

A SALUTE TO ARCHITECTURE MONTH

Why Design Matters

BY PRISCILLA PÉREZ BILLIG

The American Institute of Architects, Honolulu Chapter pays tribute to April's Architecture Month in Hawaii. The ninth annual celebration includes a walking tour on April 25, specially developed by AIA member-architects, of nearly 100 years of architectural styles found within the downtown business district.

Other events celebrating Architecture Month in Hawaii were not firmed up at press time. Previous years included a firm crawl and a film night.

"AIA Honolulu's Architecture Month celebrates who we are, what we do and how we have and continue to shape the appearance of our city," says Ben Lee, FAIA, LEED AP, chair of the 2015 Architecture Month and principal at Clifford Planning & Architecture.

Lee worked in Honolulu city administration for 20 years. He collaborated with architects to achieve design excellence on many of the city's capital improvement projects including the Hanauma Bay Education Center by Group 70 International and the Kapiolani Bandstand by Stringer Tusher Architects.

"I join all my AIA colleagues who have dedicated their lives and untiring commitment in shaping our communities, protecting our island's natural and scenic resources and improving the quality of life for our residents and visitors," Lee says. "We value historic landmark structures like the Honolulu Museum, Honolulu Hale, C. Brewer and Alexander & Baldwin buildings to the more modern day iconic structures like the Thurston Memorial Chapel by Vladimir Ossipoff. Design matters. We live, touch, see and use it every day. Architecture Month brings all those design matters to the forefront. To me there is no greater profession."

Big Island architects tip their hats to Architecture Month in Hawaii as

the Hawaii Island Section of AIA-Honolulu offers free film presentations of "Citizen Architect: Samuel Mockbee and the Spirit of the Rural Studio" in Kona, Waimea and Hilo. The documentary chronicles the artist, architect, educator and founder of the Rural Studio.

Mockbee inspires altruistic idealism in Auburn University students with hands-on design-build experience in some of Alabama's most impoverished rural communities. Island architects hope the film will stimulate further public discussion about design in Hawaii.

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