

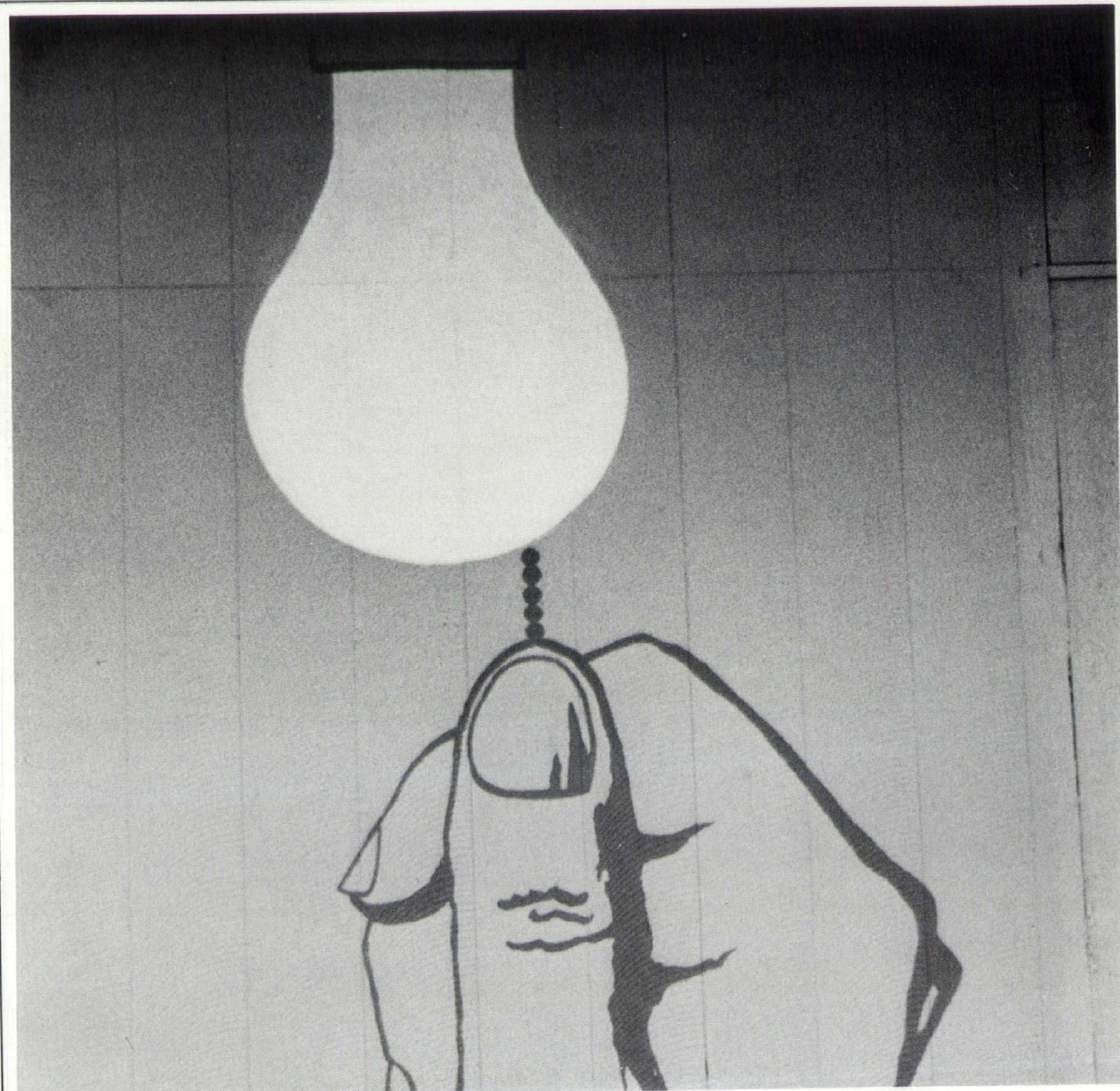
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HAWAII ARCHITECT

September, 1982

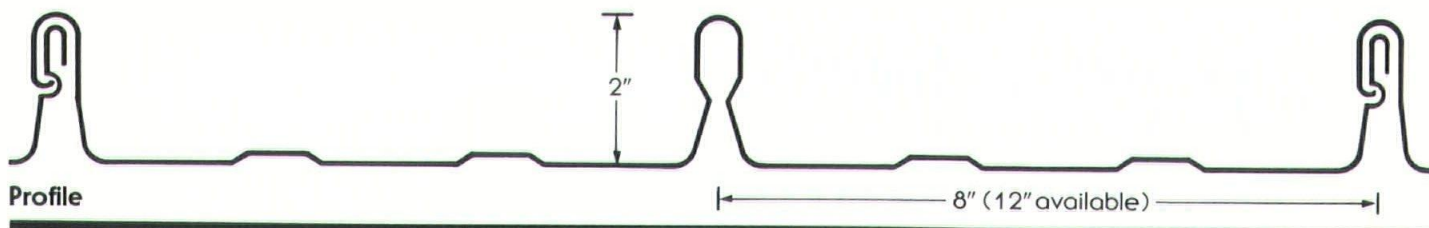
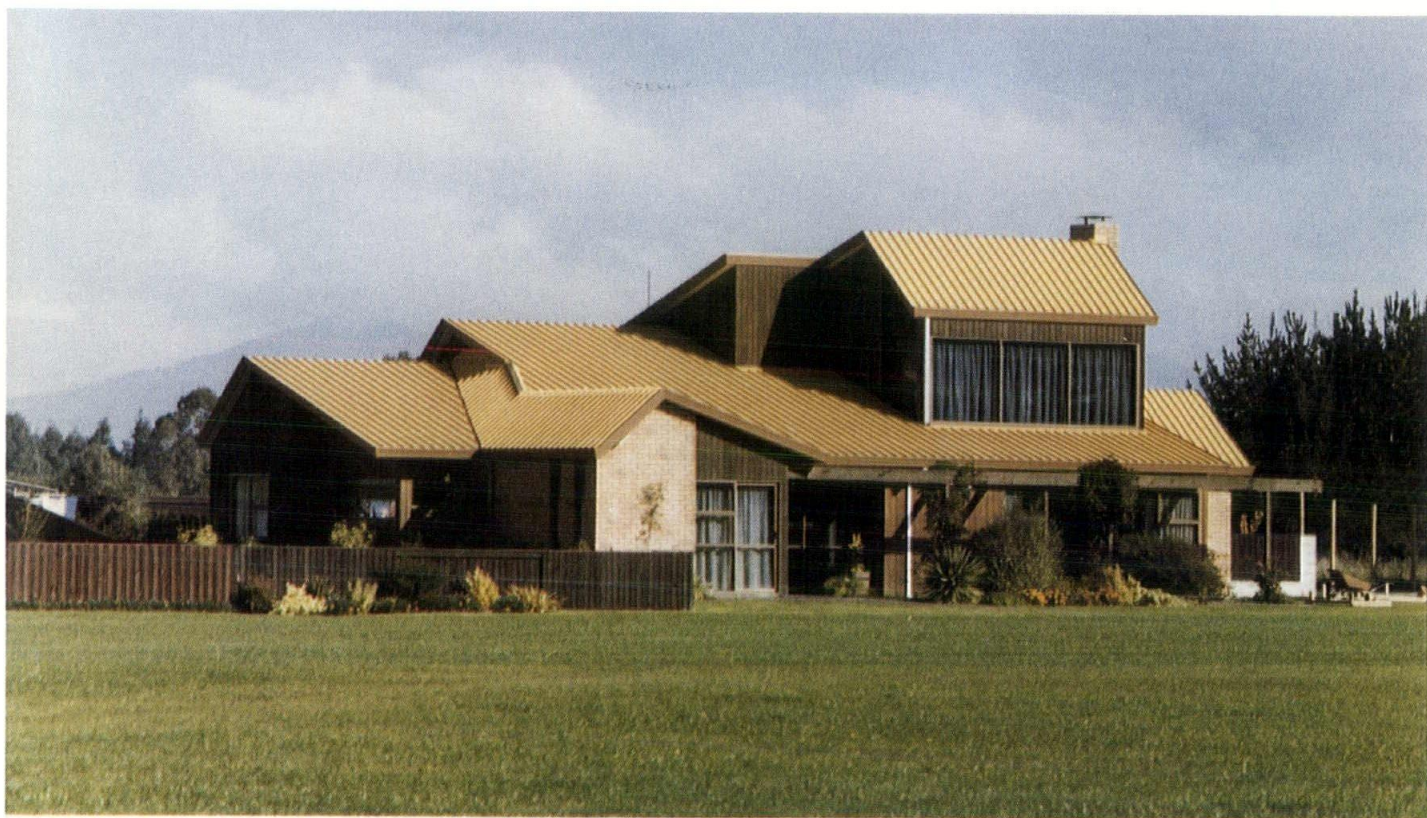
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HAWAII ARCHITECT

Volume 11, No. 9

September, 1982

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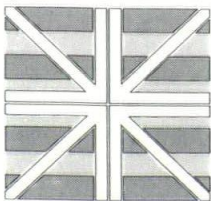
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Headlines

Hawaiian Architecture Redefined



Francis S. Oda
President, Hawaii Society/AIA

"What is Hawaiian architecture? Why can't our architecture be more Hawaiian? Why does Waikiki look like Miami?" How I used to hate these questions. Like most architects trained in the mainstream of the Modern Movement, questions like these seemed irrelevant at best, and idiotic at the worst. I used to silently subtract 50 points from the I.Q.s of the askers and comfort myself with visions of Corbusier's Unite and Mies's Seagram Building. Ah, to do great International Style Architecture!

I have since learned that those asking these silly questions do not just live in Hawaii but also in the Philippines, in Guam, in India, and even in Arizona. There seems to be a deep-seated desire in people to have their architecture reflect something about their environments, their cultures, and about themselves.

The problem in satisfying these desires has been two-fold. The first part of the problem is that we architects have a formal vocabulary that can tell a Hawaiian more about Chicago, LA, or France than about Honolulu. Our technology, which has shaped our modern vocabulary, certainly is universal in application. The masters like Gropius, Corbu, Mies and Aalto, who first articulated our modern forms, shared ideas from Boston to Chandigarh, and from Berlin to Stockholm. Theirs was a vision that was truly global and which has been lumped together under the appellation of the International Style.

But now the International Style is out (or so say Tom Wolfe and Progressive Architecture) and regionalism is in; which leads to the second part of the problem. Now that we, as a profession, are finally asking ourselves, "What is Hawaiian architecture?" we draw a blank. How does one translate a grass shack into today's technology?

How does a "Hawaiian roof" fit onto a high-rise?

Let's face it, as much as we now want to be regional architects, we face a dearth of precedents for form making. Our Hawaiian history does not seem to have a depth of forms from which one can create a workable architectural vocabulary, a vocabulary that is not simply decorative and superficial. Where are the masters when we need them? Who is going to show us how to do relevant Hawaiian forms?

Since no Hawaiian masters seem to be forthcoming, let me modestly redefine the term "Hawaiian architecture" so that we all can get on with the serious work of creating a livable and beautiful Hawaii. I define a building to be "Hawaiian" when it is designed so specifically to this location on the globe that if an archaeologist dug a model of the building up in Canada, he/she would be able to pinpoint the structure to this latitude by the angle and characteristics of its environmental control forms (overhangs, light shelves, sun grilles, recesses); identify its location in Hawaii by a few significant cultural motifs; and even identify its orientation on the site by solar and wind controls.

All this is not only possible but actually being done. The CJS-Group has designed the HMSA Building with sun screens which shield 100 percent of the direct sun from the interiors. Not only does this keep the energy consumption of the building to a fraction of the typical office structure but, interestingly, the building as designed could only be located at 21 degrees North Latitude to work optimally.

Group 70 also is designing an office structure that has energy forms including light shelves angled optimally to cut off all direct sun into interior areas, yet which bounce sunlight into the inner recesses of the building. This greatly

reduces lighting requirements and air conditioning loads so the building will consume about 50 percent of the energy of the typical office—if it is located at 21 degrees North Latitude. Computers have determined the optimal angle of sun control devices on each facade (making each elevation somewhat different), and setting forever the orientation of the building to the solar path.

The CJS-Group and Group 70 buildings look very different, yet both can only work optimally in this latitude. They are not unlike Stonehenge in their specificity. The extent to which each relates to Hawaii through cultural motifs varies, but each will undoubtedly contain art and modern-day artifacts which will differentiate the buildings from others at North Latitude 21 degrees in India, Africa, Mexico, China, and elsewhere. Landscaping will further locate each structure in Hawaii.

This definition of Hawaiian architecture is more future-oriented than historic, yet it is timeless. It is more Hawaiian in its emphasis on establishing a balance with the environment than forcing "Hawaiian" forms on environmentally unsound structures. It is also a convenient answer at cocktail parties the next time anyone asks you, "What is Hawaiian architecture?" Well, as they say, if you cannot solve a problem, just redefine it.

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Architecture and Planning at the University of Hawaii

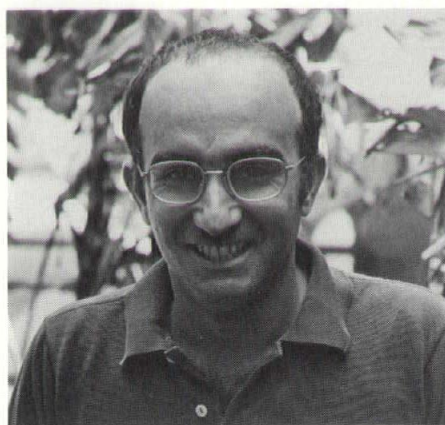
by Luciano Minerbi, AICP, AAIA
Professor of Planning
Urban and Regional Planning Program
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Current Institutional Arrangements

Since 1979 the relationship between architecture and planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa evolved through the various stages of development of the School of Architecture and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Past collaboration included the following:

- Appointment of one joint faculty to serve in both academic units.
- Offering of a half dozen graduate courses cross-listed between the two academic units in the areas of (1) urban design and physical planning and (2) community development and planning in Third World countries.
- Availability of faculty from both academic units serving on graduate committees, thus giving interested students an opportunity to bridge disciplinary lines in thesis or non-thesis research.
- Sponsoring of research projects by both academic units involving faculty and students with architecture and planning background.
- Offering of The Certificate Programs in Planning Studies for students pursuing the Master of Architecture Degree Program.
- Offering of dual degrees to allow students to obtain both architecture and planning master degrees in less time than taking them sequentially.

There are other areas of inter-



face of the subject matter taught between the two units at the undergraduate level. The architecture school offers an introductory course in urban design and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning an introductory course in human settlements and another one in planning perspectives.

Some of the subject matter taught in one unit has relevance for the academic discipline of the other unit. For example, some of the architecture courses engage in large-scale design projects that have policy planning and social science implications, and some of the planning courses focus on housing, community, and land use planning with obvious implications for the building siting, sizing, and design.

Urban Design and Physical Planning

But perhaps the most logical area of collaboration where students with architecture and planning training have successfully worked together in integrating the two disciplines is in the urban de-

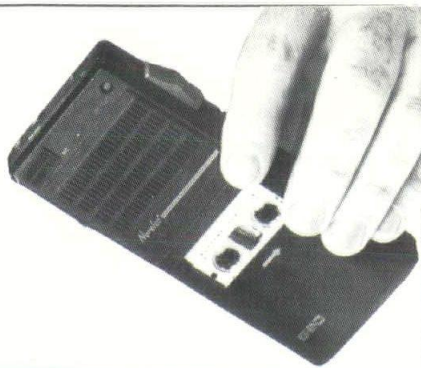
sign and physical planning cross-listed graduate courses and, in particular, the urban design studio-practicum.

Problem Investigated

In the last few years the Arch/Plan 642 Urban Design and Planning Studio-Practicum has explored planning issues and design proposals in Honolulu.

The projects undertaken over the past six years are extremely relevant to Hawaii planning and design needs and have been consistently of high research quality. This fact has been recognized by community groups, county and state agencies and governing bodies and the press. Some of these organizations proposed themes for students to investigate and acted as clients or advisers to the project and have used the findings in exploring legislation, regulations, or plans:

- A set of papers on Oahu land use, facility requirements, and design principles and standards was produced in 1976 paving the way for development of this line of inquiry in subsequent years.
- In October 1977 a booklet explaining the role of the neighborhood boards in the development plan process was made available to all the neighborhood boards of the City and County of Honolulu to facilitate board members' participation in the new development plan process.
- In June 1978, a study undertaken in collaboration with the neighborhood board of



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an area slated for urban renewal explored the feasibility of mixed use redevelopment and the retention of small businesses which needed to remain in Kakaako. It included a building prototype and a survey of affected small businesses. The posters and the report were displayed by the Kakaako Neighborhood Board in City Hall during the 1979 Neighborhood Week. The report was acknowledged by City and County officials and was commended by Senate Resolution No. 446 of the 10th Legislature of the State of Hawaii as a significant housing study.

- In 1979 a technical assistance project for the Development Area Organization of the Honolulu Primary Urban Center East, made up of representatives of nine central city neighborhood boards, was undertaken. The resulting report investigated population redistribution alternatives and, with a Delbecq workshop, facilitated the selection of a preferred alternative by the organization members. The report explored design principles for selected neighborhoods and design solutions such as local public transit in Waikiki, design principles for Kapahulu Ave., and city block density intensification with a unified design scheme without land parcel consolidation in Keeaumoku. The Development Plan Newsletter of the City and County of Honolulu periodically reported on the research progress.

- The 1982 Land Readjustment report builds on these previous research efforts by (1) investigating land readjustment and land reserve as mechanisms with which to implement district-scale design and provide community facilities at the district level, and (2) studying the feasibility of using local streets in redevelopment at the multiblock level. The report constituted a response to (1) State of Hawaii

Senate Resolution No. 446 which requested the land readjustment study for Kakaako and (2) the invitation of the City and County Council Housing and Community Development Committee chairman to study multi-block redevelopment options in McCully-Moiliili. The Land Readjustment report should facilitate community awareness for the potential of land readjustment approaches to achieve design and socioeconomic objectives at a time of major redevelopment decisions for Honolulu.

- The 1982 Young Street mixed land-use report provides a contribution to the urban design study of the existing and possible future fabric and uses in a small but strategically located street in a city. It indicates design principles and human-scale concerns for pedestrian-oriented, small-scale mixed-use development based on limited parcel sizes, locational potential, and available building practice. It illustrates information needed for local area planning which departs from the disjointed practice of remote bureaucratic regulations and single-purpose private development. The approach implied calls for public planners assigned to an area, private developers interested in its upgrading, and community groups committed to its livability, to become part of a management team, knowledgeable of the area to be planned on a sustained basis over a period of time.

Dissemination of Findings

The basic principles underlying some of the projects have been presented at the 1980 *Hawaii Committee for the Humanities Conference on Values* in Honolulu. Several of the projects received national or international attention. They have been presented at *The 1982 International Advanced Street Institute* at the University of Washington in Seattle; *The 1980 NATO Advance Study Institute on Urban*

Continued on page 19

HAWAII ARCHITECT



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The UH School of Architecture

by Lee M. Coleman
President, Association of
Student Chapters, AIA

If I had to choose one word to describe the University of Hawaii School of Architecture students, it would have to be "‘ohana." They are the people who make the best of the situation and endure. They are one big family dedicated to enhancing the profession of architecture and to helping each other.

The School of Architecture, you see, has great potential, but is held back by political and bureaucratic reasons. The school's tremendous administration does all it can to better the quality of education delivered, but finds its hands tied by monetary needs and the university administration.

A lot of credit should go to Dean Elmer Botsai. With a good staff behind him to carry out specific objectives, he has made many improvements in the school. Botsai

wears many hats, but the hat he wears the most is the one for the school. I believe he has a dream to make Hawaii a top-notch school. Sooner or later this dream may come true, but it hasn't happened in the five years I've been at the school.

A commitment needs to be made by the university to develop the School of Architecture into a professional school as has been done for the business, medical, engineering, and law schools.

- The school needs to be housed in a permanent facility.

The present complex formed from portable teaching units does not present an image of a professional school of architecture. It gives the feeling that the school is as temporary as the buildings it is housed in.

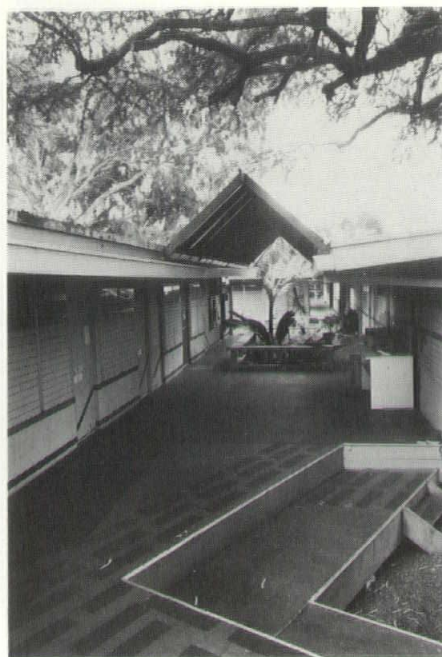
These temporary units do offer a practical knowledge of simple construction to the students. Each year students are asked to redesign the spaces within the school, giving them a chance to take the school apart and put it back together again. But there are not even restroom facilities in the complex, and students must walk to other buildings on campus just to wash their hands.

- The quality of instruction given is important to the students.

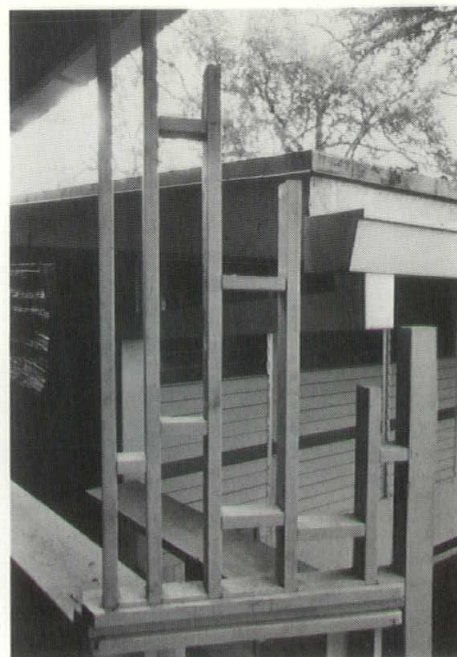
Botsai does a great job of bringing in excellent professors from all over the Mainland to fill guest lecturer positions. They are intrigued with coming to Hawaii and learning about tropical architecture. Many would stay for more than their two-semester position if the money were better. Most must work for



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architectural offices in town to subsidize their income.

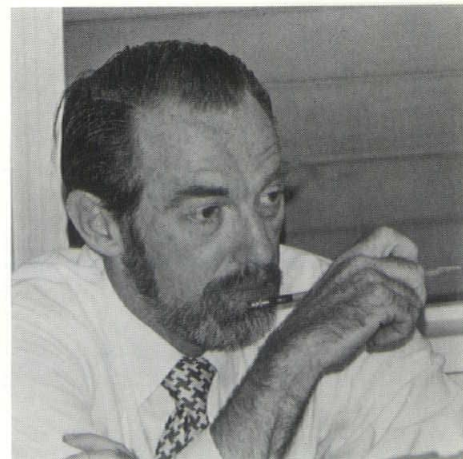
The professors who do live in Hawaii have shown that they are interested and dedicated to the school. I have found them all to give 100 percent-plus for the students and to improving the quality of the school.

- It takes a lot of dedication by students to get as much as they can from what the school offers.

The basics are there to become intern architects. The school is accredited. The curriculum is set up in a well-ordered sequence. The key to it all is that students must realize they get out of it what they put into it. That's why the quality of instruction is so important. It takes a special person to teach and achieve comprehension by the students.

So we're back to the fact that the School of Architecture has potential. Individuals within the system—students, faculty, the school administration—make dedicated contributions. The dean and his staff bend over backwards to help the students. The student organization, the ASC/AIA, provides many services to help keep morale high.

But these individuals will continue to face frustration until the university administration and the local profession make the commitment to realize the school's great potential. HA



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HS/AIA 1982 Awards

Aliiolani Hale Historic
Restoration Report
by Frost & Frost

Special Award for Civic Enrichment

Project: Aliiolani Hale Historic Restoration
Location: 417 South King Street, Honolulu
Architect: Architects Hawaii, Ltd.
Historical Consultant: Frost & Frost
Owner: Judiciary, State of Hawaii

The report published by Frost & Frost, historic consultants for the project, was the result of extensive historical research in public and private archives throughout the state and in some instances outside the U.S. The dedicated effort of these two preservationists unlocked many of the mysteries surrounding the building's past. Questions on the building's origin, initial design solution, construction techniques, and details of the original interior were all answered in full. Every available piece of historic data was compiled along with a bibliography and source reference to assist in preserving the history, as well as the structure of one of the most historic buildings in Honolulu. The report was written to be understood by the layman as well as the professional, and extensive photographs were included to verify and illustrate the conclusions. The enlightened attitude of the Chief Justice, Advisory Committee, and the Department of Accounting and General Services in allowing the architect the time and funds necessary to have this research document prepared is a hopeful sign for architectural restoration and adaptive use in public buildings. HA

HAWAII ARCHITECT





SALBOSA

Used continuously since 1874, the building contained every conceivable modification and rearrangement to its original architectural fabric. The original interior of the King Street end of the building had been completely removed in 1911 and replaced with a plaster finish over a functional concrete and steel framework. Rooms that were intended to have high ceilings were found to contain 8-foot-high

egg-crate grids with hanging fluorescents above. A network of exposed and semi-exposed air conditioning ducts ran throughout the high ceiling areas. No drawings existed on the complete structure and a measure up was begun while the initial master plan took shape.

The following basic concepts were established:

1. The building exterior would be restored to its original 1874

appearance.

2. The building interior would be restored and/or guided by the 1911 interior renovation.

3. Whenever possible, the original fabric of the building would be retained and reused in future work.

4. The building must function equally well as an air-conditioned, contemporary office and as an historic living museum.

Work included restoration of the

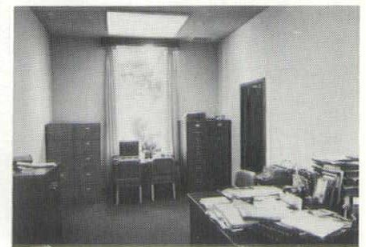
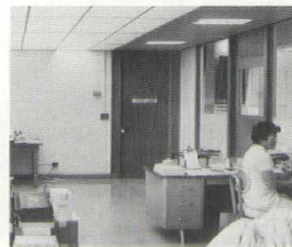
HS/AIA 1982 Awards

Aliiolani Hale Excellence in Architecture Involving Extended Use

Project: Aliiolani Hale: Judiciary Offices
Location: 417 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii
Architect: Architects Hawaii, Ltd.
Owner: Judiciary, State of Hawaii
Structural Engineer: Donald T. Lo Consulting Engineer
Mechanical Engineer: Frederick H. Kohloss & Associates
Electrical Engineer: Douglas V. MacMahon, Ltd.
Historical Consultant: Frost & Frost
Contractor: T. Iida Contracting, Ltd.
Site Area: Second Floor Offices for Supreme Court Justices and Staff



Below: Before.
 Far left, above,
 and center:
 After.



second floor of the rotunda, new offices for the Chief Justice and his administrative staff, new offices for the Associate Justices and staff, new offices for the law clerks, central reception area, visiting Justices' office and clock tower restoration. Furnishings for these spaces were also provided in keeping with the design categories established. Original pieces were restored and reused wherever

possible. Duplicate pieces were designed and built to match researched original furnishings. Manufactured items were selected for their compatibility with the architectural design. Research into original paint finishes resulted in a subtle palette that accentuates the architectural elements of the interior spaces.

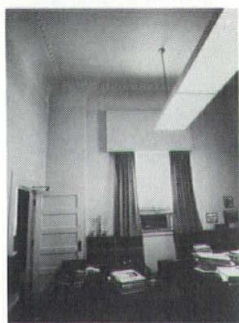
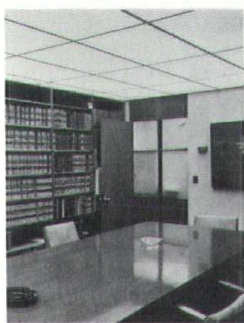
Jury Comments

A good project recapturing the elegance and pomp of a judicial building. Warm, luxurious spaces brought back to life through renovation. Good understanding of simple detail and scale.

Continued on page 16



SALBOSA



Above: Before.
Top and far right: After.

Aliiolani Hale



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Design and the System Approach at the University of Laval in Belgium; and *The 1980 International Conference on Redevelopment* at the University of Laval, Quebec, Canada. These communications have been published in the conference proceedings or in chapters of books.

Review of students' work appeared in 1980 in *Socioeconomic Planning Science* and are forthcoming in *Urban Design International* and *Urban Land Journals*.

Some of the projects have been partially supported by organizations such as The National Endowment of the Arts which awarded the 1981 *Design Student Fellowships* for the production of the *Land Readjustment* and the *Young Street Reports*.

Some of this work attracted additional funding by the United Nations for two research projects to explore human settlements and national environmental information requirements in the Pacific Basin. Some of the projects on redevelopment have been reviewed with interest also by the World Bank for possible relevance to Mediterranean countries.

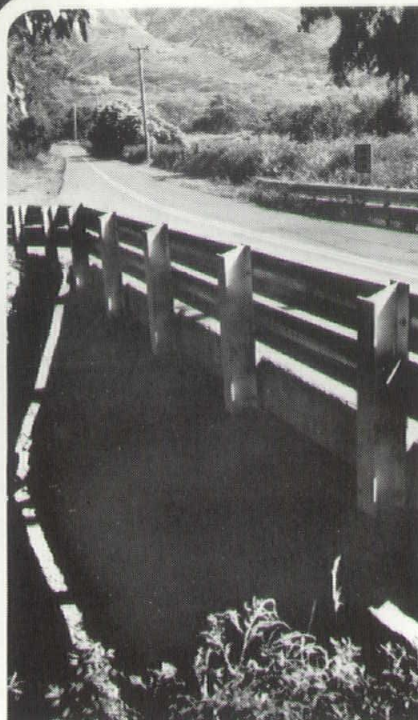
Ideas for the Future

Interviewed on the relationship between architecture and planning, Tom Dinell, chairman of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, stated that urban design is an area of overlap with opportunities to evolve in resource support for people involved in planning, design and building in the Pacific Basin and Asia. Such an endeavor requires collaborative efforts between the School of Architecture and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning of joint resources.

In addition he saw the opportunity for:

- Architecture students enrolled in the five-year program to take a few extra courses in planning to broaden their training basis.
- Planning students to take courses which are offered by the School of Architecture such as those on community development.
- Joint efforts in research and practicum courses in which

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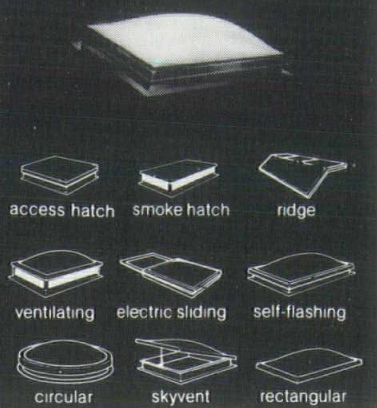


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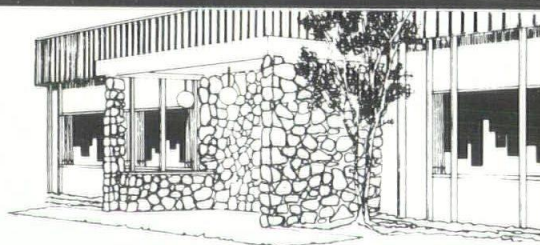
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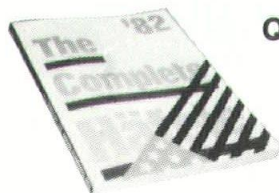
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architecture and planning students work together.

Dinell feels it is important to bring the two perspectives together for the benefit of both fields.

On the same subject, Elmer Botsai, dean of the School of Architecture, indicated that a graduate program, properly supported with at least three full-time faculty in urban design, would be desirable for the school. This urban design degree should establish its legitimate research focus. The demand for such an offering should be properly demonstrated before going to the regents. This would call for the architecture and planning professions and City Hall to research and document the extent of such a need. If this program should develop, one of the benefits Botsai sees is that it would be a catalyst for the design community to become more involved in policy decisions in the State of Hawaii.

In sum, Hawaii's needs for an enhanced integration of man-made and natural environment are as great as ever. Pacific island nations are moving more and more toward the area of settlement structure plans and environmental planning. This must be more clearly documented. At the university, greater collaboration between architecture and planning is highly desirable and would be part of the normal evolution and growth of the two fields and reinforcement of academic instruction.

Areas of consideration would include:

- Continuing education in urban design.
- Establishing a research center and document center in urban and regional design.
- Earmarking fellowships to students pursuing urban regional design concentrations in the respective academic units.
- Supporting the University of Hawaii Foundation "Community Design and Physical Planning Account" with donations from public agencies and private organizations to address complex issues that require planning and design solutions.
- Demonstrating the need and properly funding an urban design concentration at the graduate level. HA

HAWAII ARCHITECT

Polling Resident's Choice
Continued from page 22

varying degree of success, polling the neighborhood residents' preference on specific options under consideration.

This polling of a neighborhood's choice, if done properly, could assist the City Administration in formulating its proposals and the members of the City Council in expeditiously arriving at decisions on issues affecting the neighborhoods in their respective districts. This polling system, however, does not always result in the choice that the largest number of district or community residents would support.

The diagram indicates how in a hypothetical community the polled choice (alternative A) could be different from the alternative with largest support by residents of the community (alternative C). Other problems of the existing process stem from:

- Late agency communication to the neighborhood boards of a pending issue.
- Neighborhood boards' inadequate technical and administrative resources to review the proposals in a given time.
- The difficulty in distributing the complete information to all residents and receiving their reactions.
- Determining in advance the boundary of area and intensity of impact of a new proposal.
- Misinterpretation of the role of neighborhood boards as advisory rather than decision-making bodies.

The polling of a community's preference on major planning and zoning issues could be made more effective by (1) improving the city's system of public notification and response, (2) making the neighborhoods more representative of the neighborhood residents, (3) developing a sufficient number of alternative options on controversial issues for consideration by residents and decision makers, and (4) improving communication among neighborhoods so the proposed alternative by one neighborhood is not neutralized by a proposal from another neighborhood within the same district. HA

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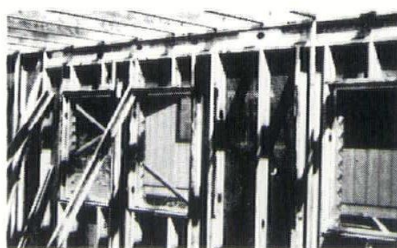
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Polling Community Residents' Choice of Planning Options

by Councilman George Akahane
Chairman, Planning & Zoning Committee

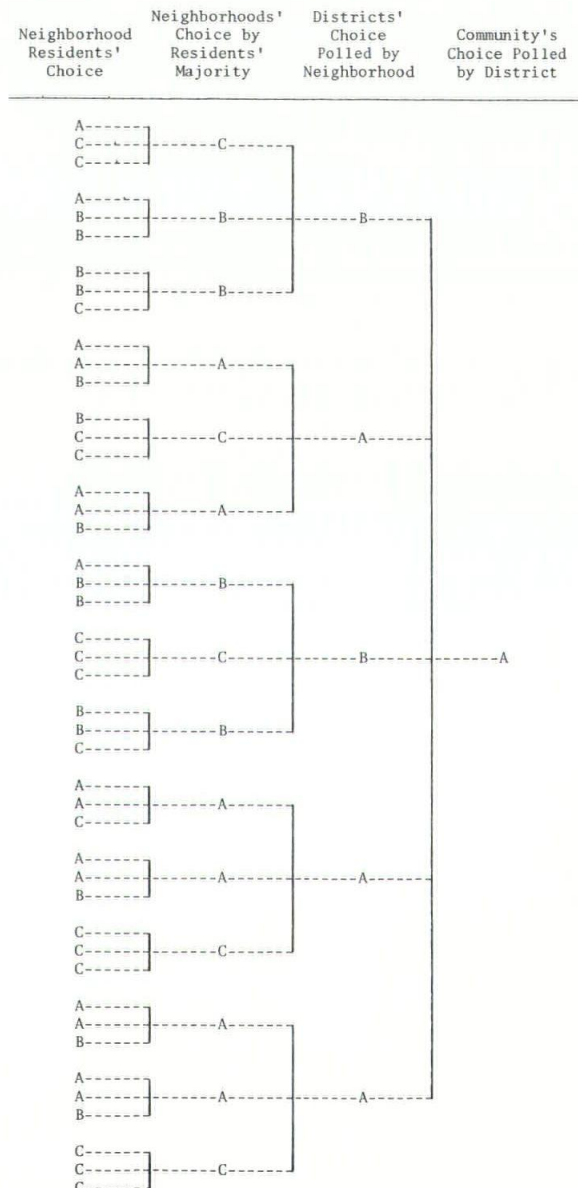
The 1973 revised charter of Honolulu authorized establishment of neighborhood boards to increase and assure effective citizen participation in the decisions of the city. Less than a decade later, there are 28 active neighborhood boards representing the residents of various neighborhoods on Oahu.

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al Plan and the Comprehensive Zoning Code, provided the City Administration and the City Council with valuable information, comments, and recommendations on planning and zoning issues. They have played an important role in distributing the information on planning and zoning issues to the neighborhood residents and, with a

Continued on page 21

Polling of Residents' Choice in a Hypothetical Community



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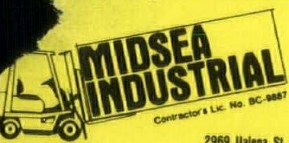
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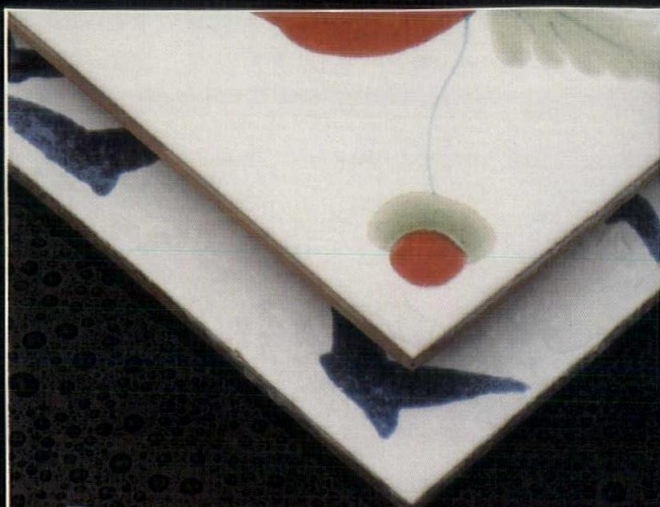
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