Sacred' (1986) and 'Art in the Service of the Sacred' (1988) held at Dartington Hall in Devon. Between 1991 and 2014 Keith gave 22 lectures to the Temenos Academy. He was an authority on Chartres Cathedral, on which he lectured three times at Temenos, once with the Academy's Patron HRH The Prince of Wales in the audience. In 2009 he gave the lecture 'Envelopes of Being: a Comparative Study' in memory of his friend Martin Lings.

Keith Critchlow's publications include *Order in Space* (1969), *Islamic Patterns* (1976), *Time Stands Still* (1979), *The Hidden Geometry of Flowers* (2011) and *Golden Meaning* (2014).

While Keith's legacy will last in his research and his books, his greatest gift to us was to inspire thousands of people all over the world, in numerous endeavours, through his brilliant teaching – not least those who follow in his footsteps as teachers themselves.

Keith Critchlow was President, and later President Emeritus, of the Temenos Academy; he was a Fellow, served for a time on its Academic Board and its Council. All of those involved in Temenos looked up to him as a source of great inspiration; he was always generous with his time, kind and open to all.

We offer our condolences and blessings to his wife Gail, their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.





Photographs taken on location of Professor Critchlow's last film, *The Art of the Ever-True*, courtesy of Daniel Docherty, SAOG Studios, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5JX (www.sacredartofgeometry.com)
