Artist, Designer Cooper Dies

Cooper, from Page 1

ton, head of the Program in Media Arts and Sciences who has worked closely with her over the years. "As a founding member of the Media Laboratory, she was a voice concentric in shaping our evolution. After 15 years of leadership in graphic design, she was just reaching the fullest expression of her computational design genius," he said.

Professor Nicholas P. Negroponte, director of the Media Laboratory, said, "We've lost the leader of the most revolutionary thought about graphics and computers. All of us at the Media Lab and elsewhere, who learned so much from Muriel, are now tasked to carry on the concepts forward without her, which will be very difficult but very likely, given the large number of creative minds she spawned in her teaching, her research and her very being."

Teaching and research at the Visible Language Workshop, established in 1973, focuses on how computers can enhance the graphic communication process and, inversely, how high-quality graphics can improve computer information systems.

"When you start talking about design in relation to computers," she said in a recent interview, "you're not just talking about how information appears on the screen, you're talking about how it's designed into the architecture of the machine, and of the language. You have different capabilities, different constraints and variables than you have in any other medium, and nobody even knows they are yet."

Cooper came to MIT in 1952 as director of the Institute's newly-organized Office of Publications, now known as Design Services. After leaving MIT in 1958 to take a Fulbright Scholarship in Milan, she returned to Boston and ran her own graphics studio for several years, with the MIT Press among her clients. During that time, she designed the world-famous logo for the MIT Press. In 1967, she joined the MIT Press as its first art director and became widely recognized for her innovations in book design. Her work in print includes over 500 books, more than 100 of which have been awarded recognition in various competitions. Her best known book was the flaunting volume.

After seven years at the MIT Press, she started teaching a subject at MIT, called Messages & Means, which looked at graphics in relation to technology. The course was co-taught with Ronald L. MacNeil, now a principal research associate in the Media Lab. She became an assistant professor in the Department of Architecture in 1977, the first graphics designer appointed to the faculty. She was promoted to associate professor in 1981 and professor in 1988.

Cooper received a BS degree in education from Ohio State University in 1944, and both the BFA in design and BS in education from the Massachusetts College of Art, in 1948 and 1951.

In 1992, she was the first recipient of the Robert P. Germin Design Excellence Award given to a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art. She is survived by two sisters, Helene Jackson of Boston and New York City, and Charlotte Lopoten of Philadelphia.

A funeral service will be held at the MIT Chapel Sunday at 12 p.m. A memorial service will be held at MIT on a date to be announced.

Aga Khan to Address Seniors

Commencement, from Page 1

Vest will present diplomas to about 30 graduating cadets and midshipmen in MIT's Army, Air Force, and Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps units will be commissioned alongside the historic frigate USS Constitution at 4:30 p.m. The address will be delivered by Air Force Secretary Sheila E. Widnall '80, who was formerly an associate professor of aeronautics and astronautics. She became an assistant professor in 1981 and professor in 1988.

In announcing the selection of the Aga Khan as Commencement speaker, Vest said, "His commitment to using modern resources for the betterment of his people, and his deep concern for their welfare, make him a fitting role model for those whose own careers will have similar potential."

The Aga Khan, a direct descendant of the Muslim prophet Mohammed, became 49th Imam (spiritual leader) of the Ismailis in 1957 at the age of 20, a year before his great-grandfather, Sir Sultan Husain Aga Khan III, who wanted to be succeeded by a "young man who has been brought up in the midst of the new age."

In 1979, with an initial gift of more than $11.5 million, he established the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT and Harvard, a major cultural effort to preserve and restore the values and practice of architecture that reflects the Islamic spirit. The joint program embraces research and teaching in architecture of the Islamic world and links both MIT and Harvard with universities in the Muslim world.

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Campus Police between April 22 and May 12:

April 22: Baker House, $20 stolen.
April 24: Bldg. 11, suspicious activity; Du Pont gym, back pack and contents stolen, $29.
April 26: Kappa Sigma, student problem; Bldg. E19, cash stolen, $500; Ashdown House, vandalism; Memorial Drive, Campus Police assist State Police with a child abandoned in a car for an extended period of time; Tang Hall, student problem; Senior House, domestic abuse.
April 26: Bldg. W11, contractor's equipment stolen, $400; Bldg. 26, suspicious activity; Bldg. 4, suspicious activity.
April 27: West Garage, 1) vandalism to a Toyota, 2) SAAB broken into and change taken; Bldg. E51, suspicious activity.
April 28: Bldg. 3, coins stolen, $30.
May 1: Bldg. 2, suspicious activity; Tang Hall, taxi fare evasion.
May 2: Bldg. E53, student problem; Bldg. 64, student problem; Student Center, larceny of food; Bldg. 33, bicycle stolen from rack, $430.
May 3: Bldg. 3, student problem; Bldg. NW/22, oak shelving stolen, $3,000.
May 4: Bldg. 10, computer stolen, $2,800; Bldg. E52, placa, bicycle stolen, $300.
May 5: Bldg. 18, radio stolen, $30; Bldg. E51, electronic mail harassment.
May 6: Bldg. 3, 20 containers of tennis balls stolen, $80; Bldg. 7, graffiti.
May 8: Burton House, bicycle stolen, $210; Westgate, suspicious activity; East Campus, vandalism; Bldg. 2, malicious destruction.
May 9: Westgate lot, malicious damage to a car; Student Center, trailer stolen, $500; Du Pont men's lockerroom, wallet stolen, $10.
May 10: Bldg. E56, vandalism; Bldg. E51, bicycle stolen from plaza rack, $375; Bldg. 54, wallet stolen, $80.
May 12: Bldg. E52, noise arrested for trespassing; Bldg. 14, suspicious activity; Senior House, graffiti; Bldg. 36, cash stolen, $70; West Garage, malicious damage to a car; Student Center, wallet stolen, $70; Bldg. 11, watch stolen, $30; Burton House, bicycle stolen, $300; Bldg. E52 bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, $170; ATO, camera bag stolen, $300; West Garage, radio removed from VW, $250.

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