Hawaii experienced profound changes between 1939 and 1979 primarily from America’s entry into World War II and resulting effects from that historic event. The territory emerged as the fiftieth state and political power shifted from a Republican run government to Democratic one. Concurrently, Hawaii’s main industry transitioned from large-scale agriculture to tourism. The population boom spurred related development so extensive that the only period in Hawaii’s history which may have experienced more dramatic change was the half century or so after the initial introduction of western culture.

The dramatic social and cultural history of the mid-twentieth century also spurred major changes in the built environment. As the buildings, structures, districts, sites and landscapes from that period attain an age of 50 years or more, they become the subject of historic preservation interest and evaluation. To assist the preservation, regulatory, public interest, design and general publics to have a common baseline and understanding about this period and its resources, Historic Hawai‘i Foundation commissioned a Context Study about Hawai‘i Modernism and the Recent Past.

Fung Associates, Inc. conducted historical research and wrote summary information about modernism architectural styles, leading practitioners, significant historic and cultural influences, and relationship to national and international movements specific to the resources of the Hawaiian Islands. The Hawai‘i Modernism Context Study includes overviews of Historic, Social and Cultural Influences of the Mid-Twentieth Century, Impact of Technology and New Materials on Modernism, Urban Planning and Architecture of the Mid-Twentieth Century, Transportation, Public Works and Engineering Development of the Mid-Twentieth Century, Landscapes, Parks and Public Spaces of the Mid-Twentieth Century, Leading Design Practitioners in Hawai‘i, and a Statement of Significance to include a historic context in which to evaluate significance of individual resources, and direction for evaluating and protecting significant historic resources.
The Symposium was conceived as an initial event not only to present the major findings, but also to begin a community dialogue about this period of Hawaii’s history, and to begin to set preservation priorities, actions and outcomes. The symposium explored a variety of buildings associated with the Modern movement in Hawai’i. The primary goal of the symposium was to advance the dialogue with professionals in the community about significant buildings, districts, sites and structures, and to develop additional recommendations for future efforts that strive to preserve modern era resources. We hope this program has contributed to those exploring the richness of the built environment and what it means for present and future generations.

HHF gratefully acknowledges the support of those who made the study and the symposium possible. The project was funded in part by a grant from the Hawai’i Preservation Fund and the Modernism + Recent Past Intervention Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We also thank Fung Associates for its outstanding work in developing a ground-breaking analysis of this important period, and acknowledge the contributions of the peer review group who commented on the study scope, methodology and findings.

Opening Remarks
Ms. Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director, Historic Hawai’i Foundation, welcomed participants and thanked them for attending the symposium. She acknowledged and thanked event sponsors. Ms. Faulkner provided background information on Hawai’i Modernism and the context study that Historic Hawai’i Foundation (HHF) prepared on modernism in Hawai’i. She provided an outline for the day and introduced the first speaker.

Presentations

Session 1: National Overview of Modernism (PDF: Pt. 1, Pt. 2)
Presenter:

This session provided an overview of the development of Modernism in architecture and designed landscapes at the national level. It showed how these developments laid the foundation for regional expressions of the Modern movement in Hawai’i.

Session 2: Hawai’i Modernism Context Study (PDF: Overview, Typologies)
Panelists:
Don Hibbard, Ph.D., Architectural Historian, Fung Associates, Inc.
William R. Chapman, D.Phil, Director, UH Graduate Program in Historic Preservation
Moderator:
Tonia Moy, AIA, Senior Associate / Director of Preservation, Fung Associates, Inc.

Historic Hawai’i Foundation recently commissioned a Context Study about architectural, planning, engineering and designed landscape resources in Hawai’i from 1939-1979, with emphasis on 1947-1967. In this panel presentation, the development team from Fung Associates, Inc. explained the objectives, methodology, and key findings of the Context Study. Panelists highlighted significant historic resources, and discussed how these resources reflect the social and cultural histories, design influences and characteristics of the Modern era in Hawai’i.
Session 3: Issues, Challenges, Threats and Opportunities to Preserving Modern Resources
Panelists:
Christine Madrid French, Architectural Historian, University of Central Florida
Jason Selley, Architect, WCIT Architecture, Inc.
Moderator:
William R. Chapman, D.Phil, Director, UH Graduate Program in Historic Preservation

Historic properties, communities and landscapes, which were created between 1939 and 1979, are under increasing threat of destruction. This session brought together panelists from different disciplines to initiate dialogue on setting preservation priorities for historic resources.

They used the following critical discussion points to guide the conversation:
• Can Modern Architecture be significant for its historic impact, not just its design?
• Given the amount of Modern Architecture, how can decisions about significance be made?
• Do aesthetic judgments play a place in evaluation? Is it possible to identify “good” versus “bad” Modern Architecture?
• Modernism is often seen as having been the “destroyer” of earlier historic buildings and Modernist Planning remains at odds with more traditional planning. As with Modern Architecture, Modern Planning ideals sought to do away with historic environments. As a movement that displaced and marginalized earlier historic contexts, is it itself worthy of preserving?
• Modernism is associated for many with Hawaii’s move toward Statehood. Does this era lack the sentimental appeal of Kingdom Period or Territorial Period buildings? Are there particular cultural associations with Modern Architecture in Hawai‘i?
• Modern Architecture presents many technical challenges for preservation. Do modern materials “age” well?

Keynote Address: “Born Modern: The Next Preservation Generation” (PDF, Video)
Christine Madrid French
Ms. French addressed the question of “What is historic?” Resources from the past five decades are vast in scope, telling the 20th century American story in all its complexity, from the Cold War to suburbanization, to the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, the Women’s Movement, the Space Program, urban renewal and the rise of consumer culture.

Ms. French expressed that preserving resources of the recent past requires new thinking and innovative approaches as successive generations of architecture are incorporated into America’s evolving historic context. In order to preserve these resources it is important to create bridges between historic sites and economic potential. She pointed to examples such as Palm Spring’s Modernism Week which had an economic impact of $4,920,000 in 2010.

She closed by stating that “We are closer to 2050 than 1950. At that point, can we look back on our work today and honestly say that we tried our best? The 1970s buildings that we argue over today will be 70 years old when my sons reach my age. Can we say that we set up a logical, adaptable
system for preserving resources, both cultural and environmental, for the better of our community today and the children of tomorrow?”

Development of Action Plans for Identifying, Evaluating and Preserving Modern Resources

Group #1: Evaluation of Mid-Century Properties
Facilitators:
Tonia Moy, Senior Associate / Director of Preservation, Fung Associates, Inc.
Scribe: Tanya Gumapac-McGuire

Objectives:
- Determine how the Hawai‘i Modernism Context Study can be utilized to evaluate mid-century properties for future preservation efforts.
- Formulate approaches by which the State Historic Preservation Division identifies and reviews projects for historic resources over 50 years old.

Group 1 discussed the importance at looking at mid-century resources and evaluating their integrity. They looked are important things to consider when evaluating integrity:
- What are the character-defining features?
- Are there resources present?
- What is the period of significance?
- Options for continuation of use
- Public view/opinion of the building – need to provide guidance
- Political issues
- Technical issue/criteria
- Local vs. National significance
- Owner wants vs. owner doesn’t want the property listed on the register
  State designation – do not need owner approval
  National designation – do need owner approval
- Is change characteristic of a building?
  Will integrity filter out a lot of alterations?
  Where do you draw the line?
  What are you preserving? The story of change?
- Preservation of material vs. preservation of story line
- Are we looking at districts vs. individual buildings
- Ex.: Tahitienne Building – interior compartments vs. building exterior

They continued to discuss the character defining features of mid-century buildings:
- What are they?
- Is it custom designs?
Technical dimensions of that time period: paints, colors, finishes.

Develop a database
- Geographic inventory – WISSARD system used in Washington State
- Where is this building?
- Are there enough of a particular type remaining?
- Will there be another one in the future?
  Property type, material, architect, technology
- Funding for the inventory
- Staff
- Who are the architects of the time?
  Regional architects have the most influence.

Priorities
- Inventory / Database
- Detailed material studies
- Define acceptable substitute materials when repairs or replacements are necessary
- Identify character defining features for building types
- Work of significant architects of the time period
- Detailed context studies

**Group #2 - Design Districts & Role of Local Government**

**Facilitators:**
Angie Westfall, Architecture Branch Chief, State Historic Preservation Division
Henry Eng, Planning Consultant, Henry Eng Land Planning Services

**Scribe:** Katie Kissling

**Objective:** Discuss pros and cons of using special design districts as a preservation tool and other opportunities for local government initiatives.

Group 2 began by looking at the current design districts and statutes in Honolulu
- Each district has different objectives
- Most of the modern buildings are in Capital District
- There are currently seven design districts in Honolulu

Group 2 discussed the pros and cons of having design districts and looked at how they could work for modern resources.

**Pros**
- Identifies common elements.
- Eligible for tax credits.
- Can draw in tourists and local residents.
- Portland has program including transfer of development rights that have helped to save historic buildings.
• Can create good guidelines for good infill.

Cons
• Need more financial incentives.
• Don’t have incentives for designers or architects to want to work on these projects.
• Can be difficult having to comply with design standards.

Tax Exemption:
• There are currently 255 houses, 5 commercial structures receiving the property tax exemption in Honolulu
• Provides a big incentive to list properties in Hawai’i.

Do we need design districts in Hawai’i?
• Need to adapt to work with newer buildings.
• DPP isn’t currently looking at future design districts
• Looks to public to advocate and request design districts
• Need to begin to prioritize based on imminent danger.
• Low rise apartments.
• Get volunteers for surveys.

The discussion continued, by looking at how to get people to embrace mid-century design?
• Some things may just be ugly.
• Need to provide more education on the importance of these resources
• Don’t want to preserve just to preserve.
• Ward Center – second cycle (was it better to put Blaisdell Center at site of Old Ward Estate?)

Action Steps:
• Identify potential districts.
• Increase awareness of value
• Legislation for incentives needs change
• Need to have enforcement
• Need to increase staff
• Education about opportunities
• Tours or other ways to bring tourists to these areas
  Cultural tours – Korean, Japanese, Chinese, etc.
• Work with different states to preserve work of an architect who has worked throughout country

Group #3: Public Education and Awareness
Facilitator: Kevin Cockett, Cockett Communications Inc.
Scribe: Stuart Ching
**Objective:** Develop methods to increase public education and awareness about preserving Hawai‘i’s Modern resources.

Group 3 began by looking at core questions that they would need to answer:
1. What is the message?
2. Who is the target audience?
3. What is the best vehicle for delivering the message?
4. How to order the information?

**Message:**
- Develop language/message to explain relevance & importance
- Abundance
- Tell Stories
- What is Modernism – ideological, political, etc.
- Point out buildings and context
- Modernism difficult to define
- Appreciation of building as a historical artifact
- Spatial vocabulary to provide meaning
- Time needed to develop & tailor message
- Lost resources
- New ways to look at space
- Invitation to see for oneself

**Target audience:**
- Architectural tourists
- Residents with a shared history
- K-12
- University students
- PBS audience
- New traditional /retros/ “hipsters”
- Government
- Community Groups
- Environmentalists concerned with sustainability
- Academics
- Cultural critics

**Vehicle:**
- Paid media coverage
- Earned media
- Social media: blogs, tweets, facebook, geo-caching, web sites
- Resource development
- Event marketing – leverage or create new
- Create “cool”
• Lobbying
• Tours

Order:
• Create a story

**Group #4 - Additional Studies**

**Facilitators:**
William R. Chapman, Director, UH Graduate Program in Historic Preservation
**Scribe:** Alan Brown

**Objective:** Identify additional research and studies that are needed to further understand historic resources of the Modern era.

**State Inventory**
• Filed form – TMK – pictures
• Use of 3D model to help create inventory & review

**Discussion Points:**
• How to determine what is saved?
• There needs to be education of types of buildings, uses, structures
• Chapters of national groups
• Real estate community awareness
• Study of individual architects
• Special considerations for historical buildings – codes
• Set the basis for the next generation of buildings – awareness / education
• Oral histories for districts / inventory
• Create database
• Demonstration Project of a particular building
  o Show how / what / where of a project like this
  o Pros / cons
• Heritage tourism
• Low-rise / 2 story walkup
• Transfer development rights
  o Does it work or do you give up too much?
• Study showing preservation / tours to offset loss of real property tax – does it make sense?
• Inventory – use of it, use of high tech
• Scholarly study:
  o oral history of buildings
  o organizations / national / have local chapters / education
  o education of public
• Questions and discussion points
• Tourism potential
Priorities and Action Plan
Facilitator: Bruce Tsuchida, Townscape, Inc.
Scribe: Kiersten Faulkner

In this final session, ideas from the four working groups were compiled into a framework for setting priorities for a state action plan.

1. Inventory
   • Wizzard – model database w/ GIS
   • Mapable and geo-coded

2. Education
   • Define issues
   • What is Modernism?
   • Determine Audience
   • Means & Methods
   • Conference / call for papers / publications – contribute to body of knowledge
   • Student projects
   • Awards / prizes
   • Museum exhibits
   • General Public
   • Owners: value of resources & opportunities

3. Legislation
   • Incentives for preservation
   • Tax incentives for broad base of beneficiaries

4. District designations
   • Identify stakeholders
   • Prioritize geographic areas or types from Modernism Study recommendations

5. Oral History
   • Practitioners
   • Designers / architects
   • Builders
   • Diversity: ethnic, socio-economic

6. Heritage tourism: fashion, buildings, music, culture
   • Architecture tours
   • Cultural tourism
   • Modern focus
Partnerships

- Hawai‘i Tourism Authority
- Academic Associates
- Arts, Galleries, Museums
- Other cities (shared architects who worked in Hawai‘i and elsewhere; program best practices)
- Modern building owners/managers (e.g. hotels, office buildings)
- Professional Organizations (e.g. AIA, APA, ASLA, BIA)
- UH School of Architecture
- DOCOMOMO (local chapter)
- Heroic Concrete

Conclusions
Ms. Faulkner thanked the presenters and attendees for their interest and support in the effort to identify, evaluate, and preserve Hawaii’s recent past.

Attendees

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**Speaker Biographies**

**WILLIAM CHAPMAN**
Dr. Chapman is Director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation and Professor in the Department of American Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Educated at Columbia (M.S. in Historic Preservation, 1978) & at Oxford University in England (D. Phil. in Anthropology, 1982), Dr. Chapman specializes in architectural recording, historic districts and materials conservation. A former American Candidate at the International Center for Conservation in Rome (ICCROM) and a four-time Fulbright Scholar, he has a special interest in international preservation, particularly in the Pacific and Asia. Since 2001, he has been a Special Lecturer at Silpakorn University, Thailand.

**KEVIN COCKETT**
Mr. Cockett is principal and president of Cockett Communications, Inc. Prior experience includes five years at Communications Pacific as a Senior Vice President. His specialties include Marketing, Communications, Community Outreach program strategy, development and activation. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management and Kamehameha Schools.

**KIERSTEN FAULKNER**
The Executive Director of Historic Hawai‘i Foundation (HHF), Ms. Faulkner oversees all aspects of its preservation programs, strategic planning, business lines and operational matters. Prior to joining HHF, Ms. Faulkner was a Senior City Planner for the City & County of Denver, where she managed complex and controversial comprehensive planning, promulgation of land use and urban design regulations, and development proposals. She holds an M.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts University and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).
HENRY ENG
President at HELPS, LLC (Henry Eng Land Planning Services), Mr. Eng has over 45 years of professional planning experience in government and private sector, both in Honolulu and New York City. Mr. Eng served as City and County of Honolulu's Director of the Department of Planning & Permitting with a staff of 275. His major responsibilities included planning, zoning, permitting and code enforcement for the City & County of Honolulu. Mr. Eng worked 15 years with the Estate of James Campbell to plan and secure entitlements for the City of Kapolei. He was a member of O‘ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Citizen Advisory Committee, where he served as Vice-Chair from 1993- 1994 and Chair from 1994- 1995. Mr. Eng also served on the City Design Review Committee for Special Districts for 10 years. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP).

CHRISTINE MADRID FRENCH
A dedicated advocate for the study and preservation of American modern buildings, Ms. French was born and raised in Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of Utah in Architectural Studies in 1992 and worked for the National Park Service as an historian in Washington, D.C. Ms. French earned a master's degree in Architectural History from the University of Virginia in 1998. She is also a writer and photographer, with her work appearing in U.S. News & World Report, Virginia Living, Modernism Magazine, and Landscape Architecture. In 2000, she co-founded the Recent Past Preservation Network and served as the president for nine years. She then worked as the Director of the Modernism + Recent Past Program for the National Trust for Historic Preservation through 2011. She is currently an Expert Member on the 20th-Century Heritage Committee for the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is teaching architectural history at the University of Central Florida.

LOUIS FUNG
Principal-in-Charge of Fung Associates, Inc., Mr. Fung holds an M. Arch in Architecture and Urban Design from Washington University, and meets the Secretary of Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards as a Historic Architect. Mr. Fung has over 25 years of experience in architecture, historic preservation, and planning. His responsibilities include projects under Section 106/110 and HABS/HAER. His experience in architecture includes design, construction documents, construction inspection and management of multi-disciplinary designs. Mr. Fung is a Director of the American Institute of Architects, Honolulu Chapter.

DON HIBBARD
A heritage consultant and author of several books on Hawaii’s architectural history, Dr. Hibbard formerly served as Administrator of the Hawai‘i State Historic Preservation Office and as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. Dr. Hibbard holds an M.A. and Ph.D in American Studies from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and meets the Secretary of Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards as an Architectural Historian. Over the past two years he has been involved with architectural inventory surveys, the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and preparation of HABS and HAER reports.

TONIA MOY
Ms. Moy is a Senior Associate & Director of Preservation at Fung Associates, Inc. (FAI). Before joining FAI in January 2004, she was the Architecture Branch Chief of the State Historic
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Mr. Selley is a sustainability design manager at WCIT Architecture and currently in his third year as an instructor at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa School of Architecture. His diverse portfolio focuses on managing sustainability integration and design solutions for a wide variety of projects throughout the islands. Mr. Selley serves on the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Hawai‘i Chapter board of directors, an accredited LEED BD+C professional, and is co-founder of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa School of Architecture Design-Build Studio.

BRUCE TSUCHIDA
Mr. Tsuchida is the Founder and President of Townscape, Inc., a community and environmental planning company that provides services to community organizations, public agencies and landowners throughout the State of Hawai‘i. Mr. Tsuchida has served as principal planner or principal in charge of some 200 planning projects during his career. He is a member of the American Planning Association (APA) and the Tropical Urban Forestry Research Center. Mr. Tsuchida holds a Master of Landscape Architecture Degree from Harvard University.

ANGIE WESTFALL
Ms. Westfall is the Architectural Branch Chief of the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). Before joining SHPD, Ms. Westfall worked in the field of preservation for firms located in Indiana and California. She meets the Secretary of Interior’s Professional Qualifications as an Architectural Historian and Historic Architect. Ms. Westfall holds an M.A. in Architecture, a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation, and a B.A. in Marketing from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

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About Historic Hawai‘i Foundation
Historic Hawai‘i Foundation (HHF) was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai‘i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai‘i’s unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic viability of the state. HHF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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