

# AIA Center for Architecture

## ASPIRATIONS

The relocation of the AIA Honolulu office marks the start of a shift in relationship between architecture and the community. The new Center for Architecture will be an excellent resource for our members, other industry professionals and the community at large, providing a hub for collaboration, learning and exploration. This new location provides for excellent vehicular and pedestrian visibility, making the AIA Center for Architecture an inviting icon in our urban fabric and an ideal place to host events that will encourage conversation between the architecture community and the public.

## CONTEXT

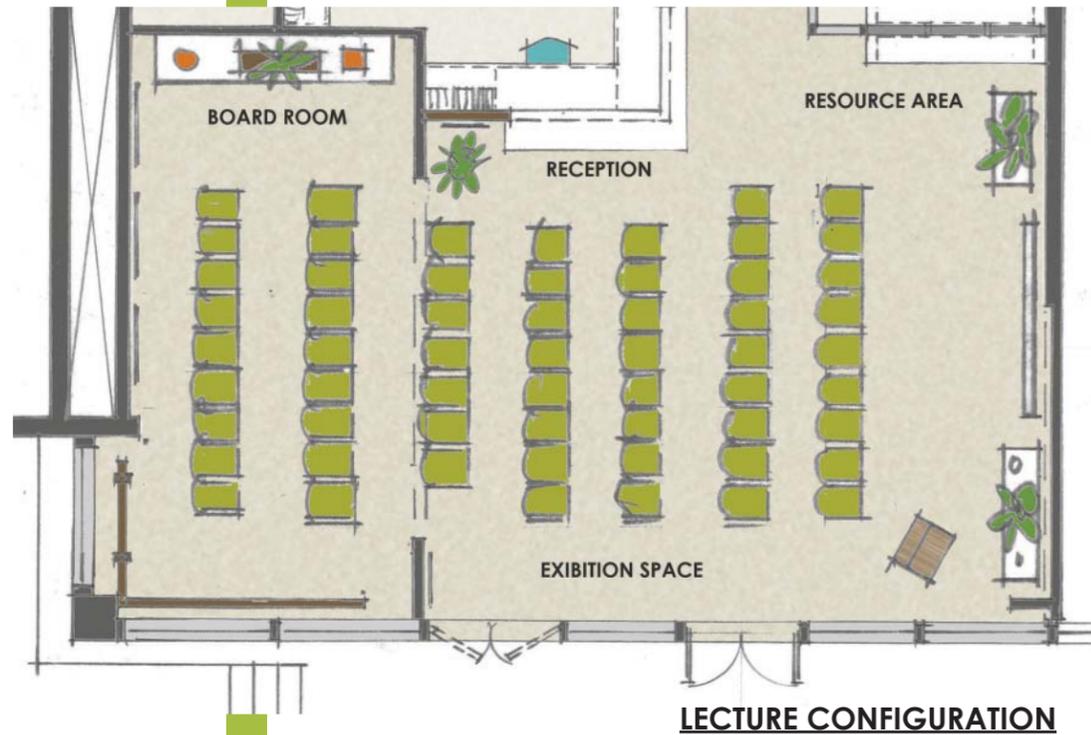
The store front façade remains open to the Fort Street Mall for excellent pedestrian visibility, welcoming people into the Center when open and allowing viewing of exhibitions through the windows when the Center is closed. The openness extends a natural connection to the Mall, making it a great place for special events extending out into the public space.



entry 13

### FLEXIBILITY

The interior space is designed to be very flexible. Although the conference room can be private with the sliding glass doors closed, it can also open up to the main space for a large lecture, exhibition space, or special event. The conference table itself can break apart into smaller desks to set up as classroom, pushed to the side for use as a buffet, or rolled away into storage. The portable exhibition panels are easily movable to allow for quick reconfigurations.



**LECTURE CONFIGURATION**

### VISIBILITY

A reclaimed wood cube in the center of the space serves as the reception and staff area, providing an inviting control point for the Center. The Executive Director's office is nestled in a location that has a strong visual connection to the general space and the staff area, yet can be closed for private conversations. By strategically pulling apart the E.D. and staff spaces, the view of the kitchen from the main space encourages members to use the self-serve amenities.



**CONFERENCE CONFIGURATION**

**PUNCTUATION**  
The Queen Street – Fort Street corner of the space is a perfect opportunity to provide a strong visual focal point for vehicular traffic. The wood slatted corner screen in the conference room provides prominent signage to the oncoming traffic while visually screening the traffic from the conference room, establishing a sense of privacy. The framed window within the screen offers a vignette of Aloha Tower, a significant architectural icon in our community.



**MATERIALITY**

Material selection is driven by the desire to have the Center for Architecture be representative of all AIA members. Although the design has a contemporary feel to it in an effort to feel relevant today and into the future, the selected accent materials associate to periods of architecture in Hawaii's fairly young history. Cut stone (Monarchy and Territorial), reclaimed large plank redwood (Statehood), patterned wall coverings (Ethnic) and steel & glass (Mid-Century and Modern) reference the past, but are used in a new and contemporary way to avoid being literal copies.

### AFFORDABILITY + SUSTAINABILITY

For budget and sustainability reasons, this design attempts to keep as much of the existing elements as possible, and use reclaimed materials where available. The walls and plumbing in the rear of the space are largely maintained, as are the ceiling grid, MEP elements and floor (minus the UH logo). This allows more of the budget to be spent on the front public space(s): new ceiling tiles in the existing grid will give a more refined look, the conference room & E.D. office prefab wall and door system that is integral for the flexibility of the space, and reconfigurable display panels. This project provides an excellent opportunity to work with the Building Industry and seek donations in an effort to maximize our budget. \$125,000.00... here we come!



entry 13