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They're craftsmen, no doubt about it. Treated the job as if it were their own home. I had no idea there was this kind of quality work out here in the Pacific..."

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DAVID FRANZEN PHOTO

**Cover:** The renovation of Linekona School for the Honolulu Academy of Arts resulted in a 1991 Honolulu Chapter/AIA Award of Merit for CJS Group Architects, Ltd.

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#### President's Message

## Making a Commitment To Public Architecture

by Daniel G. Chun, AIA Secretary/Treasurer, Hawaii Council/AIA

ast May I attended the American Institute of Architects Convention in Washington, D.C. Few cities in America can match the purposefully orchestrated public architecture of the nation's capital. By contrast, Hawaii's architectural efforts seem directed toward the antithesis of public life — namely resorts and private residences.

Hawaii's architects are internationally recognized experts in hotel and resort design. Hawaii has outstanding local examples of resort and landscape architecture. The tourist expects it. Public officials and planning commissions demand it. I do not detect the same level of public concern for the places where Hawaii's citizens work, play and are educated.

Our community needs a stronger constituency for good public design.

Hawaii's citizens enjoy the results of past public design. We have public parks, civic buildings and cultural institutions which define quality. For example, Kauai's architectural heritage is rich with contributions of the Wilcox family. Can we translate that somewhat paternalistic approach to a modern, more egalitarian Hawaii?

In the years since statehood, public construction has transformed our islands. However, if award-winning architecture is an indication of design quality, then I believe the results are mixed. The percentage of public buildings receiving recognition for good architectural and landscape design is too low.

I see some hopeful signs. Recent public school projects have taken new design directions. The Farrington High School Library under construction seems to complement the school's familiar architecture and contributes in a positive way to the King and Kalihi Street corner.

The state judiciary seems to recognize and attempt to make the connection between architectural design and the dignity of public institutions. We could use the ubiquitous architectural barrier removal projects to rectify haphazard site planning and lack of harmonious landscape treatment.

I hope that readers of *Hawaii Architect* are committed to excellent public architecture. I would like to see Hawaii's citizens and elected officials support a general increase in budgets for public buildings. Durable and inspiring architecture requires larger construction refunds and higher design fees.

With greater public expectation and investment, Hawaii's manmade environment can begin to rise up to her magnificent natural environment. **HA** 

#### Editorial

## Impressions of an AIA Retreat

by Ted Garduque, AIA Director, Hawaii Council

rom Friday, June 21 through the weekend, delegates of the Hawaii Council, president and presidentelect of the Honolulu Chapter, Hawaii Island Section and the

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#### Ted Garduque

Maui Chapter gathered at Kilauea Military Camp near Volcano, Hawaii.

Those in attendance were Council President Art Kohara, President-Elect Nancy Peacock, Secretary/Treasurer Dan Chun, Directors Chris Smith, Alan Holl, Harrell McCarty, Ormond Kelley, Stan Gima and myself; Honolulu Chapter President Glenn Mason and President-Elect Rob Hale; Hawaii Island Section President Clemson Lam and President-Elect Terry Cisco; Maui Chapter President Barry Rand sent Hans **Riecke and President-Elect Marie** Kimmey. Also attending were **Executive Vice President Shirley** Cruthers and the Council's legislative consultant, Ken Takenaka.

The gathering began with great camaraderie and fellowship. The Oahu delegates assembled at Aloha Airlines and took the same plane to Hilo and shared a van and car all the way up the mountain.

En route, we passed Hans Riecke bicycling from sea level to

Continued on Page 36

## Choosing the Right Interior Design Team

by Brad J. Nelsen, AIA

A s corporate centers and destination resorts around the world become more massive in size, expenditure and number of contributors, their owners might be advised to give great care and attention to assembling design teams that will work to produce a continuity of expression and experience.

It is not enough for today's developer to go out and hire "the best" contributors — architects. interior designers, landscape artisans and so forth — for a multi-million-dollar structure, because "the best" may not be compatible with the vision or with one another. Now that interior design has come of age as a professional endeavor — rather than just an artful afterthought architects also must be more appreciative of what will go on inside the complex as they execute the vision. The end-user will, after all, be most intimately concerned with the interior view of the structure. It will be the one he or she will positively experience each day for hours on end.

In Hawaii, restorations of the five-star Moana and the Halekulani resorts have been welcomed by residents and world travelers. Why? I believe it is because they are a consistent experience inside and out. Every element of one's perception of these grand reincarnations is graceful and harmonious. The teams of professionals who made these projects successful knew that the character and style that



The copper dome atop the 30-story office tower of 333 Collins Street in Melbourne, Australia, signifies the majesty one can expect upon entering the front door of the building while maintaining the rich historic heritage of the area.



were being recaptured in the splendid exteriors were to be carried through, fully and effectively, to the last vase and tapestry. Each element supports the next one, as well as the whole. Nothing is alien.

We who watched those historic Hawaiian undertakings happening in Waikiki do not know whether there was transitory stress or instant compatibility among the contributors, whether the resulting harmony was achieved with or without struggle. We only know that the results, in each complex, impact the public with undeniable pleasure.

In a recent undertaking that our firm designed in Melbourne, Australia, the \$180 million 333 Collins Street, the historic fabric of the surrounding "Heritage District" was integrated with the restoration of the original bank structure, circa 1891.

The solution — a 30-story office tower and adjacent 11story business hotel, has drawn praise from the city elders. It would not have done so had its majesty of exterior expression, with its rich celebratory ornamentation, stopped at the front door — and a surrealistic avant-garde art form taken over inside. Instead, the signatory expression of the grand copper dome that caps the larger tower flows through to fovers and lobbies and into individual chambers.

One public official commented that the Collins complex was "an elegant tribute to the architecture of the past," so true was the historic renaissance of experience throughout. Meanwhile, a leading Australian architect and critique, writing in a Melbourne daily paper, observed that the structure brought to the city "a richness not seen here for a century."

Developers seeking to pick the right professional team should not be hasty. They should engage in much discussion with the prospects and if possible, watch them interact together. At the very least, you want professionals who respect each other and whose approach to their craft is mutually compatible.

Beyond this, you should select contributors who can move together and individually through the solution process so that a synergism of design expression, scale and detail emerges. This is not easily done, and even with professionals, not always possible. Sometimes what works well in one time and place, does not in another.

Once upon a time, developers hired interior designers as "oh, by the way" practitioners, with little understanding of their real place in the architectural scheme of things. In other years, interiors specialists who were "in vogue" purchased art and furnishings with little regard to the architectural framework, the design theme. Both trends have been an unfortunate part of our professional evolution, our search for functional and aesthetic synthesis.

Today, we are moving toward the ideal, creating dynamic people environments — commercial, resort, institutional and residential — that seek to make strong total statements to enduring integrity. When we succeed, the community we serve is both enriched and rewarded. **HA** 

Brad J. Nelsen, AIA is president of Nelsen Architects International with offices in Honolulu, Phoenix and Dallas.



The grand floor lobby of 333 Collins Street was renovated with the expertise and cooperation of a team of interior designers.

## Architecture and Interiors: A Comparative Viewpoint

by Gerald Choi, AIA

Any assume architecture and interiors are two separate entities. Actually, these two elements of design should be regarded as a continuum of services, one which allows design to be carried down to a finer and more focused level.

Today, the field of architecture is complex enough for firms to become specialized. Such is the case with Ferraro Choi and Associates. Our firm is unique in that we specialize in "interior architecture."

Having practiced architecture for many years before specializing in interior architecture, I find it interesting to note that some of the so-called differences are merely a matter of perception. We use some of the same terms and address similar challenges we're just looking at them from a slightly different viewpoint in the overall design process.

As an example, when architects think of "environment," they think of sun direction and wind analysis. When an interior architect thinks of "environment," he will be concerned with such aspects as parabolic lighting and "hvac" (heating, ventilation and airconditioning systems). The main difference, of course, is that the elements in an "interior environment" are man-made, created by the architect.

Toxic substances within both "environments" are a major issue. While an architect may face problems like ground contamination caused by petroleum products leaching into the soil, an interior architect is likely to deal with asbestos in the ceiling, or other man-made elements which emit harmful substances.

Cleanup or removal processes will differ vastly for the two, but one very real similarity is that these problems will add unfortunate delays and expense to a project.

"Vernacular architecture" (construction technique traditional to a region which strives to make the best possible use of locally available materials) is not heard of in the interiors field. Lately, however, developers for large office complexes tend to establish building standards which set and control design quality within their buildings, creating what we might call an "interiors vernacular."

Another concern that affects both architecture and interiors is noise. Street noise that reaches a building may be architecturally buffered by the strategic placement of walls and fences integrated with proper landscaping. But in interiors, it is often a co-worker's conversation in the next room that needs to be addressed. An interior architect's solution might be a metal stud partition filled with fiberglass batt insulation or sound masking devices that effectively increase low-frequency sound waves while screening out distracting high frequencies.

Control and measurement



Rather than wind analysis and sun direction, an interior architect's "environment" consists of elements like parabolic and natural lighting, and "hvac" (heating, ventilation and air conditioning).

guidelines must be followed for both architecture and interiors. In Hawaii, development densities are governed by the "LUO" (Land Use Ordinances) which have established guidelines and terminologies such as "floor area rations," "building setbacks" and "building envelopes." Guidelines for commercial interiors have been written by "BOMA" (Building Owners and Managers Association), and define instead such terms as "rentable and usable areas."

The schedule for an architectural project is usually measured in units of years, whereas interiors tend to be more effectively addressed in terms of weeks. Many of an interiors firm's projects are "rapid fire," requiring fast turnaround. This can make projections very challenging — sometimes, negotiating the contract will take longer than doing the project itself!

To the client (and to the conscientious designer), project costs will always be an important factor. Architectural expenses such as foundation and roofing costs give way to carpet and furniture costs in an interiors practice. Both are equally important, but it is interesting to note that, even today, if the budget becomes tight, it is often the finishes which are considered "dispensable."

I remember my days as a fledging architect, doing reams of foundation details until I didn't want to hear of another "cmu" (concrete masonry unit) or "rebar" (metal reinforcement bar) again. Today, it's cabinet details that seem to haunt me instead.

I remember endless hours as a building architect, poring over a multitude of parking layout options which could often dictate the total allowable density of a building. Interior architects spend those same long hours designing workstation layouts within an office scheme. This also Architecture and interiors are levels of one overall process — and in good design, they should go hand in hand.



An example of "interiors vernacular:" each elevator lobby at the ANA Kalakaua Center was designed according to building standards which were then applied to each floor.

determines density of users —but now we can't just categorize them as "regular" or "compact."

How long a "product" (building) lasts is another consideration. Many people consider a design to be more or less permanent — an architect's "product" has a life expectancy that will normally span generations.

However, an interior architect's product rarely lasts a decade. Many factors are responsible. For instance, lease agreements for commercial interiors usually come up for review every five years. Restaurants find it important to rejuvenate customer interest by renovating interiors. Retail spaces, like the up-to-the-minute fashions they sell, also must keep up with the times in order to remain successful. Finally, as a general rule, materials used in interiors must be replaced from time to time simply due to everyday wear and tear.

Both architecture and interiors involve the basics of creating, defining and understanding man's experience and perspective sensitivities within space. Where architecture has created a safe enclosure from the elements, interiors must strive to make that environment truly livable. Architecture and interiors are levels of one overall process and in good design, they should go hand in hand. **HA** 

Gerald Choi, AIA, is a partner in the firm, Ferraro Choi and Associates which specializes in interior architecture.

## Building a Foreign Boat in a Bottle

by Jeffrey Nishi, AIA

The construction of an interior in an existing structure is normally a tricky situation, plagued with unforeseen problems and conditions. This project becomes more difficult when it involves a shop in the middle of a busy shopping mall with strict noise and work hour restrictions.

Quadruple the complication by fragmenting the responsibilities between a design architect, production architect, local general contractor and a furnishing and finishing fabricator. To this scenario, add further excitement and a veil of mystery.

The design architect, finish fabricator and all the finish materials are halfway around the world and the architect and fabricator speak only Italian!

Limit communications to facsimile transmissions of translated messages. Now, with all these parts spread all over the world, we concentrate efforts in Hawaii with an unyielding construction time limitation of six weeks. This is interior work on an explosive scale.

The project starts with an uneasy situation. It is difficult to generate the atmosphere of urgency when the start of construction is months away.

We order glass which is a size larger than any manufactured in the United States. It must be small enough to fit into a container to be shipped to Hawaii. Field dimensions for size and square were not possible because the frame is in Italy and the existing mounting location is under three layers of old renovation.

We now assume the Italian frame was the size and configuration which we interpreted from drawings and that this frame would fit squarely into a location which we could not confirm to be clear of obstruction. The glass required is to be one-half inch thick tempered glass, sized before tempering and unable to be resized after heat treatment.

The lead man of the Italian fabricators arrives to verify field conditions. Although the shop space is not yet demolished, we are confident that all walls are out of square, off plumb and crooked. We further verify that the floor varies in elevation two and a half inches.

The coordination meeting takes place through an interpreter. A



The imported ceiling was installed and coordinated with American-installed Italian light fixtures and American air-conditioning.



American contractors, steel workers, drywall and air-conditioning installers worked simultaneously to get basic work finished before the imported finish work arrived.



Mechanical, electrical and air-conditioning work had to wait the arrival of the imported ceiling.

lot of hand gestures and sketching is required because the vocabulary of the translator falls shy of construction terms.

We receive a new partial set of fabrication drawings which indicate that the design architect has cleverly revamped the entire scheme, hopefully without altering the locally installed elements. All the dimensions are worked out to the millimeter. Our confidence in receiving what we are expecting is critically low.

The next blow is that major electrical power feeder conduits are discovered hidden in the ceiling of the existing store and we confirm that they will interfere with the major architecture feature — the vaulted ceiling. The source and terminus of the conduits are identified, and arrangements are made to relocate the pesky pipes.

Coordination is made between a major department store and an electrical contractor. All work must be performed after store hours and the change-over, which required all power to be shut off, had to be done on a Sunday night. We end up tip-toeing around the Father's Day sale in a major department store and then turn out all power late at night on Father's Day.

During construction, the basic shell on which the Italian finishers will hang their premanufactured work is laid. All walls must be straightened and a work point elevation is established. Lights, sprinklers and air-conditioning are all fighting for space among themselves and all attempting to coordinate with items which are in-coming in three containers, due to arrive in a prearranged order.

Lighting of Italian manufacturer, converted to American standards in New York, and finally shipped to site, arrives days ahead of installation.

Lineal Air-conditioning defusers, a three to six month lead item appear again within days of installation.

The first container is on schedule but the first contingent of Italian installers is lost. One day later, they appear on the job. This is followed by much hand waving and picture drawing and ends with the international gesture of a raised elbow and a closed fist with a thumb touching the lips signifying their next course of action.

Men are working everywhere. Some of them speak English and others... we just hope they know what is supposed to happen.

The second container misses the ship on the coast and runs into the Fourth of July holiday. This delivery is a week late.

More material and men arrive. Days get longer and more men are standing on each other. And now the local general contractor is called for jury duty!

The tempered glass is here! It is in one piece!! It fits into the frame!!

And then we were done... HA

Jeffrey Nishi, AIA, is the owner and sole proprietor of Jeffrey Nishi & Associates. He is the recipient of a design Award of Merit and a former director of HS/AIA.

## Bringing the Out-of-Doors Inside

by Jeff Clark

R outinely, a visitor center greets visitors when they arrive at a resort or attraction and provides a kind of briefing, if you will, an overview of what the visitor will be exposed to during the visit. Simple enough, but what do you do when the visitor center itself is the total experience because the rest of the attraction has yet to be built?

For starters, you decide that the visitor center has to be a special place all its own.

This was precisely the task facing Thom Fudge, director of interiors with Kober/Hanssen/Mitchel Architects, when charged with designing the interior of the Ko Olina Visitor Center. Fudge worked in concert with Karen Sakamoto, also of Kober/ Hanssen/Mitchel's interior department, and Mark Nakahira, AIA, the project's lead architect.

Their efforts paid off, as the Ko Olina Visitor Center won a 1990 Gold Nugget Design Awards award of merit, a 1990 Honolulu Chapter/AIA award of merit, a first-place award in the 1990 Parade of Homes special entry category, and the 1991 MIRM Awards Gold Award for best sales office over 1,200 square feet.

The Visitor Center was required to establish and communicate the qualities intended by the developer. It has two component uses. One houses a theater, Hawaiian artifacts, models and renderings of



The Ko Olina Visitor Center makes use of natural materials throughout.

proposed projects and other information about the resort. The other is comprised of offices, conference rooms and administrative support.

"The whole intent, as we started, was to come up with a building that wasn't foreign to the environment," Fudge said.

"Everywhere we turned we wanted to make it as natural as we could," Fudge said. He did this by utilizing "sisal flooring, teak throughout, a lot of wood paneling on the walls, again in teak, and a lot of plants strewn throughout," he said.

The developer wanted the Visitor Center to reflect the natural beauty of the surrounding area. The project makes use of natural materials such as sandblasted coral and limestone aggregate concrete walls, sandstone pavers, bleached teak, copper roofs and sisal carpets.

The idea, Fudge confirmed, was to "bring some of the outdoors inside." Hence, many of the materials utilized on the interior are traditionally found on buildings' exteriors.

"Our interior design approach was to marry today's technology with the indigenous materials and finishes we found in the area. The interior architecture uses exterior materials to create a 'natural' backdrop for the dramatic vistas and visual displays," Fudge said.

"There is sandstone on the floors as you come in, the walls are textured concrete with cinder added, the ceilings are teak and other woods and we used a linenweave wall covering as a background," Fudge continued.

"You don't necessarily feel like you've left one environment when you walk through that door," he said.

The idea of bringing the outside in did not stop with physical materials.

The first sight visitors see when exiting the theater is a majestic view of the beach and lagoon. In fact, each display room was designed so that the exhibits are complemented by exterior views.

Glass was used unsparingly, Fudge said. "The view was always ultimate, and we wanted the person inside always to be able to look outside and see the beauty."

An important functional

requirement of the design was that visitors make their way through the building in a prescribed manner. They first pass along a display of Hawaiian artifacts en route to a multimedia theater in which they view an award-winning presentation. Upon exiting the theater visitors pass through a series of display areas describing different aspects of the resort. The displays were designed by renowned graphic artist Momi Cazimero.

The high-tech, 18-projector theater is the focal point of the project, Fudge said, and here he had to "make everything subtle with the decor to not distract from the presentation." The primary consideration was acoustics. Fudge also had to conceal various lighting effects and hide the sound system in the wall via a fabric acoustic wall system.

Fudge said his team was able to design a room which is "acoustically pleasing and visually clean."

As far as furnishings were concerned, the team designed benches which were constructed of teak and adorned with "very simple cushions done in a floralpatterned fabric that we felt expounded on the idea of bringing the outside in."

"The major part of FF&E [furniture, fixtures and equipment] was the pots," Fudge said. "We used a terra cotta-type pot. Actually, it's a rain jar from the Orient, and we had those whitewashed to mute the color."

Regarding the other portion of the project, the sales office, Fudge said, "The office side was much more attuned to what we do most of, which is office design."

In "orienting the design to a certain group of people," Fudge said, the furnishings and material had to be of the quality that would feel comfortable to the class of people that might buy properties within the development.

"The office side has a lot of similarities to the visitor side," Fudge continued. "It's contemporary in a tasteful way. It's a nice expression, we feel, of what an office in Hawaii should be like. I would love to be able to work in that office myself!" HA

From inside the Ko Olina Visitor Center, majestic outdoor views are captured from every possible angle.



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## Mutual Understanding is the Key

Procedure outlined to ensure a successful architect-interior designer relationship

by Mary Philpotts, ASID

he intent of collaboration between architect and interior designer is a better result for a lesser cost. Some projects allow the architect to recommend and participate in the selection of all consultants including the interior designer.

When your client has an ongoing relationship with a designer, and you have no previous experience with either client or designer, it is even more important to utilize the procedure outlined below. A mutual understanding of the project is critical.

1). Define the goals and objectives in a "brainstorming" session. Discuss the challenges of the project and the anticipated results.

2). Prepare a narrative statement which utilizes illustrative material to clarify the intent. The architect and client can respond and formulate a clearer picture. 3). After the "visualization" is complete, introduce a "differentiation" checklist to determine omissions and overlaps in services. Again, meet with the interior designer and clarify roles and objectives.

4). Compare proposed contracts. If formats correspond (i.e., definition of phases of work and fee payments by completion of work), it is easier for all involved to monitor the project.

5). Review the format to be used for drawings and specifications. It is useful for the interior designer to make freehand 8½x11-inch sketches of their drawings and designate information to be proposed per sheet. Included would be an indication of details and sections.

6). A critical path should be established designating the agreed-upon time frames for production of each consultant's drawings and submittals. The architect should indicate the proposed completion dates for materials and fixtures specification.

7). Integration of new lighting technology involves an early commitment, therefore, the "brainstorming" or "concepting" must be agreed to in the preliminary phase. The final concepts must crystallize prior to working drawings.

8). Architect and designer should have design review meetings to coordinate and agree prior to presentation of selections and options to client.

9). Architect and designer should clarify responsibilities for approval of finish sample submissions and directing and coordinating contractor's work as specified by each party. **HA** 

Mary Philpotts is president of Philpotts & Associates, Inc.

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#### HONOLULU CHAPTER / AIA 1991 DESIGN AWARDS

#### Award of Merit

#### CJS Group Architects, Ltd. — Linekona School

esigned near the turn of the century by Honolulu architect H.L. Kerr and constructed in 1908, state-owned Linekona School was originally dedicated as McKinley. It served as the high school's only building until 1923 when it became Lincoln Elementary. It remained an elementary school through 1957 when it became a school for children with learning disabilities and was renamed "Linekona," the Hawaiian equivalent of "Lincoln."

By 1980, Linekona School had fallen into such a state of dilapidation that the structure was no longer safe. It remained unoccupied until its renovation began in the fall of 1988.

Two years earlier, the Honolulu Academy of Arts had secured a 50year lease from the state of Hawaii to renovate and use the school as its new arts and crafts teaching facility.

The CJS Group Architects, Ltd. was retained as architects for the project. Following a detailed existing conditions study and program analysis, it was determined that it would be necessary to gut the entire structure, leaving only the rendered concrete block exterior walls standing.

In consideration of the building's historic significance, the CJS Group agreed with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reconstruct the building's exterior and public hallways in close conformance to their original details and finishes. Rooms adjacent to the halls were redesigned to meet the academy's educational program.

Currently named "The Academy

Art Center," the building once again opened its doors to the public in January of 1990.



The fully renovated building opened its doors to the public in January 1990.

#### JURY'S COMMENTS: "The jury is impressed by the sensitive handling of this renovation."



Above, the original steel beam and columns were exposed during the gutting of the auditorium. Below, the renovated auditorium facilitates exhibitions, meetings and art classes.



## 'Futuristic' Appliances are Here

#### by Glenda Anderson

s residential property values soared during the '80s, more and more architects and designers found themselves faced with high-end opportunities both in singlefamily houses and condominiums. Architects often did not have the time to research appropriate appliances to complement exciting new designs. Some have been created to solve specific problems while others reflect the newest generation of advanced technologies. Most are currently available through various distributors and dealers in Honolulu, and some are available on neighbor islands.

Gas Ranges. Long recognized

for their responsive and consistent control of heat, gas ranges are now gaining new popularity as improvements in technologies affect their safety and reliability.

Pilot light fears vanished some years back with the arrival of pilotless electronic ignition feature. The universal regulator converts equipment to propane or natural gas. This is accomplished with a simple adjustment of the regulator and orifices. It requires no additional parts and can be handled with ¼- and ½-inch open end wrenches.

Now the only problem with gas ranges is that they are either too underpowered to handle applications like professional wok cookery, or so high-performance they cannot be turned down low enough to simmer without scorching pots (unless you elevate the pot resulting in wasted energy and a hot kitchen).

One excellent solution to the too much/too little problem is a commercial-style range. Each burner can generate 15,000 BTUs of cooking power, giving the griddle and grill 30,000 BTUs to sear seafood or steaks, while the capability remains to melt a pat of butter on a paper plate without burning the plate.

**Electric Ranges.** The latest technology in electric ranges is European-inspired and only



slowly drifting to our shores. The new generation of magnetic induction allows cool cooking surfaces which only heat ferrous metals and have a safety factor built in: the induction element is only activated when a sufficiently large mass of ferrous metal comes in contact with the surface. Thus, a small child with a ring on cannot burn his or her hand. The beauty of these range tops is that food does not burn onto the surface as it can with conventional or halogen heating.

Currently available in the U.S., and rapidly gaining popularity, are the halogen "instant hot" burners. Within seconds, the glowing red light is at full heat capacity. And while it doesn't cool as quickly as gas, it cools much faster than conventional electric.

And here's an option that's even more imaginative. Hawaii architect Charles Lau inspired a search for developing cooktops uniquely created for specific kitchens. He wanted to insert halogen and conventional elements to order in a granite countertop of his choosing. In the resulting search, I found a French company willing to work with us and development is under way. We're working to meet U.L. standards, and when that's out of the way, the payoff will be truly custom countertops with cooking elements a la carte, including remote controls for those who want to do two things at once.

**Electric Ovens.** For small spaces, European single ovens offer true convection cooking with the convection element in the back wall of the oven, not out in the open. They fit neatly under a cooktop, and although they're only 24 inches wide, they'll accommodate a large turkey. The bottom element also is unseen, hidden below the compartment floor.

My personal preference of all available built-in ovens is the Gaggenau "pizza oven." It has the same features as the ovens I've just discussed: broil, conventional bake, convection and thermal convection — but it is wider (about 36 inches) and short (about 18 inches) so it can fit neatly under a wide cooktop. It also has a pizza brick in the bottom which makes it perfect for baking bread and a rotisserie ample enough to roast a small lamb. The added bonus is that it is self-cleaning.

**Refrigeration.** Even when decorated with designer panels, the American refrigerator ordinarily protrudes like a disproportionate growth within the clean, uniform lines of a contemporary kitchen.

Certain brands of German refrigerators fit neatly into cabinetry with their insulated doors on a nylon glide mounted to the inside of the cabinet door. This enables the individual refrigerator and freezer to vanish completely. The downside is that they cannot offer ice and water in the door. And being European, their ice makers are often considered inadequate. But their size advantage makes them perfect for secondary or beverage refrigerators in family rooms or dining areas without being noticed.

Washers & Drvers. In the world of really clean clothes, we have to look to the Europeans once again. They offer machines that heat their own water and scald cottons white without using bleach, at the same time killing germs. Although the capacity isn't as great, the cleaning is far superior using less water. Some of these front-loading machines change direction several times to reduce wrinkling and tangling. There also is a superfine wash for hand-tied knits and delicate silks where the clothes float and move on a cushion of water. The water then drains without spinning, leaving the clothes resting on the bottom of the washer.



The mate to a washer with this level of technology is a dryer which adjusts its own heat in relation to the wetness of the clothes and reverses direction like the washer. These dryers also have a spectacular option which helps solve architectural problems involved with ducting and venting: you can choose a nonvented condenser style.

The machines have a water trough to collect condensed moisture from the clothes. The condensation can either be collected in the trough or drained if one is available. With condensation collected and lint directed into a basket, clean, cool air is returned into the room. These washer/dryer combinations can be mounted inside cabinetry to stay out of sight or stacked with a retractable folding table as an option. HA

Glenda Anderson is a co-owner of Details, International.





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#### Appliance Update

## Home With an IQ

by Joni Ketter

www.execution.com water of the air conditioner and closed the drapes to conserve energy, watered the lawn and made sure no intruders entered the premises?

And, wouldn't it be nice to have someone cool the house to just the right temperature before you arrived home in the evening, turn on the stereo and have the lights illuminated so you could make your way to your favorite easy chair?

This may sound like something out of a science fiction movie, but the latest technology has transformed the "smart house" into a reality.

The smart house concept was developed about eight years ago, according to Doron Shorr, president of AV-COM, Inc., a local engineering consulting firm which specializes in designing smart houses.



A touch screen makes controlling home functions easy and convenient.

A smart house is a revolutionary development which allows the homeowner to control virtually every aspect of the home through a centralized computer



system. "The beauty of the system is that it is designed to run efficiently and unobtrusively," Shorr said. "It controls everything in the house."

Shorr explained that the smart house acts as a central nervous system, incorporating all aspects of the house into one central "brain."

Any type of residence can be developed into a smart house, acting exactly as the occupant wishes it to. "We take a floor plan of the house and add into it everything that we need," Shorr explained.

Even though the system is run by computer, Shorr stressed that computer knowledge is not necessary to operate a smart house system. A "user friendly" touch screen is recessed into the wall allowing the occupant to check the temperature of the pool or turn on the security system with the touch of a finger. A predetermined cable channel will allow any smart house function to be carried out via remote control.

Additionally, all systems come with a modem to connect it to other personal computers away from the house. "The beauty of the modem is that you can see what's happening at home," Shorr said. "You can even turn things on and off."

The same type of system can be accessed via touch-tone phone.

"If the computer should go down, a manual override will take over," Shorr added.

The current cost of a smart house system is somewhat prohibitive for most homeowners, however Shorr predicts that as technology increases, price will decrease. "In a few years, just about everything that runs by electricity will be designed with a little chip inside which will allow it to receive information from a computer," Shorr said.

"Soon, when people build a home, they will use a certain type

of wire with the capacity to implement a smart house system. It will become standard, like remote control TV or cellular telephones. We believe that by 1995, realtors in Hawaii will be able to sell you a smart house."

Some local contractors are already using smart houseaccessible wires in their projects, making the installation of a smart house system extremely easy, Shorr said.

There will be nine completely functioning smart houses in Hawaii by the end of the year. However, Shorr said that is only the beginning. "Smart developments" are currently under way on Oahu and Maui, following the lead of several mainland projects.

Even though an entire development might incorporate the smart house concept, Shorr emphasized the fact that each project is indeed a custom-



Doron Shorr demonstrates the ease of operating a smart house system with a remote control.

designed home, incorporating only those items desired by the owner and programmed to the wishes of the occupants.

For example, one client might





want the television to automatically mute when the phone rings and turn on the air conditioner and close the drapes when the outside temperature reaches 80 degrees while another client would prefer the sprinkler system to automatically come on when a moisture sensor in the ground determines it is too dry, a motion detector which would turn on the lights whenever someone enters a room and the ability to watch her neighbor on a screen when talking to her on the phone.

A "vacation mode" allows the homeowner to leave for a specified number of days while the home maintains itself and continues "normal" activities. Security systems as basic or elaborate as one desires can be incorporated into the smart house system. The screen, either touch or television, actually shows the viewer what is happening. If an

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alarm is triggered, the screen will pinpoint exactly where the intruder is. A built-in dialer calls a security company automatically while outside lights glare and video cameras record.

In addition to convenience and security, the smart house incorporates energy conservation into its design. Air conditioners can be turned off when the house is unoccupied. Water heaters can be turned on in just enough time to warm the water for a morning shower. Power/utility companies have contributed to the exploration of smart homes, Shorr said, because they are interested in consumer-efficient homes. Less wasted energy by consumers means less wasted energy for utility companies. "On the mainland, smart houses have cut 40 to 50 percent of energy consumption by using our technology," Shorr said. HA



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## HACBO Meets, Honors Herbert Muraoka

by Andrew Charles Yanoviak, AIA, CSI

he Hawaii Association of **County Building Officials** (HACBO) held its 21st Annual Conference in June in Kailua-Kona. Once again, the Honolulu Chapter/AIA Codes and Governmental Affairs Committee was invited to participate. This year we were given a full hour on their agenda. Five years ago, when I became chairman of the Hawaii Society/AIA Codes and Military Criteria Committee, our initial invitation consisted of a total of three minutes on the HACBO agenda.

This year's HC/AIA presentation was a team effort



*Glenn Mason, AIA, Honolulu Chapter president, commends Herbert Muraoka for his assistance to the American Institute of Architects.* 

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with incoming Codes Committee Chairman Duane Cobeen, AIA and Accessibility Standards Task Force Chairman John Marko, AIA participating in the program. In addition, the Hawaii Island Section of HC/AIA was represented by Russell Oda, AIA and Virginia MacDonald, AIA, who made a slide presentation on "natural ventilation."

The presentation included the HC/AIA Energy Committee audio visual tape summarizing research efforts in conjunction with TRB Hawaii and the state Department of Business and Economic Development/Energy Division. Copies of our joint publication titled "Hawaii Design Guidelines for Energy Efficient Architecture" were distributed to each of the HACBO participants from all four counties. The implementation of the proposed code for Hawaii has been initiated by the Energy Code Subcommittee of the HC/AIA Codes Committee.

As a part of the presentation, we showed two other audio visual tapes. One was by HC/AIA Affordable Housing Task Force member Jo Paul Rognstad, AIA who has designed a 40-squarefoot prefabricated residence to be shipped to Hawaii in an 8x8x24foot container. The other was of "disaster preparedness and emergency response" in the U.S. and Japan, which featured the most recent San Francisco earthquake.

In my presentation, I noted some of the problems confronted in the built-environment with the interpretation and application of grading, land use and zoning ordinances in conjunction with building and fire codes. I challenged HACBO building officials to consider the possibility of expanding their role in the near future to become the "HACCO" (Hawaii Association of County Code Officials).

I also noted that as more architects become involved in



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"We commend you for your scholarship and leadership in addressing difficult applications and interpretations of existing and proposed code regulations."

codes and design standards development, building and fire code officials should simultaneously become more involved in contributing to design issues involving life safety and human welfare considerations. I made a brief presentation on the AIA Building Performance and Regulations Committee resolution for a Single U.S. Model Building Code which was successfully adopted at the recent national AIA Convention in Washington, D.C.

All of this was followed by an HC/AIA presentation of the following letter from President Glenn Mason, AIA to Herbert Muraoka, P.E., Hon. AIA, Honolulu Building Department Director and Building Superintendent, which reads:

On behalf of the Honolulu Chapter/The American Institute of Architects, the Board of Directors and Officers would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for your longstanding commitment to the involvement of architects in the building code development process in Honolulu.

You have won the respect of all architects with your dedication and commitment to the improvement of code provisions and your sensitivity to architectural design concepts. We commend you for your

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scholarship and leadership in addressing difficult applications and interpretations of existing and proposed code regulations.

Your ex-officio participation in our codes and design standards meetings is of great value, especially when we have confronted challenges at both the state and federal government levels. We also very much appreciate your thoughtful analyses of proposed bills brought before the City Council and Hawaii Legislature regarding architectural and environmental design matters.

We look forward to your continuing participation in the codes aspects of our HC/AIA affairs, as well as our monthly dinner meetings and biennial conferences when your schedule permits. Thanks once again for the superb performance and outstanding contributions to design professionals and the community. Aloha.

#### Sincerely,

Glenn E. Mason, AIA President

In addition, all HC/AIA members present jointly presented a framed certificate to Herb Muraoka which reads: "Our heartfelt gratitude for your longstanding commitment and involvement with architects in the building code development process in Honolulu."

Another highlight of this year's HACBO Conference was the luncheon with Hawaii County Mayor Lorraine Inouye, who also congratulated the building and fire officials and commended the Honolulu Chapter/AIA for their informative participation.

It was an excellent opportunity to prepare for my role as chairman of the first AIA/BP&R educational session at the upcoming ICBO (International Conference of Building Officials) Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington this September. HA YOUR 1st CHOICE IN KITCHENS OF DISTINCTION.

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#### Features

## Toyomura's Efforts Go Beyond Architecture

by Joni Ketter

There are many great architects in Hawaii who have contributed to the design industry. However, there are only a handful who also have contributed to their communities in the same way as Dennis Toyomura, FAIA.

His donation of time, talent and energy goes far beyond contributions to the American Institute of Architects and the architecture profession.

Toyomura's involvement in community projects extends to international conferences and forums highlighting such diverse topics as high energy physics and world future studies.

In the early '80s, Toyomura was asked by then-governor George R. Ariyoshi to help coordinate a Public Forum on High Energy Physics which was to draw distinguished physicists from around the world. "I was just going to help out," Toyomura said, not realizing he would play an integral part in keeping the forum from collapsing before it ever had a chance to get off the ground.

Frederick A. Harris, scientific directorate, wrote in Proceedings of the Tenth Hawaii Conference in High Energy Physics (1985) that Toyomura had the foresight to know the local community could help make the forum happen. "To justify the local support, it was necessary to find some advantage to the community besides the obvious benefits to the high energy physicists," Harris stated. "The solution seemed obvious to Dennis Toyomura F.A.I.A., a leading Honolulu architect... Dennis decided that the youth of Hawaii could benefit from this

once in a lifetime opportunity to hear, meet, and speak first hand with some of the world's leading scientists, including Nobel Laureates and Einstein Prize and other international and national prize winners. The forum was important to expose young people to heroes other than athletes."

Toyomura, in an effort to gain community support, developed the idea of a public forum which would be of interest to high school students as well as the general public.

As a consequence of Toyomura's efforts, the forum was a grand success. "One hundred, twenty-five scientists attended," Toyomura said of the six-day seminar and one-day public forum held at the University of Hawaii.

Because of his efforts on behalf of the only forum of this caliber ever to be held in Hawaii, Toyomura was awarded the Albert Einstein International Academy Foundation Medal for Peace in 1990.

Just one year after the forum, in 1986, Toyomura planned and hosted The IX World Conference of the World Futures Studies Federation in Honolulu. The first ever held in the state, the conference focused on differences between "caring" and "careless"



societies. More than 200 people representing 26 countries participated in the conference.

Toyomura was called on to organize the conference by University of Hawaii President Albert Simone. Toyomura rallied for public support of the conference which brought immense pride to Hawaii and its university.

Toyomura has been honored in other ways as well. He received Senate and House Certificates from the 15th and 16th legislatures for his outstanding work and commitment toward the betterment of Honolulu. He was named Man of the Year in 1990 by the American Biographical Institute, USA and was listed in Who's Who in the World, Tenth Edition for 1991/1992, which includes only those people who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their own fields of endeavor and have contributed

W



Sen. Ann Kobayashi presents Dennis T. Toyomura, FAIA, with a Senate Certificate from the 16th Legislature.

significantly to the betterment of contemporary society.

Toyomura has served on the National Council of Engineering Examiners, as trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu, as director of the Construction Industry Legislative Organization and as director of the Lyon Arboretum Association.

He was elected the first president of the newly-formed Hawaii Council/AIA in 1990. He also was director and treasurer for the Hawaii Society/AIA and was named to the College of Fellows in 1983.

In addition, Toyomura has served on the following state boards: Legislative Advisory Committee for the Hawaii State Legislature, 1990 to present; Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii, 1986 to present; Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, 1982-1986; Governor's Committee on Hawaii Economics Future, 1984: Hawaii Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects, 1974-1982; and the National Council on Architectural Registration Boards, 1974 to 1982. HA

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#### Continued from Page 8

the 4500-foot elevation. We felt sorry for Hans pedaling in the rain and the wind, but decided this was a challenge he wanted to accomplish, and so we left him alone. The Maui delegates found their way to the volcano as did the Big Isle guys in a four-wheel drive, who arrived in slippers only.

Thanks to Russell Oda, of Oda McCarty Partners, who knew the base commander of Kilauea Military Camp, we were fortunate enough to stay at the camp all weekend at a very special rate. Mess hall food wasn't the greatest except for breakfast with lots of bacon, eggs and butter and the cold beer in the lounge.

The cool mountain air and beautiful scenery were conducive to intense discussions that were to take place regarding Council matters on Saturday and Sunday. Free time was allocated and there were numerous other opportunities to socialize and get to know one another. Thanks go to the Volcano Art Center and Hawaii Island Section, Virginia McDonald especially, for arranging a cocktail reception for us at the Art Center.

The impression I am left with after this Council retreat is that the future of the Chapters and the Council is in good hands with experienced leadership at the helm. From the rate of discussions and depth of thought, burning issues of the Council and Chapters are finally being addressed. It will take time for these issues to be resolved (such as separation of Chapter and Council duties), but we are well on our way to sorting those ideas out.

If you are wondering if this was an expensive weekend, you are



absolutely right. I calculate that the weekend, if it were billed out at each principal's billable rate, equates to approximately \$10,000 in time. Never before in my recollection has there been such a gathering of eagles and independent thinkers and leaders all in one room.

Fortunately, for the Council's sake, our budget is relatively undamaged since attendees contributed their time and resources. Nonetheless, without getting into detail, legislative issues which affect your practice and mine, the role of the Chapters and the Council, the future of our younger members and associates, the awards program, *Hawaii Architect* magazine and many other issues were debated. Some issues were resolved, others were not.

Those issues which were not resolved were assigned to a Council member or a task force. Yours truly ended up heading a task force for the next Hawaii Council convention. I swore the last convention was my last, and here I am doing it again. Is there anyone out there who is interested in joining and perhaps leading this committee? Please call me!

Personally, I enjoyed myself immensely and came away from this retreat with great slides of Kilauea and a profound respect for colleagues and the people at the helm. Our leaders are only as strong as the membership's willingness to support and participate in the programs and issues of the Chapter and Council.

If you are not involved, get involved. If you are an experienced practitioner, we can use your knowledge. If you are a younger member, we can use your enthusiasm and energy. My impression is that the Chapters and the Council are very strong, well organized and each of the programs are relevant to today's practice. **HA** 

#### Letter to the Editor

#### **Dear Editor:**

I would like very much to take this opportunity to congratulate and commend your Managing Editor Joni Ketter for her splendid article in the July 1991 *Hawaii Architect* titled "Alfred Preis (FAIA-ME): Artist-Architect and Proud of It."

Dr. Preis is a major source of inspiration for many of us in the professional community and a truly urbane "professor" of art, architecture and city planning.

Therefore, this particular expression of the essence of his spirit and personal philosophy contained within his profound endeavors and accomplishments was very much appreciated.

> Andrew Charles Yanoviak AIA, CSI

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