

## Kenneth Rodrigues I and II drawn to racing and pursuit of excellence



Some people lead, some follow. For Kenneth Rodrigues of the architectural firm, Kenneth Rodrigues & Partners, Inc., it has always been about leading. When Rodrigues graduated from high school, the last thing on his mind was following the tried-and-true path to college and a business career.

“What I wanted more than anything else was to be a race car driver,” Rodrigues said. “But I didn’t have enough money to pay my way through driving school, and my mom wouldn’t help — so I enrolled in West Valley College, and later went on to Cal Poly–San Luis Obispo, graduating with a degree in architecture in 1976.”

That gave the Silicon Valley one of its leading architects, whose stunning designs for the firm he founded in 1984 often blend modern and historical elements in unique forms of expression for his commercial and occasional custom residential clients.



Like Father, Like Son

### Professional racing career

Rodrigues’ mom’s victory in steering her son into college instead of onto the racing circuit was important — but short lived. By the early 1980s, Rodrigues was hard at work in his new architecture profession — and had also returned to his first love and become a professional driver. His wife, Deborah, enrolled him in the driving school he had his heart set on as a teenager, and once he completed the course, he began racing on several professional circuits.

Rodrigues raced in a Formula Ford in the North American Pro Formula Ford Challenge, and then moved up to the even faster Formula Atlantic Toyota Series from 1985 to 1991. Over more than a decade, Rodrigues had six wins, captured seven poles, regularly finished on the podium, and was series champion twice — with a number of other Top 5 points finishes at tracks across the U.S. and Canada.

### Still on track

Today, Rodrigues continues to race — driving restored Formula cars in races for historic cars at tracks such as Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, and his treasured 1976 Porsche 934 — one of only 31 Porsche 934s built that year — in races such as the Monterey Historics, held each August. His architectural firm also continues to set the pace in Silicon Valley’s commercial arena from its Mountain View headquarters.

Over the years, Rodrigues has amassed a large collection of top-end cars — mostly restored Porsches built between 1965 and 1986 in addition to his historic race cars. Rodrigues stores some of the cars at home, some at his office, and a few of his race cars at a race prep shop at Sears Point Raceway — but he needed additional secure, high-quality storage space. The solution was Borelli Motor Sports at Club Auto Sport.

“I chose Borelli Motor Sports for the opportunity to become a part of the unique club environment,” explained Rodrigues. “For storage, the facility is second to none. Very professional. Absolutely secure. First class all the way — which is how I like to do things. I also value Borelli Motor Sports’ chief mechanic, Scott Riechers, for his ability and experience working on finely tuned machines like my Porsches.”

### “Encore” performance

You would be excused for being a little confused if you wondered about seeing the name Kenneth Rodrigues on the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) racing circuit again. Isn’t he a bit past his prime to still be racing these events?

No, that would be Kenneth II — now a budding star in the SCCA National Championship Series.

The younger Rodrigues graduated from St. Francis High School in 2005 and is currently a senior at San Jose State University, majoring in communications. In December 2007, Kenny II graduated from the Skip Barber Racing School at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Last year, he moved on to the SCCA San Francisco Regional Series — driving a 1985 Swift DB1 Formula Ford — and had 7 podium finishes in 12 events to finish 3rd overall.

This year, Kenny II is performing even better on the SCCA National Championship circuit. Now driving a 1991 Swift DB6 Formula Ford, he has finished on the podium in all four of his races — starting from the pole position in two of them — and has one win. Looks like the Rodrigues drive to lead is in the genes!

“I’m really looking forward to competing at the SCCA National Championship finals in September at Road America in Wisconsin,” said Kenny II. “If I continue to do well this year, I’d like to move up to a pro series in the near future — driving bigger open-wheel Indy cars in the Formula Atlantic or Star Mazda Championship Series.”

### Newest addition at Borelli Motor Sports

In addition to his driving and university schooling, Kenny II has just started at Borelli Motor Sports, working with Scott Riechers as part of his team of mechanics, and doing a little sales and marketing to put his communication studies to good use.

Kenny II is also planning to study for his real estate license soon, and can envision getting into real estate as a commercial broker after graduation from San Jose State.

“As my dad proved, you can be a pro driver and have a successful business career as well,” remarked Kenny II. “I think commercial real estate brokerage might be the perfect choice for me.”

### Close relationship

How close is the relationship between father and son? Let’s put it this way — in August 2008 Kenny I ran against Kenny II at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca — the younger Kenny’s first race at the historic track. Kenny I’s car had wings and superior horsepower, but Kenny II had youthful exuberance on his side.

“We both won our class, with Kenny II coming in 3rd and my car finishing 2nd,” said Kenny I. “It doesn’t get any closer than that. The race was really a special thing for both of us.”