



Hazaros Tabakoğlu
1954–1991

Founder of the
Hazaros Tabakoğlu Scholarship Fund in
The New York Community Trust
909 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Hazaros Tabakoğlu was gregarious and self-motivated, with a keen sense of humor. Known to family and friends as Gaser, he loved to live well, and his uncanny sense of what was in style led to his ultimate success in the field of interior design.

The youngest of three children, Gaser was born in Istanbul, Turkey, but spent most of his life away from home. As a young boy, he was schooled at the Collegio Armeno in Venice and then studied in England before completing high school in New Jersey. By then he was fluent in Armenian, Turkish, Italian, English, and French.

Following his move to New York in 1979, he opened in succession a cheese shop, an ice cream parlor, and a restaurant, La Crémérie, much admired for its attractive decor. It was here that Gaser met the well-known interior designer, Renzo Mongiardino, who recognized Gaser's talent and hired him as his assistant.

In the succeeding years, Gaser honed his craft and in 1989, he created his most celebrated interior. Drawing on his heritage, he transformed the tearoom of the Carlyle Hotel into a magnificent setting inspired by Istanbul's famed Topkapi Palace.

"Brick House," his weekend home in the Hudson Valley, reflected Gaser's warmth and vibrancy. The rooms were filled with bold colors—deep blue, apple green, and bright yellow.

Gaser was very thoughtful and generous to his family and friends. When he wrote his will at the age of 27, he left his estate to benefit young Armenians seeking assistance with higher education. His life ended prematurely, only nine years later, in 1991 after a period of remarkable professional success.

The first Hazaros Tabakoğlu scholarships were awarded in 1996.

*The New York Community Trust
is a community foundation
which provides centralized management
for charitable funds.
The Hazaros Tabakoğlu Scholarship Fund
is managed by
Community Funds, Inc.,
the corporate affiliate of
The New York Community Trust.*

