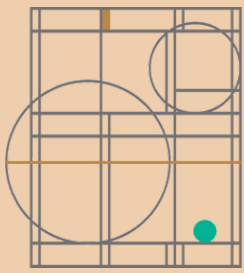


Fall 2023



# URBAN

concepts



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As Thanksgiving has come and gone and we prepare for the start of this year's holiday season, we've come to realize that there's so much to be thankful for. Our good health, happiness, and relationships with our family and friends. It is with immense joy and excitement that we bring you the fourth fall edition of Urban Concepts, since its reintroduction.

In this edition, we share an article on maintaining your residence, historical Lahaina Town, an introduction to ProSource of Honolulu, and a produce showcase featuring a quick holiday side dish recipe. We hope you enjoy this edition of Urban Concepts and here's to a season of growth, unity and continued success!

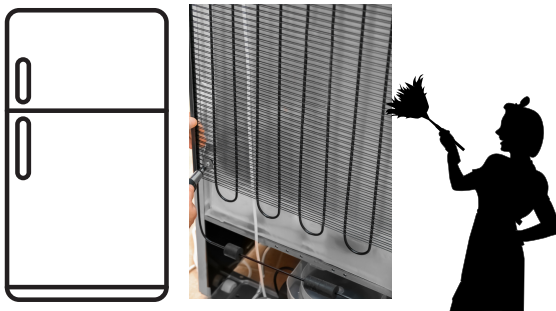
Mahalo,  
Brett Hill Construction Inc.

# MAINTAINING YOUR RESIDENCE

*Over the years, we've been in so many homes performing maintenance on your appliances and taking care of other recurring needs to keep residences in good working condition. Oftentimes we are asked why the appliances need to be maintained and why we recommend a particular frequency. We hope the following will shed light on this and help you make good decisions on the maintenance of your home.*

## AIR CONDITIONER

Quarterly checkups, especially during the warmer summer months, filter replacements, clearing the drip pan, drain line and adding antibacterial tablets keeps your unit functioning properly at all times. It should be noted that most manufacturers' recommend maintenance every quarter. In addition, turning on your air conditioner at least one hour twice a week keeps the motor running smoother and circulates the stale water built up in the coils. By following this schedule you'll be less likely to have breakdowns or drip pan overflows due to an improperly functioning air conditioner.



## REFRIGERATOR

Keeping the coils in the refrigerator free of accumulated dust allows the refrigerator to run more efficiently thus saving electricity.

## BATHROOMS

Keeping your bathroom vent clear of accumulated dust is important as it takes a lot of the moisture out of the bathroom air. The dust build-up in the vent prevents the moist air from circulating out. Over time, the lingering moisture can damage the walls of your bathroom and also lead to mold growth.

Periodically the toilet flush valve assembly must be replaced to avoid having a running toilet. In addition, the rubber parts begin to deteriorate over time causing water to seep through openings in the stopper. The deteriorating rubber also stains the porcelain bowl leaving it with unsightly brown stains running down the side.



## WATER HEATERS

In condo units that have hot water heaters, periodically checking your anode rod and replacing it as needed will extend the life of your heater and potentially avoid corroding the metal lining in the heater.

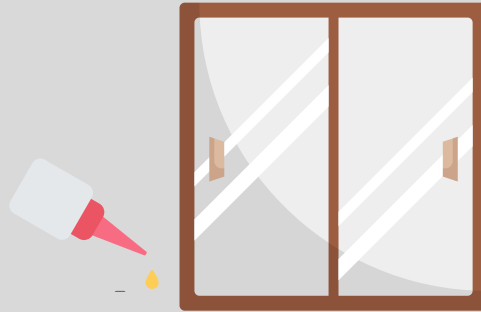
## DRYER

Depending on how often you use your dryer, the frequency with which you clear the dryer vent is very important. A dryer used at least twice a week should have the vent cleared every quarter. Build-up of lint in the vent could be enough to prolong the drying process, thus placing a greater burden on the dryer. More importantly though, a clogged vent is a fire hazard as the lint is highly combustible and because your dryer will not have a way to vent the warm air, it will run at very high temperatures.



## WINDOWS & DOORS

Lubricating sliding windows and doors will keep them operating smoothly. This is very important especially if your doors or windows are very heavy, and if you live near the ocean where the salt air tends to freeze the rolling metal parts quicker.



## PLUMBING

Periodic checks on the plumbing and drains are important as leaks can be detected through visual checks on the counters as well as under the sink. A leaky faucet cartridge not only wastes water, but can also damage your marble or granite counter top. Pipes also need to be checked for proper draining and to make sure the P-traps are working as an odor trap from the main sewer line.



## OTHER

Using proper light bulbs with correct wattage and type is very important as a bulb above or below the recommended wattage could short out your light fixture.



Checking if the smoke detector is functioning properly and the batteries are replaced on a regular basis is always very important, as we have seen how quickly fires can spread throughout a home as well as neighboring residences.



Periodically checking your ground-fault circuit interrupter ("GFCI") outlets will prevent the potential of an electrical shock to the user.

*We hope we've been able to provide you with a good explanation of why we all need to be proactive when it comes to home maintenance because taking care of your home will allow your home to take care of you.*

# The Lahaina Fires and the History we Lost that Day

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August 8, 2023 started out as a typical summer day in Hawaii with one exception. Guy Hagi's 4:30 am weather forecast anticipated a warm sunny day but Hurricane Dora was moving past the islands a few hundred miles south of us. Although we weren't in the path of this category 4 hurricane, the winds that Dora was pulling from the north was anticipated to bring extremely gusty trade winds that would blow over all island. This combined with the low humidity in the air and the persistent drought we were experiencing during this summer season meant brush fire warnings was part of the forecast.

True to its forecast, the winds were quite strong that day. Trees were swaying uncontrollably, the white-caps and choppy conditions across Ala Moana Park were huge and the winds whistled loudly through the awning windows. As bad as it was on Oahu, Maui was experiencing much stronger winds, especially on the southwest side of the island where the famous Kaua'ula winds coming down from the West Maui Mountains blew through the valleys like wind tunnels sending a direct hit to Lahaina Town.

Throughout the day brush fires popped up on the slopes of the West Maui Mountains from downed power lines, but for the most part was under control by the Maui Fire Department. But it was in the afternoon when the winds really picked up that the troubles began. Almost without warning, a fire started above Lahaina Town that was fanned by the extremely gusty winds. It came down the hill so fast that most residents barely made it to safety with just their pets and a few valuables. It was tragic; in just a few hours many lives were lost, irreplaceable memories and valuables destroyed and Old Lahaina Town with all its historic and iconic structures was gone.

For many of us who are either from Maui, have family who are from there or have visited and enjoyed the island, we felt a deep sense of loss that day. The rich history of Lahaina Town was gone, and although we are very saddened by this, we know the residents of Lahaina and Maui are very resilient and will rebuild this town in the most responsible way.

## WAIOLA CHURCH

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Built and dedicated in 1832, the Waiola Church was the first permanent Christian church on Maui. In the 1820's when the first missionaries arrived in Hawaii, Lahaina was one of the places they settled, and Waiola Church was the first church built on site where the mission established in 1823. Queen Keopuolani, wife to King Kamehameha the Great moved to Maui with missionaries Reverend William Richards and Reverend Charles Stewart to teach Christianity to the residents of Maui. Unfortunately, the Queen passed away a few months after arriving, and was laid to rest in the church graveyard along with other royal family members of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

Throughout its history, the church was destroyed four times - twice by fires in 1894 and 1947, and twice by the Kaua'ula winds in 1858 and 1951. It was again completely destroyed by this year's Lahaina fire, but based on its history, the church will be rebuilt to serve the Maui community once again.



## THE BALDWIN HOME

Originally built in 1835 as a missionary compound for then Kahu (Pastor) Reverend Ephraim Spaulding, the Baldwin Home was the oldest house on Maui up until the Lahaina Fire. It was the home to Reverend W. Dwight Baldwin who in 1837 replaced Reverend Spaulding and took residence in the home when Reverend Spaulding became ill and had to return to Massachusetts.

Originally a single-story four-bedroom home, it was renovated to accommodate the growing Baldwin family. Built with coral and lava rock blocks and a wood frame, this home was the residence for the Baldwin's until they moved to Oahu in 1868. Currently, up until the fire destroyed this home, it was a museum that preserved its original infrastructure and displayed artifacts of the Baldwin family.



## LAHAINA HONGWANJI MISSION

The beginning of Shin Buddhism in Lahaina dates back to 1904 but the first permanent temple and congregation (Hongwanji) was not built until 1912. The church's congregation was primarily made up of Japanese immigrants that came to Maui to work in the sugar plantations.

Built adjacent to Waiola Church, the temple was severely damaged by the fire, but the Shin Buddhist community in Hawaii has already dedicated themselves to rebuilding and restarting the 119-year history of the Lahaina Hongwanji.

## THE OLD LAHAINA COURTHOUSE

Built in 1860 just makai of the famous banyan tree, the Lahaina Court & Customs House the two-story coral block and wood facade building housed the post office, the tax office, the offices for the Governor of Maui, the Sheriff and District Attorney as well as the courtroom.

In 1925 the building was rebuilt with a gabled roof, new entrance and a second-floor balcony reminiscent of Greek architecture. Once constructed, the new structure housed the courtroom, judge's and tax collector's office on the second floor. The post office and police station was on the first floor, and the jail was in the basement. Before the fire, the building was the home to the Lahaina Visitor Center, Lahaina Arts Society galleries and the Lahaina Town Action Committee.

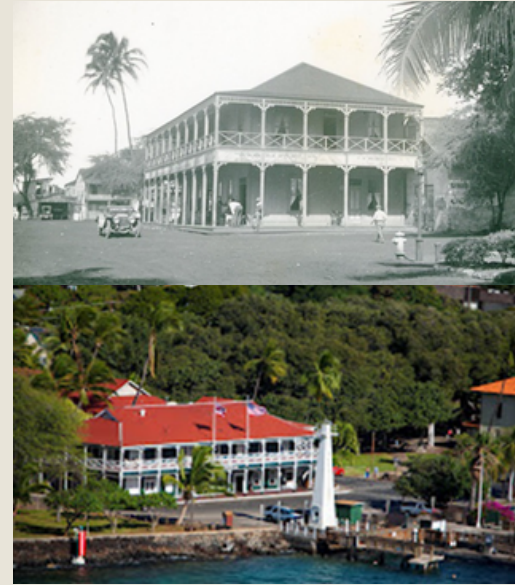
The fire caused significant damage to the structure. The roof and balcony are gone and just the shell of the building is still standing.



## THE PIONEER INN

Built in 1901, the Pioneer Inn was a Lahaina landmark and the oldest operating hotel in Hawaii. The 34-room two story wood-framed structure was located on Front Street, adjacent to the famous banyan tree and the lighthouse. It was also the location of Papa'aina the popular restaurant owned and run by Chef Lee Ann Wong.

On the day of the fire, it was fortunate all the hotel guests evacuated and Papa'aina and the shops on the first level closed early. So, although the hotel and all its memories got destroyed, everyone was able to get to a safe location before the fire engulfed the property.



## THE WO HING SOCIETY HALL

Built in 1912, the Wo Hing Society Hall was built to provide religious and political support, as well as social and economic benefits to the growing Chinese population that settled in Lahaina to work on building tunnels and irrigation systems for Maui and in the sugarcane plantations. From the 1940's when the Chinese population in Lahaina started to decline, the Hall was not well-maintained until 1983 when it was restored and converted to a museum.

Unfortunately, the Hall and its artifacts were destroyed by the fire, but there are plans to rebuild the museum to preserve the history of the Wo Hing Society.



## THE BANYAN TREE

On April 24, 1873 a small banyan tree was gifted to the people of Lahaina by William Owen Smith, a missionary from India, to mark the 50th anniversary of the first Protestant mission to Maui. It was planted just behind the Old Lahaina Courthouse and is often used as a point of reference by the locals when giving directions.

Covering a whole block and being one of the most recognizable landmarks on Maui, the Lahaina banyan tree suffered severe burns from the fire, but through an outpouring of care from arborists and residents, this tree has started to sprout new leaves and gives hope to make a full recovery. With a lot of support and care, the banyan tree and its recovery would be symbolic for the people of Lahaina in their efforts to recover and rebuild.



That dreadful day will always have a place in Hawaii's history, not only because of the rich history that was lost, but also by how the fire impacted so many people's lives and livelihood. Homes and businesses were destroyed, irreplaceable mementos will never be recovered and most importantly many lives were lost. But despite all that the residents of Maui have gone through, Lahaina will be back, and even though its identity may not be the same, its character will always remain. Onipa'a Kakou.

# ProSource® WHOLESALE

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ProSource is an employee-owned, locally-owned company supplying **wholesale materials for flooring, kitchen, and bath renovations**. We work directly with trade professionals - like contractors, property managers, designers, project managers, and restoration specialists - to service all islands. From hardwood floors to cabinetry to major appliances like Miele, we are your source for it all.

In service to our members in the trade, we also work with their clients to facilitate material selections and the design process for kitchen/ bath renovations. Homeowners unlock access to wholesale pricing through their trade professional's membership with us.

Visit our showroom to see the largest selection and quality stock on Oahu!

Partnered with Shaw, Mohawk, Karastan, Duchateau, Anderson Tuftex, CoreTEC, Daltile, Surface Art, Emser, Pergo, and more!



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## ProSource Presents: 5 Questions Your Client has for their Next Home Renovation

Your home reflects your lifestyle, your aspirations, your happiness. What would yours reveal about you? Does it show your joy in the kitchen, preparing dishes you used to make with grandma growing up? Do your floors style themselves as your contemporary, dream home; or model themselves more nostalgically to your childhood home?

We believe in the powerful messages a home tells. Learn to craft those messages with us. Let's dive into a few frequently asked questions about your next home renovation:

## 1. *What do I get out of renovating my home?*

Renovations have many benefits.

The major benefit is that investing in your home will raise its property value. On average, larger projects inside the home net between 65-75% ROI and smaller will net between 40-60%. That dream kitchen? That spa-styled bathroom? Let these upgrades work for you - especially that upgrade to new hardwood floors!

An immediate benefit is wrapped in emotion. Your environment has a direct impact on how you feel. Renovations are your chance to express your comfortability, intimacy, playfulness, or joy in each room. Bring warmth and coziness into your living room with rich hardwood floors with unique variation. Use beautiful marbled tile and stone countertops in your kitchen for opulence with a modern flair.

In the end, what you are willing to invest will benefit your bottom line and your base emotions.

## 2. *How do I know where to start?*

Start from necessity... or treat yourself!

Necessity includes things like life changes, repairs, or replacements. Thinking of moving for more space for a growing family? Maybe the kitchen cabinets haven't held up over the decades at your parent's house. In both instances, renovations will boost the resell value of your property while keeping it up-to-date with current trends.

Treating yourself... well... is making it nice! Treat yourself to matching kitchen appliances from Miele or give yourself a change of scenery with brand new luxury vinyl tile floors and Hunter Douglas window coverings. Even sprucing up that home office. Whatever makes you happy!

## 3. *Where do I draw inspiration from?*

Pinterest, childhood homes, that real estate reality show you can't stop watching. The possibilities are endless! Contractors and their clients can even get inspired in our showroom: ProSource has the largest selection of in stock and special order products available on the island. We're truly a one-stop-shop with long-standing relationships with all of our vendors, so the renovation world is really your oyster!



#### 4. Why go to ProSource vs. big box retailer?

A wise (and silly) man once said... "You don't go to a car dealership to buy a couch."

Although renovation materials can be found in all industry related big box retailers, it is not all they carry.

The heart and soul of ProSource is dedicated to flooring, kitchen, and bath materials; not only do we have the largest selection on Oahu, we have the resources of a national franchise. Paired with exclusive selections that cannot be found anywhere else but our company, you are guaranteed to find the best aesthetics with the best specs on the island.

We believe in the quality of our products.

We believe in the exceptional customer service from your dedicated account manager.

We believe in making it quick, easy, and accurate from start to finish.

#### 5. How do I start the process?

Connect with your project manager at Brett Hill Construction to schedule an appointment with their account manager, Taylor Aguilar-Goto.

At your appointment, bring in project photos of what you want to renovate, inspiration photos, samples of material you'd like to match in your home, and an open-mind!

Just getting in the showroom is half the battle... and selection is arguably the most fun part of any renovation! Your account manager will guide you through the selection process based on your needs, personal preferences, time frame, and budget. We build personal connections with our trade professionals so you can rest assured that you are in good hands and getting the best materials for your project.

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*ProSource of Honolulu is an employee-owned local branch of a nationally renowned wholesale flooring, kitchen, and bath distributor. We work exclusively with trade professionals and their clients to build meaningful relationships, trustworthy referrals, and strengthen the bonds between industry professionals across the island.*

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# Okinawan Sweet Potato

## What is it?

Brought to Hawaii with Japanese sugar plantation workers in the 1900s, the Okinawan sweet potato quickly became a local staple, popular in both sweet and savory dishes. Often mixed up with ube, the Okinawan sweet potato is a tuber or plant that is mainly grown underground where ube is grown above ground. They have a thin, light tan to brown outer skin and a deep purple flesh. It also has a mildly sweet flavor and a very dry, starchy texture.



## How to select & store?

The Okinawan sweet potato can be found year round at most local grocery stores and farmers markets. When shopping, look for a potato that is small to medium in size with a firm texture and smooth, unwrinkled skin. Try to select potatoes of a similar size for even cooking and avoid ones with soft spots, dark brown discoloration or visible sprouts. Store in a dark, dry, well ventilated area and avoid washing them before storing, be sure to keep them away from other vegetables because they can cause them to ripen more quickly.

## Nutritional Value

Rich in fiber, helping to regulate digestion and control blood sugar levels. They have a substantial amount of antioxidants and are a great source of vitamin A and C. They are also a good source of vitamin E, with a single medium sized potato providing nearly 20% of the recommended daily value.

## How to prepare & serve?

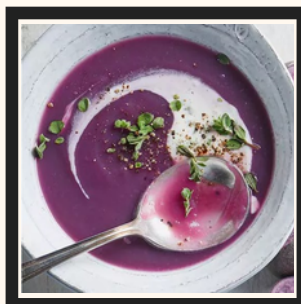
They are best served cooked and are often boiled or baked and cut and served on its own or with butter. Once fully cooked, the skin of the potato should peel off easily. If you choose to remove the skin, be sure to peel skin while the potato is still warm (many people leave the skin on, as they are edible, rich in fiber and other nutrients). They can also be served as a side, mashed or as tempura and also used in desserts such as the local favorite, Okinawan Sweet Potato Haupia pie.

## ~Holiday side dish recipe~ Purple Potato Soup

(sourced from [bhg.com/recipe/purple-potato-soup/](http://bhg.com/recipe/purple-potato-soup/))

Servings: 4 (5 1/2 cups)

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 large onion chopped (1 cup)
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 1/2 pound purple potatoes, peeled and cut
- 4 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon dried marjoram (may sub with dried oregano)
- 1/4 cup pomegranate juice
- Sour cream
- Fresh marjoram (may sub with fresh oregano)



In a 4 quart Dutch oven melt butter over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, and salt. Cook 5 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally. Add potatoes, broth, and dried marjoram (or oregano). Using an immersion blender, puree until smooth. Stir in pomegranate juice. Top each serving with sour cream and fresh marjoram.