

New Life Member – Club Architect Vladimir Ossipoff

By Frank E. Walton

For his longtime history of architectural services to the Club, 80-year-old Vladimir Ossipoff was awarded a Life Membership in the Outrigger Canoe Club.

The award was recommended by the Historical Committee, approved by the Board of Directors and ratified by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in February.

Ossipoff, born in Vladivostok, Russia, was a graduate of the University of California, and has been a member of the Outrigger for 38 years. He was awarded a Senior Membership in February, 1975.

A past president of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, he did his first architectural work for the Club in 1949 at the old



location.

When the lease at the old location neared its termination, several alternatives were offered to the Club: remain under a new lease which contained what most members considered unacceptable provisions, (for example, limited space, loss of control of club usage, reduction of facilities) or move to a new location and build a high rise, or move to a new location and build a low rise.

When it was decided to move to the present location, about 300 members resigned, saying "nobody would ever go way out to Kapiolani Park." After the new club was occupied, a number of them returned to the fold.

For the proposed new building, Ossipoff, at the direction of the Board of Directors, submitted a plan for a high rise Club/apartment complex, which was attractive to many members.

Ward Russell, who was Club President at the time, says that the design was "one of the finest I have ever seen."

After further study, however, the Board of Directors abandoned that plan and adopted a Club-only concept.

Ossipoff then submitted to the membership his design for a low rise. He made a model, photographed it and then presented the proposal in slides.

His concept was one of openness, with the appearance of mass. His was the first use of coral rock imbedded in

coral aggregate concrete.

He points out that the three level concept--Hau Terrace, Bar level and the Dining Room--allows each level unrestricted view of the sea.

The pillars, even though they give the appearance of mass, are not load bearing, he says. They would not support a second floor. It would be a tremendous expense and destroy his low rise concept to attempt a second level, he says.

Construction was commenced just seven months after the Club-only decision was made and completed in 12 months. The move from the old club was made in January, 1964.

Val takes great pride in our building and properly so. It has won a number of awards for design and for utilization of space. Even at age 80, he is still active in the architectural field and keeps a fond and watchful eye on his prize winning creation.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Vladimir Ossipoff for transforming a portion of an old Diamond Head landmark (the James B. Castle estate) into "a place where man may commune with sun and sand and sea, where good fellowship and aloha prevail and where the sports of Old Hawaii shall always have a home." 🍹

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Olympic Hopefuls

Four Outrigger members are in contention for spots on the U.S. Olympic team this fall in Seoul, Korea.

Traci Phillips and Mark Sandvold will be trying out for seats on the American kayak team. Kevin Olds will be competing for a spot on the U.S. canoe team. Trials for the kayak and canoe teams will be held in Indianapolis in July.

Chris Duplanty is vying for a spot on the U.S. water polo team as a goalie. 🍹