

# Hawaii Pacific Architecture

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## Leadership message

# Knowledge is Power

by Stanley S. Gima, AIA  
President

**T**he practice of architecture in these litigious times involves much more than we could ever learn in school. Even after spending five years in college learning how to put together aesthetically pleasing buildings that can withstand the elements of nature and meet a client's needs, there is still more to master. After their formal education, architects discover the need to learn about other necessary "real world" elements. This is done through experience, which is sometimes called the "school of hard knocks."

Fortunately, most design professionals are lucky enough to learn from other professionals who are willing to share their knowledge and experience. Thus, we can learn to avoid some of the "hard knocks" ourselves.

This month's issue offers a great deal in the way of "continuing education." It covers topics that the neophyte designer might dismiss as unessential to the average architect's education.

It could be said that topics such as risk-avoidance, litigation and liability insurance should be discussed in the attorneys' magazines, not in ours, right? Wrong! We architects (and especially intern architects) must learn about the latest developments in this area. To turn away and only concentrate on more pleasant, design-oriented topics may someday come back to haunt our architectural careers.

Having access to this kind of information is an important part of an architect's on-going education. Continuing

education is one of the most vital programs that the American Institute of Architects offers its members.

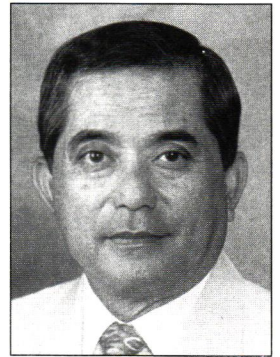
In today's litigious American society, laws and lawyers are part of our everyday lives. To be a complete architect, one must be able to deliver designs that are conceived in a client's best interest, and that includes designs that to the best of the architect's knowledge avoid potential lawsuits.

I want to stress again the power of knowledge. The information included in this issue will give aid and comfort to AIA members who take advantage of this opportunity for "continuing their education."

As the New Year begins, we should all continue to look forward to new experiences and learning opportunities.

With 1995 unfolding, I will be closely monitoring the state Legislature to determine how the AIA Hawaii State Council can be more proactive in its legislative efforts. I will also be reporting the results of legislative activities in this magazine and quarterly newsletters.

Aloha and best wishes for the New Year.



Stanley S. Gima