ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Chopsticks & Toilet Paper: Teaching Design Online with Common Household Items

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• Abstract (300 words):
Like schools and universities across the world, in the Spring of 2020 the University of Hawaii at Manoa switched to online learning. While some courses can change seamlessly from in-person to online teaching, teaching architectural design studios online is more challenging, as professors and students attempt to express conceptual design thinking virtually, using their computers and whatever tools at their disposal to make the most out of an unusual situation. As students are largely isolated in their homes during such events, educators may need to expand their teaching tools to include common items that are readily available in the home.

This presentation will demonstrate how students were able to test architectural design and construction concepts using two common household items, chopsticks and toilet paper, and translate them into buildable projects in a seminar course focusing on universal design taught in the Fall of 2020.
• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Bundit Kanisthakhon is an Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture. He is also the director of the school’s Haigo and Irene Shen Architecture Gallery. With Hawaii’s unique geographical location and cultural background, Bundit focuses his academic endeavors in the investigation of responsive architectural design for the tropical climate as well as exploration on the bridging of cultural identities between eastern and western cultures. Bundit is also the founder of Tadpole Studio, a multi-disciplinary design practice with numerous built projects in Hawaii and Thailand, some of which have received design award recognition. With his work rooted in both academia and professional practice, Bundit is especially committed to incorporating aspects of both design and construction in his teaching.

Mỹ [me-e] Tran is currently in his last year of study with the Doctor of Architecture program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture. As an immigrant to America from Vietnam and having travelled to numerous different countries for studies and internships, he has experienced different architecture, cultures and lifestyles, which greatly influence his design thinking. Mỹ is also a co-founder of Studio Ki’owao, a design-build architectural firm rooted in Hawai’i. During his academic years, he has earned multiple design awards and recognition. Mỹ believes architecture is not only a design tool, but also acts as a common language for people from different backgrounds to communicate and exchange their ideas and thoughts.