

Paper Lanterns

continued ▲ from front

trails-- to observe the changes of the same place at different times of the year.

world, HiiH's lanterns take on a spiritual element as well. In Vietnam, as in many traditional Asian cultures, children and families light lanterns on holidays to honor ing lanterns are sent floating across the night's sky, lighting the way for spirits when the moon is at its fullest.

HiiH's lanterns not only draw



PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Many of the hand-made paper lanterns created by the owners of northeast Portland's HiiH Gallery take the shape of flowers during their seasonal budding cycles.

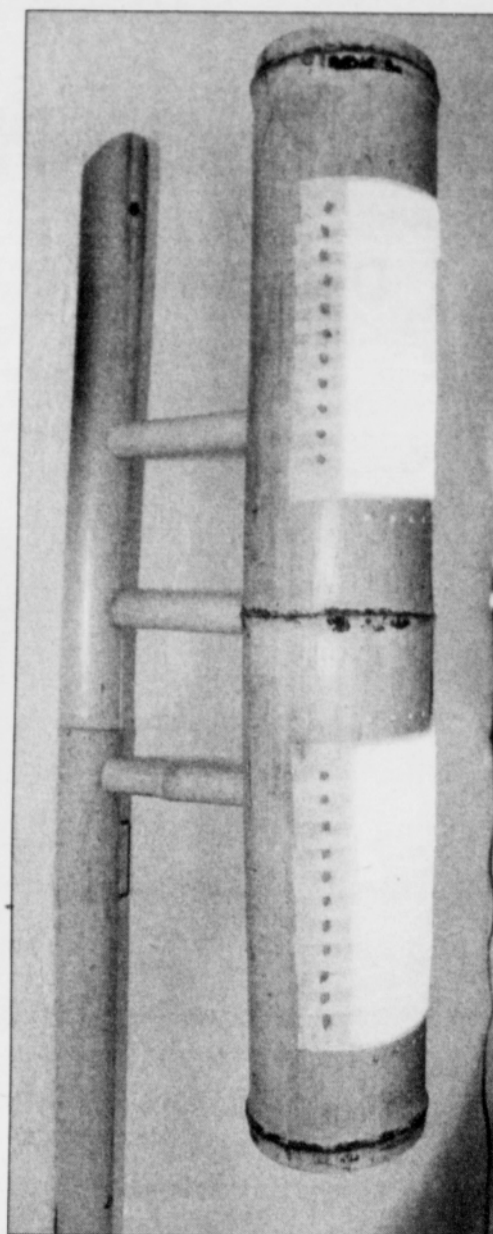
"It's quite amazing seeing the changes of one specific flower, going from a twig and budding into a plant with flowers and then eventually dying," said Qu?ng.

Linked closely to the natural

traditional spirits and the dead.

In relation to the indigenous way of life, lanterns sometimes symbolize animals of astrology. During mid-autumn, in celebration of the end of harvest season, glow-

from the ceremonial and abstract, but are shaped by a wellspring of Asian aesthetics, like structure, the landscape, architecture, and other artists, notably, the Japanese designer and sculptor Isamu



Noguchi.

In the week-long process of a lantern's creation, the pair of artists work individually and in tandem from the original concept and design until the final touches of paint. Usually, Qu?ng sculpts and creates the canvas for his wife to paint.

Most of the materials used to make HiiH's handcrafted light sculptures are retrieved locally. Beeswax is harvested from a local beekeeper, and while Golden airbrush paint, walnut and indigo dye, bamboo, wire, welded steel, and lighting fixtures can also be found at nearby stores, the dam-

mar resin is received from Indonesia.

Cotton and abaca paper pulp from a paper-making neighbor two blocks away is used to make the paper in the first step of the process. Using a mold and deckle, the papers is formed into sheets and then pressed under an eight-ton press to bind the fibers.

While keeping the light fixture in mind, Qu?ng designs each lamp to its destined shape and size using wire or bamboo. Then, the damp paper is applied the armature one panel at a time.

No glue is used, just a soft brush to fold back the edges onto themselves forcing the fibers to bond together. Once the paper has dried, Gates paints each piece with watercolor paint using brushes and airbrushes.

When the paint is dry, the dammar resin is applied, acting as a protective layer that strengthens the lamp structurally and gives the paper a translucent, glowing quality.

The final step is to configure the electrical components, at which point the light is ready for installation. "People like our work because it's unique," said Qu?ng, who enjoys artistic freedom even in custom-designs.

From local residents to the interior designers of upscale restaurants, the functional artwork of HiiH is loved and respected by many and showcased in galleries in Ashland, Seattle, and Berkley.

Lâm Qu?ng and Kestrel Gates live in Portland with their son Xanh and new daughter, Mai Linh. HiiH is located on 2929 N.E. Alberta St. View their website at hiihgalleries.com.

June Key Dedication

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tractor and a local African-American business owner. "It always feels good getting to the end of a project, but I am going to miss working with everybody."

According to Mark Nye, the lead architect for the building, it feels great to be where they are. "It's the breath of involvement from a number of key-players, from city agencies, volunteers, local non-profits, the EPA," he said. "Everybody has pitched in to make this happen."

Throughout the construction, equitable hiring and training opportunities were also a main priority.

"The June Key Delta Community Center delivers on the city's goals of increasing job opportunities for a diverse workforce, supporting education, and creating the nation's greenest construction sector. I am so proud of the partnerships and commitment that made the center a reality," said Mayor Sam Adams.

Founded in 1943, the Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is part



PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Families and friends of the June Key Delta Community Center take a walk around the center's flourishing community garden next to the African-American sorority's completely refurbished building, which is the first of its kind to complete a living building challenge for sustainable environmental practices.

of a worldwide organization which has over 200,000 active members impacting communities through over 900 chapters around the world.

According to the Portland Development Commission, the sorority augmented its own investment in the construction costs with PDC's Commercial Property

Redevelopment loan and Storefront Improvement and Community Livability grants to renovate and expand the existing building into a community center with a meeting hall, display space, kitchen and accessible rest rooms.

"The sorority and the community had big dreams for what this property could be, and

we've been delighted to see the final product," said Mayor Adams. "It will serve as a fitting legacy to the memory of June Key."

And all those attending the grand opening celebration seemed to agree.

"We started this so long ago," said Marlene Fuller, who is a Golden Life member of the sorority. "It's just a dream come true."