



# **Andrew Hara**

**Architectural/  
Environmental  
Photographer  
Class of 2004**

**By Ricky  
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The cool mist drifts over the towering sky scraper. The recent rain trickles slowly down the drain on a street stained orange by the cold street lights. A photographer, after extensive work on this sight, finally snaps the final photo. This is the career of Waiakea High School graduate, Andrew Hara.

Andrew is a self-employed architectural/environmental photographer. He named his company Arc-Technika Imaging because the name accurately reflects what he does, which is combining the art of architectural photography with the technology of high-end digital imaging. He advertises his portfolio through his website and has secured commissions from large corporations, architects and realtors.

His photographs can be a part of a corporate advertising campaign or help an architect get a project bid or assist a realtor in making a sale. His work has allowed him to travel to many new locations. He spends hours on site preparation and even more time perfecting the images from each shoot. He has photographed different types of structures: from endangered bridges and abandoned buildings, to business towers and multi-million dollar mansions. He approaches each photo shoot as a challenge to bring out the beauty and soul of each structure and to capture the right mood in his photographs. He has been working with the Los Angeles Conservancy to take photos of buildings they are trying to preserve.

Although the general public may think that being a photographer is easy and glamorous, Andrew says it is quite the opposite. Standing out

from thousands of other photographers requires the ability to criticize oneself. "Being able to critically compare your photography with the work of other photographers allows you to clearly understand the positive and negative points of your portfolio and business skills, as well. One of the most important skills in photography is consistency. One screw-up could end your career, especially when working with a large corporate client."

Because of tough economic times, Andrew says business has been nearly cut in half. He believes that when the economy picks up, companies will need to start advertising more to stimulate new revenue and he intends to still be there when that happens. After all, practically everything being sold is linked to a photograph. His work has appeared in the Architectural Record's "Top Ten Architectural Photographs of 2009," Architectural Digest Design Show's 2009 exhibition; Art Center College of Design's 2006-2010 gallery exhibition and the JPG Magazine.

Andrew attended Waiakea High School and graduated with the class of 2004. He furthered his education at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco studying graphic design and photography. To expand his studies, he transferred to the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, where he earned his Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in Photography in 2009.

Andrew takes special effort to make sure each photograph he takes preserves a place in time. In his own words, "If I make little or no effort to physically interact with the surrounding environment of a site, I lose the essence of that space in the photograph itself." This is his philosophy of photography. His career choice was influenced by his father's passion for photography and he took it up as a release from his father's long illness and passing. "I found photography to be the only method that helped me decompress. Over time, I realized that there was nothing else I would rather do than to create photographs because it provides me with a freedom that I have not found elsewhere." Andrew finds peace in his work and has made it his career.

His favorite teachers at Waiakea High were Audrey Archer Kelly and Susan Palea of the Art Department and Helen Kobayashi. These teachers inspired him to do something different with his life and helped him find his career. He is grateful that the environment in the art department helped keep his nerves intact during "those frantic high school years."



**Andrew's photo of the Century Plaza Hotel that the Los Angeles Conservancy is preserving appeared in NBCLA.com & the LA Times.**

