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General Info: (808) 532-8700

Web Site: www.honoluluacademy.org

Media Contact:

April Lee

(808) 532-6091; Fax (808) 532-8787

E-mail: academypr@honoluluacademy.org

HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS PRESENTS FIRST MAJOR SURVEY OF VLADIMIR OSSIPOFF THE “MASTER OF HAWAII MODERN ARCHITECTURE”

*Hawaiian Modern: The Architecture of Vladimir Ossipoff
Explores Architect’s Profound Influence on the Tropical Modernist Movement*

HONOLULU, HAWAII – The Honolulu Academy of Arts presents *Hawaiian Modern: The Architecture of Vladimir Ossipoff*, the first major museum exhibition to focus on the preeminent architect’s career and the impact of his work on post-war modern architecture in the Pacific Region. The exhibition premieres at the Academy from **November 29, 2007 to January 27, 2008** before traveling to other national and international venues.

At the forefront of the postwar phenomenon known as tropical modernism, Vladimir Ossipoff (1907–1998) won recognition as the “master of Hawaii modern architecture.” Born in Russia and raised in Japan, Ossipoff was instrumental in transforming the built landscape of Hawaii from a territorial plantation outpost to a modern U.S. state. While prolific, with more than 1,000 completed projects, he was critical of overdevelopment and recognized the need for sustainable design as early as the 1960s.

Ossipoff created a distinctive form of place-sensitive architecture appropriate to the lush topography, light and microclimates of the Hawaiian Islands. His synthesis of Eastern and Western influences, including Japanese building techniques and modern architectural principles, drew inspiration from the interplay of indoor and outdoor space, which he applied to the specific concerns and characteristics of the tropics.

“Ossipoff incorporated the unique culture and environment of Hawaii into his designs. The impact of his work has never been studied in such a thoughtful and conclusive manner,” said Honolulu Academy of Arts Director Stephen Little. “This exhibition examines this extraordinary architect’s immense contributions to Pacific Island architecture.”

Organized by the Honolulu Academy of Arts on the centennial of the architect’s birth, *Hawaiian Modern: The Architecture of Vladimir Ossipoff* is guest-curated and designed by Dean Sakamoto, architect and resident Critic/Director of Exhibitions at the Yale School of Architecture, who was born and raised in Hawaii.

Hawaiian Modern is divided into six thematic sections that trace the principles apparent in his work and impact of Ossipoff's career within Hawaii's built environment: Revealing the Site, Hawaiian and Modern, Darkness and Air, Native Materials and Modern Tectonics, the Living Lanai, and the War on Ugliness. Drawn from the architect's personal and professional archives; local museum and newspaper archives; and interviews of his family, colleagues, former employees, and clients; the exhibition includes original drawings, architectural plans, archival photographs, personal ephemera, a timeline of Ossipoff's life, and maquettes, as well as new photographs of Ossipoff's architecture by Victoria Sambunaris and a specially commissioned documentary video by KDN Films.

"Today, Ossipoff's work and principles offer useful lessons for the future of place-sensitive architecture," said Sakamoto. "His vocal and early 'war on ugliness' cultural critiques on unbridled development and the need for energy efficient design were far ahead of their time and greatly influenced the Hawaiian landscape."

Ossipoff designed numerous iconic projects throughout Hawaii – homes, schools, churches, private clubs and the modern terminals at the Hawaii International Airport. His body of work reflects a concern for the cultural and climatic specificity of the Hawaiian Islands relative to the technical and aesthetic progress of mid-century modernism. Projects represented in the exhibition synthesize elements of Japanese spatial organizations with local materials combined with the functionality, economy, and the open plan of European modern architecture. Among these are: The University of Hawaii Administration Building (1950), the Winne Classroom Units (1950-55) and Thurston Chapel (1967) at Punahou Schools, the Hawaiian Life Insurance Building (1951), and the Goodsill (1950), Pauling (1956) and Liljestrand (1952) residences.

Hawaiian Modern: The Architecture of Vladimir Ossipoff will travel to Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt, Germany (Summer 2008) and the Yale University School of Architecture Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut (Fall 2008).

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated, 328-page catalogue co-edited by Sakamoto and Karla Britton. The book is co-published by Yale University Press and the Honolulu Academy of Arts. The catalogue will feature contributions from Kenneth Frampton, Stephen Little, Don Hibbard, Spencer Leineweber, Marc Treib, Britton and Sakamoto.

About the Honolulu Academy of Arts

The Honolulu Academy of Arts is an encyclopedic art museum founded in 1927, and is Hawaii's largest private presenter of visual arts programs with a permanent collection of over 50,000 works of art. The Academy is the only art museum in Hawaii accredited by the American Association of Museums.

The greatest strength of the permanent collection comprises the arts of Asia, with particular strengths in the areas of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese art. The crown jewel of the Academy's Asian art collection is the James A. Michener Collection of over 10,000

Japanese *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints, the third largest collection of its kind in the United States.

The Academy's permanent collection also includes Europe and American paintings, sculptures, decorative arts and textiles, as well as more than 15,000 works on paper comprising the largest concentration of works in the European and American collection ranging in date from the Renaissance to the present. Among highlights are major impressionist, post-impressionist and early modernist paintings by Georges Braque, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Fernand Léger, Pierre Matisse, Amedeo Modigliani, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and James McNeill Whistler. Significant works of art from the Twentieth-Century to the present include paintings and sculptures by Lee Bontecou, Alexander Calder, Leon Golub, Philip Guston, Yan Pei Ming, Isamu Noguchi, Nam June Paik, John Singer Sargent, David Smith, Masami Teraoka, and Won Ju Lim.

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General Information: Location: The Academy is located at 900 S. Beretania Street in the Thomas Square Historic District. The Academy Art Center is located at 1111 Victoria Street. The Doris Duke Theatre entrance is on Kinau Street. **Parking:** Validated parking at \$3 for 4 hours is available in the Academy Art Center lot. Parking in the 1035 Kinau St Lot is free during evening and weekend hours till 11 pm. **Hours:** Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 4:30 pm; Sunday 1 - 5 pm; closed Monday. Guided tours are offered Tuesday - Saturday at 10:15 am, 11:30 am and 1:30 pm; Sunday at 1:15 pm. Japanese language tours are offered Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 1 pm. The Pavilion Café serves lunch Tuesday - Saturday from 11:30 am - 2 pm. The Academy Shop is open during normal Museum hours. **Admission:** \$10 general; \$5 for seniors (62+), students (13 and over), and military; members and children 12 and under are free. Admission is free to The Academy Shop, The Pavilion Café, and the Academy Art Center. **Film Admission:** \$7 general; \$6 for seniors, students, and military; \$5 members. **Bank of Hawaii Free Sunday:** Complimentary admission is offered to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 am - 5 pm courtesy of Bank of Hawaii. **ARTafterDARK:** \$7 general; members are free to this Pau Hana event on the last Friday of the month from 6 – 9 pm. Please visit www.artafterdark.org for more info. **Shangri La Tours:** For ticketing information for Doris Duke's estate, Shangri La, call toll free 1-866-385-3849; In Honolulu, call (808) 532-3853.

For further information on the museum, please call the General info line: 532-8700; Recorded info lines: (Exhibitions) 532-8701, (Theatre Events) 532-8768; or visit our **Web Site:** www.honoluluacademy.org