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Peter Niiler was a colleague, mentor, and true friend. Peter often told me, when choosing the direction of one's life, it is most important to do interesting things and not worry about success, as that will follow naturally. Clearly, Peter followed his own advice, which led to his success in so many of the interesting things he did.

I worked closely with Peter for over 20 years as an engineer, helping in a small way, to craft his novel ideas into reality. While other colleagues can speak to Peter's contributions to science, I was most familiar with his joy of building. His joy in these endeavors was obvious, as he liked to call our lab, "Santa's Workshop." I wish I could show everyone the numerous hand-drawn schematics Peter used to illustrate his ideas. I believe that putting pen to paper to document his creations was one of the true joys in his life. I know Peter was involved in many projects, but when we worked together it seemed the matter at hand was the only thing he cared about. His focus was inspiring.

While I knew Peter, he built three beautiful homes and their design reveals much of who Peter was. Peter was practical. None of his homes included large staircases or large garages. He considered them a waste of space. Peter loved people. Most of the space in his homes was designed to allow him and Nancy to enjoy the company of family and friends. Peter loved the experience of the arts. Each of his homes emphasized not the vanity of artistic display one experiences while driving by, but allowed those inside a peek at what he himself enjoyed about what others created. Two of the homes included a dance studio. There were always many places to sit and enjoy a painting, the garden, a sculpture, or the company of the many dancers, choreographers, and guests he and Nancy invited into their home. The time I spent observing and working with Peter in his building efforts and admiring the finished products together will be remembered with great joy.