



DnA HAWAII
DESIGN + ARCHITECTURE

Thursday, October 20, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM HST

Sea Level Rise: A Key Architectural Challenge and Opportunity for Islands

Presenter: Fernando E. Pabón Rico AIA, CAAPPR

Moderator: Marc Ericksen

This session is about the intersection of Architecture and unstoppable sea level rise: Flooding that is happening now and getting worse from severe storms, record rainfall and runoff is different from sea level rise. But irreversible, rising sea level will make all those short-duration flood events in coastal areas much worse in the coming decades.

Architects and other professionals will best thrive in this anticipated reality if they plan and design accordingly. Current circumstances demand we design a process for adaptation that accommodates as much as 7 feet of sea level rise by 2100. Shore-based designs that accommodate this increase will not only be more resilient, more significantly, they will be both useful for longer and longer lasting.

Architects who take steps to assimilate this challenge and develop solutions for it will be in the vanguard of the profession. They will be in tune with the needs of a high proportion of the population and associated socio-economic activity based near the shore. They will be in tune with creating spaces to belong despite. The profession will benefit from practitioners' efforts to tackle this challenge once generalized momentum elevates the public's perception of the discipline as one that really understands and has answers to one of the most difficult and urgent problems faced by society.