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Contents:

Grow Your Own

Traffic Department to Advise Architects

The Bronx Is Up and The Battery's Down

Cover: Lower Manhattan from The Empire State Building on a clear Autumn day.

Hawaii Environmental Advances Resources

School Project Curriculum on Architecture

ASA Officers

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Building A New House

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Letters

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Opinions expressed are those of the editors and writers and do not necessarily reflect those of either the Hawaii Chapter or the AIA.
Just a few years ago not even the most imaginative among us would have suggested that a garden composed entirely of useful and/or edible plants would have been a justifiable conceptual basis for a landscape design. The “maintenance free” demands of many clients precluded a long list of plants from being utilized.

Most Americans regard their yards as show places, especially the front yard. Such an attitude would have been inconceivable to the Egyptians, Greeks, Incas, Hopi and many African cultures for whom gardening was primarily a utilitarian function.

However, this is early spring of 1975, and even those economists who are noted for their irrepressible optimism cannot give you a sly wink and assurance that the current economic situation will improve within the year. The cost of food will continue to rise and you will purchase (perhaps in smaller quantities) food items that, with the smallest amount of effort, you can grow yourself.

Useful and edible plants are not necessarily unattractive and deserving of a place to the rear of the ornamentals. Parts of many very ornamental plants are edible. An obscure example is the monstera which has a long tubular fruit that is edible and tastes like a cross between banana and pineapple when eaten raw. Natal plum makes an impenetrable hedge and its fruit, despite its milky white sap, is edible. The “grapes” of the sea grape make a delicious jelly, juice, or red wine (see recipe at end of article). These are just a few examples of plants that are highly valued ornamentals and possess intrinsic utilitarian value.

Self-sufficiency in Citrus is within reasonable grasp of most homeowners in Hawaii. Dwarf varieties permit several varieties to be grown in a very small area. If space is a very serious problem, one strong, disease-resistant root stock can support several Citrus varieties; for example, a lime and orange on one tree. Several Citrus varieties make excellent pot plants.

Almost any yard, with well-drained soil can contain a lime, orange, lemon, tangerine, and pomelo. Richard Tongg says that the lime, Citrus aurantium, is probably the most easily grown citrus in Hawaii. Varieties of Citrus vary considerably in environmental requirements so there is bound to be one well-suited for your home.

Imagine cutting your purchases of citrus fruit by half. Makes good sense, doesn’t it? You could do it. Every garden shop stocks and sells most of the varieties of Citrus. Their salesmen will tell you which variety is best for the area in which you live. All you have to do is make the decision and plant them.

Papaya, too, can be grown by almost everyone. It demands a well-drained soil and water when it is young, but requires little or no care. Two trees of the right variety will provide a family of two with all its papaya needs. The low-bearing Waimanalo solo...
papaya will produce edible fruit from a seedling in about nine months.

The University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service Circular 436, Papayas in Hawaii, available free upon request, tells the whole story from planting to harvest. Once you have a bearing papaya tree in your yard, you'll wonder why you didn't plant one sooner. It's so easy.

The ancient Hawaiians were remarkable horticulturalists. They developed varieties of taro that would grow in water and others that would grow under arid conditions. The plant is ornamental, easily grown and, if used in lieu of the inedible ape, could become an important source of food from your garden. All of its parts — leaves, stems, and roots — are edible and can be cooked in a variety of ways.

Other fruiting plants that grow in Hawaii include: banana, breadfruit, sourop, starfruit, avocado, macadamia, mountain apple, date, olive, pomegranate, coconut, lychee, bamboo, Java plum, cashew nut, jack fruit, longan, rose apple, Philippine persimmon, kumquat, Cherimoya, guava, pohala, mulberry, Surinam cherry, passion fruit, and grape.

The cultural and climatic requirements of each of these fruiting plants vary considerably as does their manner of growth. It is likely that several of these plants, all of which are fairly easily obtained from a retail nursery, would be handsome contributions to your garden and also provide you with delicious fruit.

But what about the common garden table vegetables — lettuce, tomatoes, radishes, Chinese peas, bell peppers, cucumbers, won bok, string beans, spinach, broccoli, beets, cabbage, parsley, squash, chives, onions, and egg plant? It is easy to imagine these vegetables as substitutes in the garden for solely ornamental plants. For example, parsley for ligularia, egg plant for purple eranthemum, or mint for pilea.

Now I will be the first to admit that vegetables generally require a great deal more care than their ornamental counterparts. The University of Hawaii is continuously developing hybrids that are resistant to insects and diseases that plague Hawaii's vegetable growers. Planting these varieties will help ease the amount of attention required. Your reward will be fresh vegetables grown in your own yard — vegetables that will taste much sweeter, crisper, and juicier than those available at the supermarket.

Hanging baskets provide an economical and attractive means

Continued on page 6
of growing certain vegetables and herbs. Tomatoes, for instance, make ideal container plants. Dwarf varieties will grow in eight-inch pots. The larger tomatoes will grow in two-gallon containers if regularly watered and fertilized. Parsley, rosemary, oregano, and many other herbs grow easily in hanging baskets and require little care. The Ortho Company has published a Lawn and Garden Book pamphlet that is from time to time available free at garden shops and describes the growing of tomatoes from seed to harvest.

I am not recommending that you uproot all your ornamentals and entirely replace them with utilitarian plants. The task would strain the most physically fit and the resulting fruit and vegetable production would be overwhelming (you'd find yourself giving most of it away unless you have a large family). I am suggesting that you view your garden in its proper perspective. It can be both attractive and utilitarian. In these times of spiraling supermarket costs, growing some of your own food is worth considering.
Traffic Department to Advise Architects

The Department of Transportation Services, City & County of Honolulu, is suggesting a new step in the building permit process. The step has primarily to do with improving traffic flow onto and off of public streets. In its logical extension, however, it will touch on-site vehicular movement.

The initial form will be that of preliminary design stage conferences. The Traffic Department will make its staff engineers available to architects to discuss and work out improved entry and egress conditions. As envisioned at this time by Roy Parker, deputy director, and Cliff Nohara, chief of traffic engineering, projects requiring more than 25 cars parking will be affected.

This all came about as a result of a program to update the Department's Manual of Practices. Their consultants, JHK & Associates, of Los Angeles, suggested having the Traffic Department as another of the check points in getting a building permit. Several other cities are currently doing this, with very good results. Phoenix, for one, requires traffic department coordination for projects with more than five cars parking.

Parker liked the idea, but wanted a trial period before getting into the formality of requirement by ordinance, so he suggested the advisory service approach. If the process works well, it may eventually become an ordinance.

In either case, the main emphasis is not to set up another hurdle to be cleared at the end of working drawings, but to offer an advisory service at the preliminary design stage — before the design is firmed up. "The earlier the better," emphasizes Nohara. "That way we can tell you what planning is underway.

"Proposed new one-way streets, widenings, major work — these may be known only to the Traffic Department. By getting together early in the design stage, we can make sure your entries and exits point in the right direction, that you allow proper stacking space where needed, that the right kind of curb cut is used — that sort of thing," he said.

The Traffic Department has prepared a "Guide for Architects" with the major points of importance. For the preliminary design conferences, architects should contact the district engineer for the area of the project. They are:

George Yamashita for Central Honolulu; Kenneth H. Abe for East Oahu, which includes Waikiki to Hawaii Kai; Alvin Morimoto for Windward Oahu; and David Asato for Leeward Oahu.

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The Bronx Is Up —
and the Battery’s Down —
News from Fun City

Words and Pictures by ERIC ENGSTROM

According to the sages in the entertainment world, the art world, and the world of business, New York is the center of the universe. After a visit to see for myself after a one-year hiatus, the center of the universe has tilted — at least as far as architecture and planning is concerned. There are some marked changes in the New York environment, notably that the air is cleaner — still bad, but cleaner, and that the World Trade Center is finally open.

Which brings us to the subject of this article — building in New York. The major projects are still going great guns toward completion. The World Trade Center, a visual assault to all that is human in architecture, is about 90 per cent complete, with the exception of the pedestrian improvements.

Commercial and office tenants are beginning to fill up the lower arcade and office floors but, according to rumor, the building should be 60 per cent occupied at this point and is only about 15 per cent full.

One project in New York which has not had such problems with the bureaucracy is the Roosevelt Island project of the Urban Development Corporation. UDC, founded by Nelson Rockefeller to get housing built in half the normal time in New York State, is headed by Edward Logue, former redevelopment chief in New Haven and Boston. (Actually, late reports following the date this article was written seem to indicate that UDC is dead — and that it is a singular financial disaster. More in a later issue.)

Formerly known as Welfare Island because of the two hospitals for the chronically ill at each end, the project site is located in the East River. The chief obstacle in the past has been the lack of access except by boat or roundabout combinations of bus and subway.

Part of the problem is delays in construction and the business recession, but there are other factors involved. One is the transportation problems besetting the PATH system to New Jersey; another factor is the basic coordination involved in finishing off such a large project with the plethora of New York union jurisdictional disputes, city codes (and a changing administration), and a built-in bureaucratic overload of building management.

Another factor is that the buildings are just plain unattractive; cold, unimaginative spaces, a sense of being overwhelmed, and a continuous feeling of discomfort are all-pervasive.

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In which, sketchbook in hand, a graphic/interior designer with an interest in architecture finds that the big apple is still big, but that its focus seems to be a little blurry around the edges.

After a variety of schemes had been proposed by everyone from Con Edison to Victor Gruen over a period of 20 years, Mayor Lindsay set up a Welfare Island planning and development commission in 1968. As a result, the decision was made to develop a new town, and the city requested that the UDC handle the job. Philip Johnson and John Burgee were hired to do a master plan and unveiled their results in 1969.

The basic plan components were a community of 5,000 units where automobile traffic was eliminated, a town center for business and pleasure near a subway stop, and one-third of the island dedicated to open space. The time schedule was established at eight years with a clause allowing completion in 10 should the subway stop be delayed.

Now the project is about midway in the construction stage and the general feeling is that the architecture (building units themselves) is not what it should be, but that it’s amazing anything got done at all. Problems have arisen on the long-promised subway link which the Metropolitan Transit Authority has said may not even be done by 1980. Logue’s response to this crisis has been to begin construction on an aerial tramway link to Manhattan.

Another successful project, but for vastly different reasons, is Co-op City in the Bronx. This massive undertaking of housing and amenities for 50,000 people is an architect/planner’s nightmare of old techniques for a new project. A massive collection of dull brick towers and parking garages, Co-op City has none of the delicacy of the Welfare/Roosevelt Island project. By all reason it is sort of a culmination of all of the high-rise anonymous style characterizing most of residential New York.

Continued on page 10
The Bronx Is Up

from page 9

Co-op City is a private project — one built without much government “interference.” People who live there love it. It has provided a place for many of New York’s disposessed middle class to buy an apartment at a reasonable price with fresh paint, new appliances, and a lot of room. And, according to some sources, it is beginning to have a sense of community. All this in spite of damnation heaped on it by every sensitive architect or planner who has seen it.

One public housing project should be mentioned — a series of high-rise structures in the Bronx by Davis and Brody (a UDC project) has received much notice in the architectural magazines because of its aesthetic and practical approach to the problem of low-income high-rise housing. And it deserves an ovation.

So New York, as mentioned in the first paragraph, has tilted a bit from being the center of the architectural universe. It seems that there are a few exciting projects being done, but the majority are plain lousy — just on a grander scale than Honolulu. And I guess that’s par for the course these days.
Letters

To the Editor:

I would like to submit the enclosed photograph for consideration as a statement on architecture in Hawaii. I feel that it is ideal, also, in that it is certainly in keeping with the esthetic qualities of the "local girls standing around with their clothes off" style of what I assume is considered nude photography. I feel certain that this would greatly appeal to the same audience and definitely deserves a chance. I hope you'll give it a go. I'll donate my fees to better photography in architecture in Hawaii.

Rick Golt

Beg your pardon?

Ed.

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It is appropriate to make a report to the membership on the activities of the Public Environmental Education Committee, a new program which is an offshoot of the Design Committee.

A basic goal of the Hawaii Chapter, AIA, in improving the environment is well served by informing and educating people in the community on environmental matters.

The Committee believes that the Island of Oahu is, at this time, well served by organizations such as the Oahu Development Conference and the Downtown Improvement Association, who keep the public informed on important planning issues.

Therefore, the Committee has decided to concentrate its efforts on the Neighbor Islands. The concept of public environmental education appears to be particularly timely, since all of the counties of Hawaii are expected to update their General Plans as mandated by the State Legislature.

The Hawaii Chapter, AIA, under the umbrella of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, has applied to the National Endowment for the Arts for a grant which would be utilized to fund part-time professional efforts on Neighbor Islands, working through the Civic Advisory Groups already organized several years ago.

Word has recently been received that a $20,000 amount has been committed by the Feds for the year 1975. A portion of the money will also be utilized for an Oahu Hawaii Environmental Resources Center.

It is our feeling that with appropriate guidance and inspiration, local residents on Neighbor Islands can be a potent force in influencing environmental design decisions by public agencies.

The program will be guided by a HEAR Council, consisting of delegates from each of the six Interprofessional Commission on Environmental Design (ICED) disciplines (AIA, AIP, ASLA, ASCE, CEC, and HSPE).

Interviews to select the secretary/coordinator, who will manage the Resources Center as well as the efforts of the participants, are currently taking place. It is envisioned as a 30 to 40 per cent full-time job for which $6,000 per year is budgeted.

Although the program planning is in the formative stages, the Council is expecting to enlist professionals from the various ICED groups to spearhead the effort on the Neighbor Islands. Compensation for their expenses is also included in the Federal grant.

Another important aspect of our program includes utilizing Bob Wenkam, leading Hawaii environmentalist recently returned to our Islands, as staff photographer for the effort.

It is our hope to end up with a slide show and dialogue, possibly directed toward each Island, which could be utilized for public meetings and adjusted to zero-in on specific issues.

This report would not be completed without reiterating that the entire Environmental Awareness Program will need both general support as well as commitment of time on the part of individual Hawaii Chapter members, who will serve in a professional resource capacity.
A significant element is missing from educational curricula in Hawaii: a sustained consideration of the physical and social neighborhoods and communities of the students. The places where students live are not usually an academic concern of the schools.

This failing is demonstrated in the absence of coherent programs or curricula in architectural and planning education. Even at the collegiate level, nonarchitectural students do not study even the rudiments of architecture or community formation. Architects are rarely involved in educational efforts. Teachers have no background or training in architecture or urban planning.

The Commission on the Year 2000, an agency of the Governor's Office of the State of Hawaii, is charged with developing and implementing programs to involve the people of Hawaii in long-range participatory planning efforts in designing and investigating alternative futures for the peoples of Hawaii.

For the past two and one-half years the Commission's staff has developed and implemented the Experimental Communities School Project as one means of carrying out the Commission's mandate. The School Project has sought to develop on an experimental basis a pre-collegiate educational curriculum focusing upon the planning, architectural, social and political futures of Hawaii.

To this end, the Commission has elaborated and refined a two semester module course to introduce high school students to the basic concepts of these various disciplines that together mold or determine our alternative future possibilities.

This article delineates the outline for the first semester program for our Hawaii 2000 course, which focuses on planning and architecture. We believe this curriculum has developed sufficiently to make it applicable for other possible educational uses.

In designing this program over the past five semesters, we have tried to understand the design of educational curricula, and the introduction of significant community-formation issues into schools as a significant and necessary public service. The School Project is a means to inform citizens of the basic elements involved in community formation and the determination of possible futures.

This sort of educational design effort might be understood as a preliminary to any meaningful citizen involvement in community planning. That is, a basic foundation of knowledge must be established before community involvement can make good contributions.

Continued on page 14
School Curriculum
from page 13

Before people can participate in making their needs known, they ought to have developed or clarified what these needs are, and ought to understand the ways aesthetic, economic, legalistic and political factors determine the quality of the physical environment of the city as well as the quality of their lives.

We believe this curriculum design can allow for the systematic introduction of architectural and planning education into our schools, both public and private. Such an educational effort would be the prerequisite to the establishment of an articulate school and communitywide discussion about possible urban futures and choices.

A word about the involvement of architects in the School Project. After trying every way we could to get the architectural consultants to function as educators and design the planning curriculum, all concerned seemed to realize the distinctions necessary to uphold between doing architecture and teaching. This curriculum was developed by the Commission's staff and presented to the architectural consultants.

The architects responded by suggesting themes and topics they wanted to pursue within the overall framework. In some cases, the architects carried the major load of elaborating the basic themes; in other cases a complex or large subject was broken down to architectural presentations as elaborations of the basic theme, as one application of the theme out of many possible elaborations.

Whenever feasible we sought to have the architects speak about their current projects while staying within the overall outline. In some instances, we organized the syllabus around an especially good architectural presentation.

Your suggestions or comments are welcome.
Course Outline and Readings:

I. Introduction: Human Creativity in Architecture
   A. Introduction of basic terms and frameworks.
      1. Use of notation systems for studying environments. (Using the student's neighborhood as example.)
      2. Presentation of Halprin's RSVP Cycles system, in theory and practice.
   B. Contrasting man-nature relations.
      2. Discussing our view of man-nature relations.
      3. Reading "Earth as Sculpture," by Halprin from his Notebooks.

II. Function
   A. Design and Function
      1. Discuss design and have students design a classroom according to specific principles. Chart and evaluate the home to school environment.
      2. Presentation on the design of the Art Facilities, University of Hawaii - Manoa, by Gordon Tyau.
      3. Reading - Ackerman's "Listening to Architecture" and Theme Statement from The Design Necessity.

III. Tools of Design
   A. Presentation of tools of design.
      2. Discuss implications of Honolulu's zoning code – from area near the school.

IV. Human Scale Perspective and the Experience of Cities
   A. The City Metaphor.
      1. Discuss what makes cities work, what makes them unique. Use example 12 from Book Seven – with revisions.
      2. Presentation on Scale in Architecture by Charles Uhlman.
   B. Discovering – encountering downtown Honolulu.
      1. Discuss Honolulu as a tropical urban place.
      2. Presentation of the Honolulu urban experience.
      3. Reading from Archigram on what cities might offer.

V. Urban Design
   A. The concept of urban design.
      1. Discuss how cities, the spaces between the buildings, the public places are designed.
      2. Trip to downtown and discussion of urban possibilities, actual and potential. Urban Design in downtown Honolulu by Charles Sutton.

VI. Density
   A. Density and the quality of life.
      1. Define density with examples (urban renewal developments in Honolulu). The problem of suburbia and some alternatives. Examination of the failure of high density in some areas. Salt Lake vs. Queen Emma Gardens.
      2. Possible trips or presentation of Queen Emma and Salt Lake.
      3. Presentation on basic ideas of density by Francis Oda. Reading from Central Oahu Study.

VII. The House and the City
   A. What is a decent house and a good city?
      1. Discuss these related issues and seek a relationship between the two levels or problems. What is a housing crisis? New towns.
      3. Reading, Safdie's "Code for Decent Housing."

VIII. Planning
    A. Professions and Models.
      1. What planners do, how they work, etc.
      2. The R/UDAT Kakaako proposal presentation.

IX. Man and Nature
    1. What we might value, what we stand to lose and a radical architectural and social perspective.
    2. Presentations on the Hawaiian ecology and Paolo Soleri's Archology Model.
    3. Reading some excerpts from Soleri's writings, "Life is in the (qualified) thick of things."

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ASA Officers

The Hawaii Chapter of Architectural Secretaries Association held their annual installation banquet on January 24, 1975, at the Hawaiian Regent Hotel's Kona Room.

Shirley Prysock of Sanborn Cutting Associates, Ltd., has been elected president for 1975.


Jackie Lowe will chair the Finance Committee, Kay Okazaki will be in charge of Program, and Karen M. Tsubaki is editor of the ASA Coconut Chatter newsletter and will also head the committee on Public Relations.

Other committee chairwomen are Arlene Padilla, Ways & Means; Peggy Nakasone, Bylaws; Ruby Shupper, Membership; Mollie Aloia, Community Service; and Vickie Pinhero, Education/Career Advancement.

The members are secretaries of various architectural and engineering firms throughout the state who formed the association to promote and further the educational and professional standards in their field.

The association's goals are to continually be of service and contribute to the community and the architectural profession.

Grow Your Own
from page 7

SEA GRAPE WINE
Mash 4 quarts of grapes. Dissolve 8 cups sugar in 1 quart of water over low heat. Add 2 quarts of cold water to grapes. Add hot sugar water; mix well. Allow to ferment in a warm place for 4 weeks; cover lightly. Stir daily (turn mash completely). After 4 weeks, strain through jelly bag; return strained liquid to crock to settle for 1 week. Siphon into sterilized bottles and cork lightly. When fermentation is complete (no more bubbles rising) cork tightly. Age for 6 months. Drink.

JAVA PLUM JELLY
Wash 10 cups of white fresh plums. Cover with two cups of water and cook until soft. Pour into jelly bag and drain juice. Boil juice in a shallow pan 2 to 3 minutes. Add sugar and boil rapidly 5 to 10 minutes until large drops run together from a spoon. Skim, pour into sterilized jars, seal with paraffin.

PAPAYA-GINGER MARMALADE
Cook two thinly sliced lemons in 2 cups of water for 30 minutes until transparent. Boil 1 teaspoon chopped ginger root with four cups sugar and 2 cups water to make a syrup. Combine lemon and syrup with 8 cups sliced firm ripe papaya. Cook slowly for 30 minutes until thickened. Pour into hot sterilized jar; seal with paraffin.
The final stage of the AIA/Press Seminar series took place at the Hawaiian Regent Hotel on November 15th. The Seminars were a series of meetings between members of the Hawaii Chapter AIA and members of the several publications serving Honolulu.

The goal of the series was to increase communication between AIA and the media — to let them know what we are doing, and ask them how best to get the work out.

The culmination of the series was a dinner speech by John Pastier, architectural critic for the Los Angeles Times, who was brought to Honolulu by the Hawaii Chapter.

The afternoon session featured the R/UDAT committee’s presentation of progress since the team’s visit and proposed plans for the future. Elements of critical concern are:

1—The Food Distribution Center: to prevent further expansion of the Center until resolution of the park expansion can be made.

2—The General Plan Revision Process: to change the Planning Department’s view that no residential development should be permitted in Kakaako.

3—Citizens Group: the formation of a committee of the citizens — residents, businessmen and owners — of the area to become the acting body.

The formation of the basic citizens organization was begun and the mechanism put into motion.

Participants in the panel discussion were: Sidney Snyder, president, Honolulu Chapter, AIA; Ty Sutton, R/UDAT Task Force chairman; Tom Creighton; Fred Rohlfing, State Senator; Marilyn Bornhorst, City Councilwoman, Kakaako; Carl Lindquist, Trade Publishing Co.
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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

AIDS .............................................................. 23
Aloha State Sales Co. ............................................. 17
Amelco Elevator .................................................. 20, 4C
Armstrong Cork .................................................. 17
Cement and Concrete
   Products Industries of Hawaii (CCPI) .................... 7
Color Prints, Inc. .................................................. 14
Corrosion Service ................................................ 23
Fuller Paint & Glass .......................................... 16
Gasco, Inc. ....................................................... 10
John J. Harding Co., Ltd. ..................................... 16
Hawaii Blueprint .................................................. 6
Honolulu Blueprint & Supply Co. ......................... 23
Horita ............................................................. 11
Imua Builders .................................................... 2C
Martin & MacArthur ........................................... 20
McCormack ....................................................... 15, 19
Pacific Blueprint ................................................. 14
Pacific Scale Models ............................................ 20
Postal Instant Press ............................................. 23
Shatzer & Gaillard, Inc. ...................................... 19

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