



Hawaii Modernism Context Study

I. Executive Summary

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1 Executive Summary

This report presents historical research on the built environment in Hawaii during the “Modern” period of 1939 to 1979, with an emphasis on the years between 1947 to 1967. The study summarizes information about the architectural history, leading practitioners, urban planning, significant historic and cultural influences, and relationship to national and international movements specific to the resources of the Hawaiian Islands.

The framework provided in this study for the identification and evaluation of buildings, structures and landscapes associated with the modern movement in Hawaii may be utilized by Hawaii’s preservation professionals to advance the dialogue with the community about significant buildings, districts, sites and structures. Additional recommendations for future efforts that strive to preserve modern era resources are included in this report.

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.

In this study, Hawaii’s modern architecture, engineering and design are placed within both a local and national context. The influences of Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, Mendelsohn, Saarinen, and Frank Lloyd Wright are noted. A range of forms are identified, including streamlined moderne and art deco through Miesian International Style, Modern Expressionism, mid-century modern, Brutalism, Neo- Formalism, Metabolism, as well as Googie, Tiki, contractor modern or ranch house, and other popular variations. Hawaii examples of the various styles are presented along with an overview history.

The resources in Hawaii that are the subject of this report included several building types developed through urban, resort and suburban planning efforts or public works projects. The context report also addresses the development of parks and landscape design, and the utilization of modern materials and technologies including air conditioning, aluminum doors, jalousie windows, brise-soliels, concrete masonry units (CMU), pre-cast and pre-stressed concrete, canec and terrazzo. Over fifty prominent architects, artists and designers are profiled. Works by nationally known architects such as I.M. Pei, Edward Killingsworth, Minoru Yamasaki, Skidmore Owings Merrill, John Carl Warnecke, Cesar Pelli, and Roger Lee are highlighted.

Private residences are not directly addressed in this study because of their wide variety and enormous numbers, and the fact that government control over this resource is negligible. The topic is briefly examined under subdivision planning. From the case study of Niu Valley, it appears a large number of post-war tract houses no longer retain their integrity, but without an intensive inventory effort, it will be difficult to develop a useful context for this property type.

In addition to examining modern architecture in Hawaii, major highway projects such as the Pali, Likelike, Lunalilo and Kahekili Highways are discussed along with the interstate highway program in Hawaii. The report summarizes highway projects on the neighbor islands the development of the Wailuku-Lahaina highway, Hilo-Hamakua highway, Queen Kahaamanu Highway, and the realignment of Kauai's belt road. The disposal of garbage, as embodied in incinerators and sanitary landfills, is also considered as is the development of parking structures to accommodate the increased number of automobiles. Other automobile-related property types such as service stations, junk yards and artificial reefs are also addressed. Other public utilities which needed to expand to meet growing population needs, such as sewers, water supply, and flood control are also examined in this report.

Parks projects, including the development of public golf courses, botanical gardens and street planting programs are also addressed, and a brief look at landscape trends from a national and Hawaii perspective is included.

Summary of Types of Buildings

LOW AND MID-RISE COMMERCIAL AND OFFICE BUILDINGS

Low rise business buildings and apartments are identified as the modern resource most endangered, as many sit on lands which can be developed more intensely. Some of the acclaimed buildings from this time period such as the Garden Court office building have already been demolished to allow for denser developments. These buildings often reflect distinctive Mid-Century Modern features such as contrasting textures, decorative sun screens or other features to distinguish these rentable spaces.

SHOPPING CENTERS, MALLS AND SUPER MARKETS

Shopping centers are identified as an endangered resource since this building type is often changed through remodeling. While individual shops and interiors of shopping centers should be accepted as modified through time, exterior integrity should be the issue. A number of the smaller shopping centers in Hawaii display high degrees of Mid-Century Modern elements especially in the use of new structural technology such as folded plate or thin-shell concrete roofs.

LOW RISE, WALK-UP APARTMENTS

Numerous examples of this building type are excellent Mid-Century Modern resources that use concrete masonry units as decorative screens and for structure. There are also numerous examples of quickly constructed housing that result from the post-World War II population boom. Zoning laws which periodically change and the potential for higher density make a number of these resources endangered. Thus, attention was given to distinguishing some high preservation resources in this building type.

LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING

There are 47 housing projects that date from the period 1952-1979 due to the serious housing shortage from population growth after World War II. While the history of public housing in Hawaii during this period is documented in this report, an inventory was not conducted and thus it will be difficult to make any preservation recommendations for this building type. It should be noted that there are three separate projects designed by master architects C.W. Dickey, John Warnecke and Cesar Pelli.

HIGH RISE BUILDINGS

The boom in population caused high rise development almost exclusively in Waikiki and Downtown Honolulu due to zoning laws, scarcity of land and the passage of the condominium law. The high rise building type has many examples that are often called concrete boxes. A regional modern feature is lanai, many of which have subsequently been enclosed. Some of the high end office buildings in downtown endeavored to capture the latest design trends such as the Brutalistic Bank of Hawaii building and plaza.

EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDINGS

Notable government buildings were developed at this time including the impressive State Capitol building. There are also government buildings rendered in a more straight-forward modern style but are associated with the expansion of the government work force to meet the needs of Hawaii's growing population. The State Historic Preservation Division has the most authority over properties under the administration of the state and county governments, providing for more opportunities for preservation planning for these properties.

HOTELS AND RESORTS













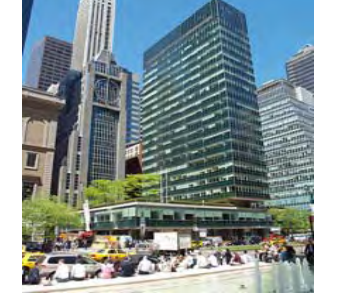


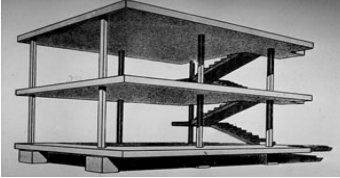













This time period sees a dramatic explosion in the tourist industry and thus this building type. While some buildings in Waikiki represent the "mass not class" mentality, there are numerous developments which tried to capture the sense of place that is Hawaii, often a romanticized version of Hawaii perpetuated in the memories of the military personnel who spent time in Hawaii. A number of these low rise hotels are threatened by the zoning and development issues.





RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

While there are a number of outstanding religious structures in Hawaii utilizing the new technology of the era, there are also numerous humble chapels throughout Hawaii. One of the consequences of suburbanization is a need for smaller churches to accommodate smaller congregations spread throughout the state. On the other end of the spectrum are the churches symbolic of their community and beliefs which are highly expressionistic, such as Buddhist temples which were allowed to flourish after World War II.






















CITY AND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BUILDINGS

These modest structures, especially park rest rooms, are highlighted as a building type. Many of these types are well designed and reflective of the islands, but easily overlooked because of their modest scale and function.

	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960-70		
	<p>←.....DE STIJL.....→ ←.....ART DECO.....→ ←.....STREAMLINE MODERNE / ART MODERNE.....→</p> <p>←.....INTERNATIONAL STYLE.....→ ←.....PLURALISM.....→ ←.....BRUTALISM.....→</p> <p>←..STRUCTURALISM.. ←...METABOLIST MOVEMENT (JAPAN)</p>							
Continental U.S. / Europe	<p>1910 Adolf Loos: Steiner House, Vienna</p> 	<p>1920 Ludwig Mies van der Rohe: Project for a glass office building, Berlin</p> 	<p>1928-29 Le Corbusier: Villa Savoye, Poissy43e</p> 	<p>1930 Albert Kahn: Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant, Richmond, California</p> 	<p>1943-59 Frank Lloyd Wright: The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City, NY</p> 	<p>1950-56 Le Corbusier: Chandigarh</p> 	<p>1956-62 Eero Saarinen: TWA Terminal, Kennedy Airport, New York</p> 	<p>1962 Louis Kahn: National Assembly Building, Dacca</p> 
	<p>1911-14 Walter Gropius: Fagus Factory, Alfeld an der Leine</p> 	<p>1929 Ludwig Mies van der Rohe: Barcelona Pavilion, International Exposition of 1929, Barcelona</p> 	<p>1930-32 Le Corbusier: The Swiss Pavilion, Cite Universities, Paris</p> 	<p>1947-48 Alvar Aalto: Baker House, MIT, Massachusetts</p> 	<p>1952 SOM: Lever House, New York City, New York</p> 	<p>1958-60 Louis Kahn: Richard Medical Research Building, Philadelphia</p> 	<p>1963- Joseph Esherick et al.: Sea Ranch Sonoma County, California</p> 	
	<p>1914 Le Corbusier defined free plan with his Dom-ino houses</p> 	<p>1923 Le Corbusier's Towards a New Architecture published</p>	<p>1933 Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago</p>	<p>1947-52 Le Corbusier: Unite d'habitation, Marseilles</p> 	<p>1953-55 Le Corbusier: Notre Dame du Haut, Ronchamp</p> 	<p>1958 Ludwig Mies van der Rohe: Seagram Building, New York City, New York</p> 		
	<p>1924-25 Gerrit Thomas Rietveld: Schroder House, Utrecht</p> 	<p>1925-26 Walter Gropius: Bauhaus, Dessau</p> 	<p>1934 Frank Lloyd Wright: Fallingwater Mill Run, Pennsylvania</p> 	<p>1946 Richard Neutra: Bailey House Santa Monica, CA</p> 	<p>1954 Edward D. Stone: American Embassy, New Delhi</p> 			
	<p>1926 Le Corbusier: 5 points d'une architecture nouvelle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stilts - roof garden - free plan - continuous windows - free façade 		<p>1937 Frank Lloyd Wright: Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona</p> 	<p>1948 W. S. Arrasmith: Greyhound Bus Terminal, Ohio</p> 	<p>1956-59 Le Corbusier: Monastery of Sainte-Marie de la Tourette, Eveux</p> 	<p>1959 Louis Kahn: Salk Institute of Biological Studies, La Jolla California</p> 		
				<p>1939 Alvar Aalto: Finnish Pavilion, World's fair of 1939, New York</p> 				

		1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960-70
		←.....DE STIJL.....→		←.....ART DECO.....		←.....STREAMLINE MODERNE / ART MODERNE.....	
		←.....INTERNATIONAL STYLE.....		←.....PLURALISM.....		←.....BRUTALISM.....	
						←..STRUCTURALISM..	
						←...METABOLIST MOVEMENT (JAPAN)	
Asia	1923-1924 Kikuji Ishimoto, first Japanese architect to study at the Bauhaus					1951 Junzo Sakakura: The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura, Japan 	1960 World Design Conference in Tokyo: Metabolist Movement Manifesto
					1959 Le Corbusier (collaborated with Kunio Maekawa, Junzo Sakakura & Takamasa Yoshizaka): National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, Japan 	1964 Kenzo Tange: Saint Mary's Cathedral (Tokyo Cathedral), Tokyo, Japan 	1970 Osaka Exposition
							1972 Kisho Kurokawa: The Nakagin Capsule Tower 

Event Chart: Modernism

	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950			
	<p>←.....DE STIJL.....→ ←.....ART DECO.....→ ←.....STREAMLINE MODERNE / ART MODERNE.....→ ←.....PLURALISM.....→ ←.....BRUTALISM.....→</p>							
Hawaii	<p>1919 Pope & Burton: Hawaiian Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints</p> 		<p>1934 Claude Stiehl: Church of the Crossroads</p> 	<p>1938 Dahl & Conrad: Topping Residence</p> 	<p>1941 Pope & Burton: Beretania Street Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints</p> 	<p>1950 Howard Redfearn: Kealakekua Public Library</p> 	<p>1952 Hego Fuchino: Nuuanu Soto Zen Mission</p> 	<p>1953 Alfred Preis: First United Methodist Church</p> 
			<p>1936 C. W. Dickey: Waikiki Theater (no longer extant)</p> 	<p>1939 Thompson & Thompson, Harry Sims Bent:: Ala Moana Park</p> 	<p>1949 Vladimir Ossipoff: Bachman Hall at UH</p> 	<p>1951 Vladimir Ossipoff: Hawaiian Life Building</p> 	<p>Alfred Preis: Laupahoehoe School</p> 	<p>George Sui: Lum Sai Ho Tong</p> 
			<p>Aug-37 Honolulu Academy of Arts Exhibition on Modernism in Hawaii</p>			<p>Lemmon & Freeth: Occidental Life Insurance</p> 	<p>Alfred Preis: ILWU Memorial Association</p> 	<p>Wimberly & Cook: Ala Wai Apartments</p> 
			<p>Harry Sims Bent: Mother Waldron Playground</p> 				<p>Edwin Bauer: St. Elizabeth's Church</p> 	
							<p>Lemmon, Freeth & Haines: Waikiki Public Library</p> 	<p>Kenneth Sato: Waiola Congregational Church</p> 
								<p>Ushijima Store, island of Hawaii</p> 

1950

1960-70

←.....BRUTALISM.....

.....STRUCTURALISM.....

.....METABOLIST MOVEMENT (JAPAN).....

Hawaii

1954
Clifford Young: United Chinese Society Hall



Law & Wilson: Holy Nativity



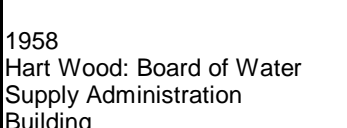
1955
Gardner Dailey: Princess Kaiulani Hotel



Lemmon, Freeth & Haines: Sinclair Library



Law & Wilson: Bulk Sugar Plant



1958
Hart Wood: Board of Water Supply Administration Building



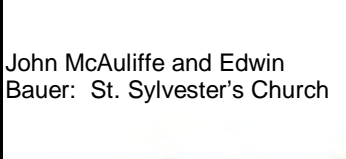
1959
Statehood

Arrival of first jet passenger airplane

1960
Vladimir Ossipoff: Pacific Club



Donald Wolbrink: Kaanapali Master Plan



John McAuliffe and Edwin Bauer: St. Sylvester's Church



Wimberly & Cook: Windward Shopping Center



1961
Wong & Wong: Chinese Consulate



1962
Vladimir Ossipoff: IBM Building



George McLaughlin: St. Augustine's Catholic Church



Alfred Preis: Arizona Memorial



1963
Vladimir Ossipoff: Outrigger Canoe Club



I. M. Pei: East-West Center



Roehrig, Onodera & Kinder: Liberty Bank at Queen and Ward



Edward Killingsworth: Kahala Hilton



1964
Minoru Yamasaki: Queen Emma Gardens



1965
Wong & Wong: Community Church of Honolulu



Skidmore, Owings, Merrill: Mauna Kea Beach Hotel



Peter Hsi: C.Q. Yee Hop Plaza



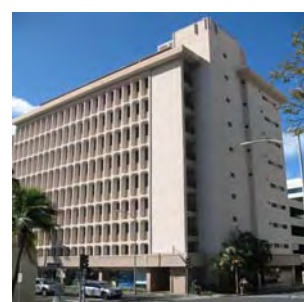
1966
Stephen Oyakawa: Liliha Library



Shizuo Oka: Hawaii County Building



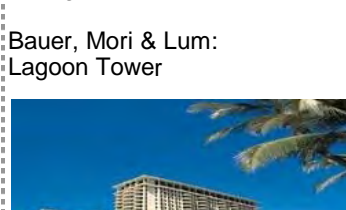
Takashi Anbe: City Bank Building



1967
Vladimir Ossipoff: Thurston Memorial Chapel



Edwin Murayama: Na Hale, Maui Community College



Bauer, Mori & Lum: Lagoon Tower



1968
Wimberly, Whisenand, Allison, Tong & Goo: Kona Hilton



Roger Lee: St. Stephen's Catholic Church



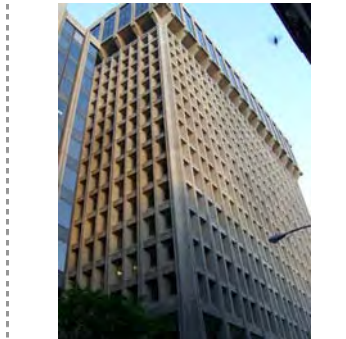
Stephen Oyakawa: Lihue Public Library



Robert Katsuyoshi: MOA Hawaii



Leo S. Wou: Financial Plaza of the Pacific



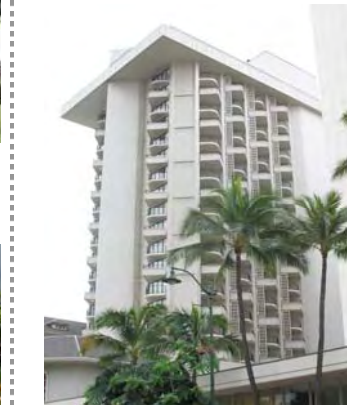
1969
John Carl Warnecke, Belt, Lemmon & Lo: Hawaii State Capitol



Au, Cutting, Smith & Associates: Ward Plaza



Wimberly, Whisenand, Allison, Tong & Goo with Roehrig, Onodera & Kinder: Surfrider Hotel



Ernest Hara: Queen Kapiolani Hotel



1971
Wimberly, Whisenand, Allison, Tong & Goo: Sheraton Waikiki



Wimberly Allison Tong and Goo: Maui Land and Pineapple Headquarters



Aotani & Oka: Keahole Airport

