

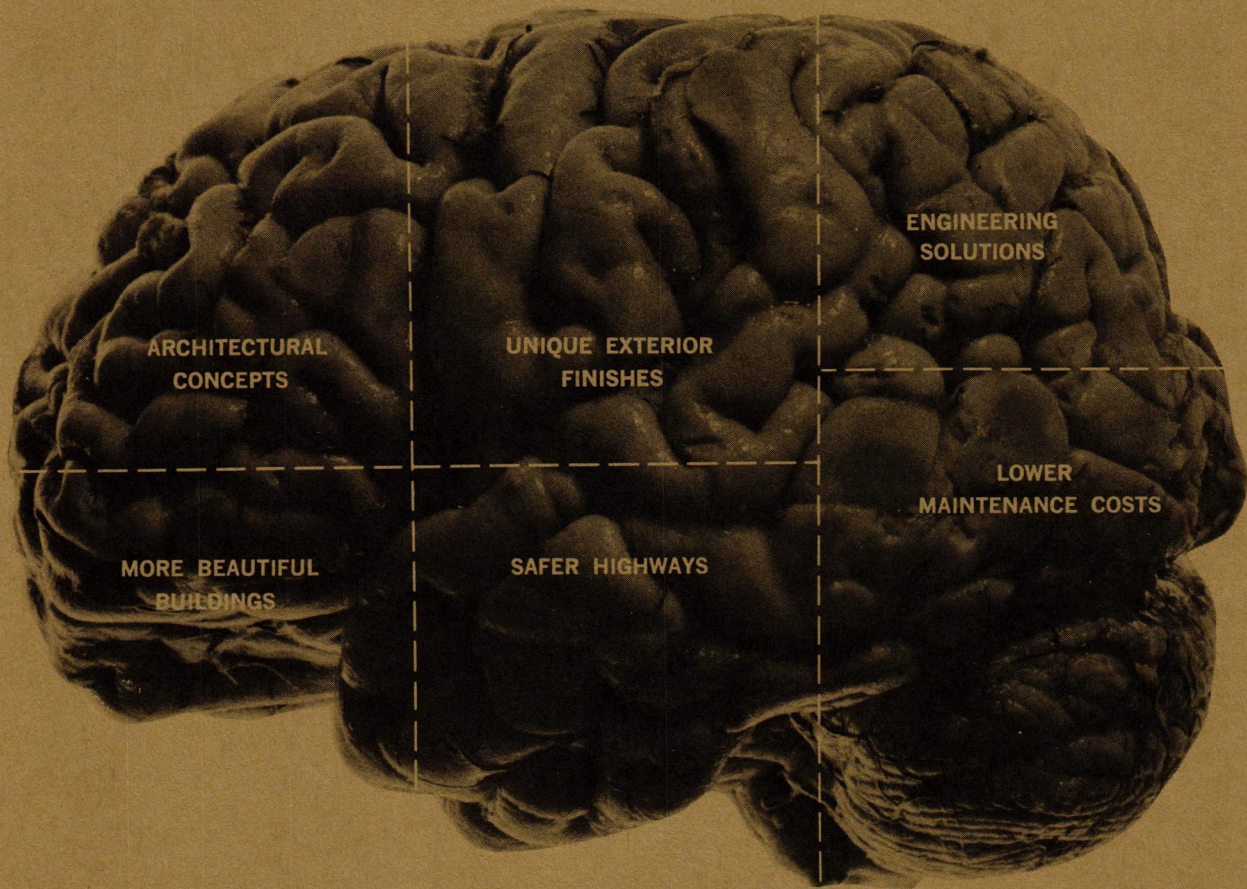
# Ke Kaha Ki'i

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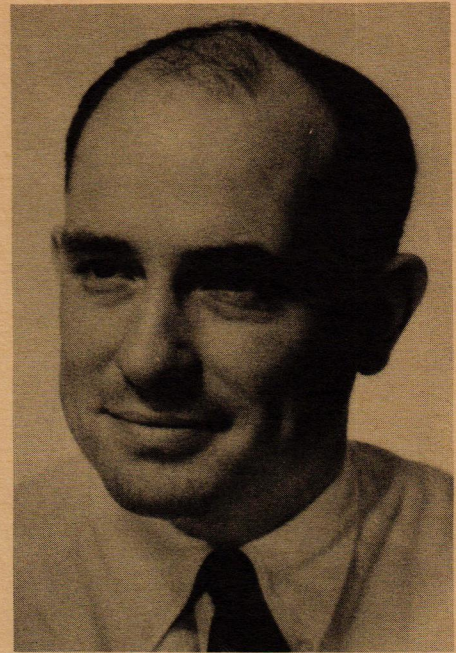
**WE'LL  
GIVE YOU SOME  
CONCRETE THOUGHTS**



The best technical minds of our industry in Hawaii are yours... to help you mix your imagination with our concrete. If you have a mind to use our product to keep Hawaii beautiful.

# NEWS FOR THE CHAPTER

FROM JOE FARRELL, PRESIDENT



## KIM SWOO GEUN

For those who were unable to either meet Mr. Kim during the Pan Pacific Architectural Citation's three major events, I enclose at the end of this article Mr. Kim's background.

Mr. Kim's very interesting lecture Monday night, June 7, 1971, is enclosed also at the end of this article for those who wish to read it.

### Things not written about Kim Swoo Geun:

During Mr. Kim's stay here, many of us listened to stories, ideas and happenings from Mr. Kim which were so interesting that I thought it would be a good idea to record them and let the other Chapter members know:

### How Kim became an architect:

At the banquet Saturday night, Mr. Kim told the story of how he became an architect. At a tender young teenage, Mr. Kim ran into an American whose last name he did not ever get but the man's first name was Robert. Robert now must be somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 years of age and Mr. Kim seeks him at every possibility, but has yet to find the man Robert who influenced him to go into architecture. It appears that the man Robert told Kim that an architect designed environment which either made people happy or unhappy and as the result of this responsibility, an architect was the most important person in the world . . . Even more important than the President of

the United States. Mr. Kim, without knowing too much about architecture at such a young age, decided that if the architect was more important than the President of the United States, then he should, therefore, become an architect and, of course, as we know, he did.

### About Mr. Kim's office:

About 11 years ago when Mr. Kim graduated from Tokyo University, he came directly back to Seoul and opened a very small office in a single room approximately 13' x 18'. At that time he had no work but with optimism he opened his doors. He was very fortunate to be the first prize winner of the architectural contest for the Korean National Assembly Building in 1960. A grave disappointment to Kim resulted by a change in the National Government and he did not get to complete the building, so back he went to his 13' x 18' office awaiting other commissions. Now Mr. Kim has about 20 people in his office and is doing quite well. At one time he was up to as many as 150 people but now this seems to be too big for him to control the design.

Kim says that his office has a student-teacher relationship between him and his employees. There are three what Mr. Kim calls "chiefs" who Mr. Kim has trained and they act as the responsible person for all details of the projects. These chiefs, having worked with Kim for so many years, know exactly what he likes and doesn't like;

therefore, it is easy for them to carry out his ideas.

The teacher-student relationship causes a great devotion to the work and to Kim. He says his people do not work for money but work for the love of architecture. The quality of drafting work done by his people is exceptionally high in comparison to even that here in the United State. Not only are working drawings very competently done, but also the design work is excellent. The staff works 12 hours a day and when projects are rushed, Kim and his staff often work for weeks at a time, night and day, taking two hours off each day for steam bath, rub-down and nap. All of this output of work is on a desire basis rather than demand by Kim himself. He has a long list of young architects who wish to work for him.

Korea is steeped in many traditions and Kim tells us that before he goes home at night, he must tell his secretary and other staff members to leave the office and go home. If he does not, they would stay there all night long working. One night he failed to tell his secretary to go home because he forgot and she did, in fact, stay working all night long.

Mr. Kim does not believe in air conditioning and in his own office space there is none, but the drafting room and other employees have air conditioning. Sometimes in the summer it gets very hot and Kim likes to step out into his drafting room to cool off.

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