



# Color

- 
- 7 INTENT
  - 8 PROJECT TYPES
  - 10 COLOR PALETTE
  - 13 COLOR SELECTION GUIDE
  - 17 INTERIOR COLOR



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I  
AT MĀNOA**

**COLOR DESIGN GUIDELINES**

**Version 2.1 updated June 2022**

**Prepared By University of Hawai'i Community Design Center  
& MKThink**

**Project Team**

Daniel S. Friedman, PhD, FAIA, UHM Campus Architect

Brian Strawn, AIA, Project Director

Glenn Cadalzo Grande, Project Lead

B. Keolamaika'i Annino, Project Designer

Katherine Pananganan, Project Designer

Nate Goore, AIA, Principal in Charge

Odile Schlossberg, Project Designer

**Direct Contact**

Nate Goore, AIA

808.800.0888

735 Bishop Street, Suite 230

Honolulu, HI 96813



IMAGE 0-1: East-West Center

---

# Table of contents

## 1

---

### Intent

## 2

---

### Project Types

- 2-1 New buildings
- 2-2 Repairs and alterations
- 2-3 Historic preservation

## 3

---

### Color Palette

- 3-1 Research
- 3-2 Color palette

## 4

---

### Color Selection Guide

- 4-1 Architectural character
- 4-2 Color limitation
- 4-3 Context
- 4-4 Digital color testing
- 4-5 Large scale testing
- 4-6 Integral color selection

## 5

---

### Interior Color

- 5-1 Walls

## Appendix

---

### UHCDC Color Research Report



IMAGE 0-2: Gate of Hope sculpture at UH Mānoa

---

# 1 Intent

The physical character of the campus has evolved since 1907, with a variety of buildings that reflect the architectural styles of their time. These guidelines are intended to strengthen the coexistence of the architectural history and future buildings throughout campus.

As an institutional identity, color is a feature that reinforces the character and individuality of UH Mānoa 's campus. It is the responsibility of the project architect to represent the core of UH Mānoa in such a way as to be an interpreter through the physical manifestation of the building and its finishes.

The Color design guidelines aim to improve the overall aesthetic character and visual unity of the UH Mānoa campus as a whole. These guidelines also provide a designated color palette, and establish a selection process and criteria for color choices to be applied on to campus architecture, repairs and alterations, modernizations, and work in new and existing buildings.

The objectives in this document speak to the improvements and changes for the future campus development and their alignment with the guiding principles of the campus framework.

The strategy-based criteria and recommendations are intended to be followed when selecting colors for an architectural project. The specific scope of a project will determine the extent of the applicability of the design guidelines to a project. It shall be up to the individual designer to present a case for the color selection.

# 2 Project types

## 2-1 New buildings

These Design Guidelines apply to all new construction projects, which include additions to existing buildings

## 2-2 Repairs and alterations

Repairs and Alterations are improvements made to existing buildings. All repairs and alterations shall follow the 'Rules for Repainting' as expressed in the UHCDC Paint report. Generally, buildings need only be upgraded to correct deficiencies, unless the entire building is being renovated. For any project where existing color finishes must be removed, the new color must match the existing in texture, color and pattern. Continuity of appearance must be maintained.



Rules for repainting, as illustrated in the CDC Report page 10.

## 2–3 Historic preservation

UH Mānoa’s history is reflected across campus, keying in on the built environment. These guidelines respect this history and structures, and accept that when working on projects historic properties will be reused to the greatest extent possible. Rehabilitation will preserve their character, and if exceptions for these design guidelines are required in order to maintain historic preservation, the appropriate UH committee will provide guidance on the extent of historical accuracy each project is to incorporate.



IMAGE 2 – 1: Hemenway Hall

---

# 3 Color palette

## 3-1 Research

The University of Mānoa Community Design Center (UHCDC) in collaboration with UH Mānoa facilities and maintenance experts have worked on a report which proposes a new exterior palette for campus buildings and infrastructure. In situ and data-based research was the core of the project developed to replace the old color palette with one that:

- Highlights and defines existing and emerging campus districts
- Encompasses a wide variety of architectural styles
- Increases visual contrast to improve readability between buildings
- Brightens the overall palette
- Permits the use of vibrant colors as accents
- Creates a complementary background for campus flora

(See UHCDC Report for more detailed project goals.)

The recommended color selection in this volume intends to simplify maintenance requirements by reducing the amount of colors.

## 3-2 New campus color palette

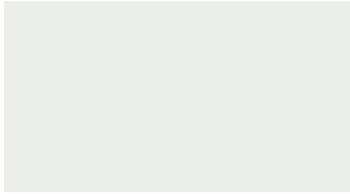
### Snowfall white

by Benjamin Moore  
OC-118  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



### Brilliant white

by Benjamin Moore  
PM-4  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



### Timid white

by Benjamin Moore  
2148-60  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



### Charcoal slate

by Benjamin Moore  
PM-8  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



### Black panther

by Benjamin Moore  
2125-10  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



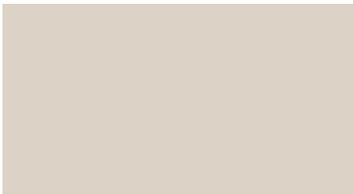
### Rolling hills

by Benjamin Moore  
1497  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



### Elmira white

by Benjamin Moore  
HC-84  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



### Winterwood

by Benjamin Moore  
1486  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



### Winter solstice

by Benjamin Moore  
1605  
Exterior / Semi-gloss



### Green/tan

by Sherwin Williams

Exterior / Semi-gloss



Color Palette as published in pages 8–9 from the CDC Report.

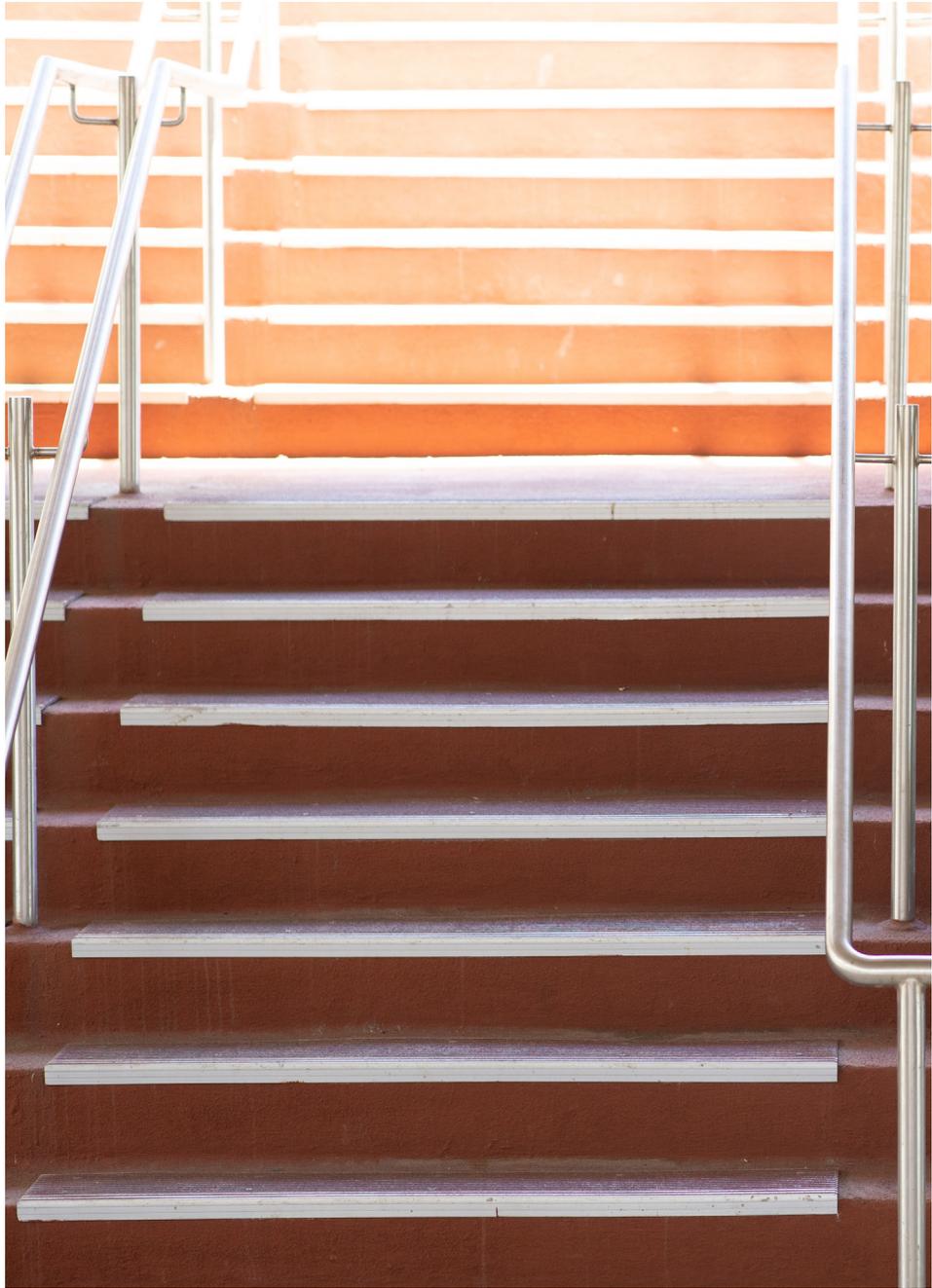


IMAGE 3-1: Stairs at UH Mānoa

---

# 4 Color selection guide

The classification system serves to support a methodical and consistent color selection process. The strategy aims to acknowledge the context of the project, architectural style and character of the building, integral color selection and large-scale testing. The following sections address these in depth.

## 4–1 Architectural character

Color selection shall be specified and located with emphasis placed on highlighting or identifying architectural features.

### **Overall visual aspects**

The color selection shall distinguish physical aspects embodied in the general aspects of the building's shape, features, projections, recesses, openings, addressing proportion, solid vs void, form and shape.

### **Close range visual character**

Visual character is achieved when the surface qualities are distinguished at a detailed level. The color choice shall complement material and textures selected to enhance the architectural character of the building.

### **Relationship between spaces**

Where buildings have interior spaces that are visually or physically related in such way that are perceived as a sequence of related spaces, color selection may be subject to the way the space is perceived and shall be important in defining the character of the building.

### **Historic buildings**

Historic building renovations or alterations shall preserve the original architectural character of the building. Historic buildings have a unique distinctive character and defining elements shall not be altered without prior authorization of the appropriate university committee.

### **Functional attributes**

The color choice shall support the use of space and/or the building. Color selection intends to enable users to modify space according to emerging needs.

### **Perceptual attributes**

The physical design of the building shall foster the feeling of a space of learning. The architectural character shall reflect the identity of UH Mānoa's campus. The building shall raise the quality of the neighboring architectural and landscape elements.

---

## 4–2 Color limitation

Color palettes for each building shall be limited to 4+1 colors based on the typical architectural composition; where a color shall be designated to the base, body, cornice, trim, plus one color for additional architectural features. The ordering sequence of base, middle, top creates a language that dictates the proportions and geometries of campus buildings. The color selection acknowledges the building's identity and furthermore aims to highlight its characteristics.

### Existing colors

For existing buildings that are to be repaired or will have an addition, the existing paint colors must be identified, followed by the colors that will remain along with any proposed colors. This selection must follow the 4+1 color limitation.

Existing paint colors in good condition which closely match the new campus palette are not required to be repainted.

### Permanent finishes

Permanent finishes shall be taken into consideration when choosing colors from the new campus palette. (See page 14 from the CDC report for reference).

## 4–3 Context

Every project must be mindful of the project site to ensure that the impact of color the selection promotes the architectural character of the building while being conscious of the surrounding elements.

Color selection shall contribute to a sense of visual campus continuity and cohesiveness as well as being an individually strong work of architecture. Most campus buildings are seen from many vantage points therefor the color selection shall be selected to enhance the experience as it is viewed from adjacent buildings, streets and pedestrian paths.

## 4–4 Digital color testing

Digital color testing enables the project decision-makers to have an idea of the impact the color selection would have on the building prior to on site testing. This procedure supports a faster testing method which can address the building as a whole and assess the impact of the selected colors in relationship to the architectural features and context.

For further details regarding digital color testing, reference the UHCDC report page 131.

## 4–5 Large scale testing

A large sample of the proposed palette on a test building shall allow decision-makers to evaluate colors in situ under sun and shade conditions.

Digital modeling and color testing shall be presented to the decision-makers prior to large scale paint testing. The digital testing shall provide colors selected for all faces of the buildings under sun and shade conditions.

### Bilger Hall



View from McCarthy Mall

TRIM	Verdugo	Tumbleweed
	Window Sills	
ACCENT	Nevada	
	Overhang Edge	
PRIMARY BODY	Dusty Gray	
	Body	
BASE	Tumbleweed	
	Base	



TRIM	S2
	Window Sills
ACCENT	S1
	Overhang Edge
BASE	P1
	Base

IMAGE 4-1: Large color testing example at Bilger Hall. Page 110 from UHDCDC Report.

## 4–6 Integral color

Buildings with integral color selection shall match as close as possible the selected color palette as described in section 3 of this volume. Where the intention is to maintain consistency across campus with the campus character, the guidelines shall not limit the color proposal if superior or maintainable technologies can achieve higher sustainable performance.



IMAGE 4-2: Visual textures by gate patterns at UH Mānoa

# 5 Interior color

Interior colors shall follow the color selection procedure in accordance space utilization and program, room layout, natural and artificial lighting in relationship to color reflectivity and room performance.

The charge to the design guideline committee is to articulate and assess standards of design and performance appropriate for a 21st century campus. The most prominent feature of contemporary instructional space is flexibility. Flexible spaces foster collaborative interaction, group work, and productive academic exchange. In view of rapidly changing technology, provide rooms that can adapt and accommodate new teaching technologies and frequent room equipment upgrades.

## 5–1 Walls

The colors selected in this section are applicable to all general classroom interiors within the UH Mānoa campus. The palette consists of base and accent colors that compliment the proposed exterior building paint color palette for the campus. One color will be applied to all the walls for lower budget projects. This lowers the cost of preparation and labor.

---

### Base colors

The base colors are light wash colors with high light reflectance values. The palette consists of a warm and cool whites and a light tone neutral grey. One color will be applied to all the walls for lower budget projects. This lowers the cost of preparation and labor.

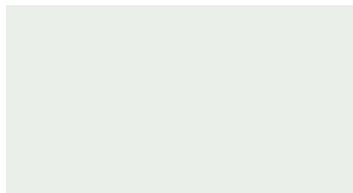
#### Super white

by Benjamin Moore  
OC-152  
LRV: 87



#### White ice

by Benjamin Moore  
OC-58  
LARV: 84



Note: LRV (Light Reflectance Value) is a measurement that expresses the percentage of light reflected from a surface. 100 being pure white and 0 being absolute black.

## Accent colors

The accent colors are medium to dark tones with lower light reflectance values. The palette consists of blues, green, taupe, and grey that can be applied to one or two wall(s). One color will be applied to a wall and the rest of the walls will have a base color. For more complex wall treatments with wainscots and trim mouldings, one base and one accent color shall be applied to the walls.

### Land of liberty

by Benjamin Moore  
440



### Colonial blue

by Benjamin Moore  
1677



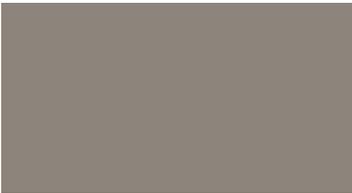
### Mozart blue

by Benjamin Moore  
1665



### Taos taupe

by Benjamin Moore  
2111-40



### Pewter

by Benjamin Moore  
2121-30

