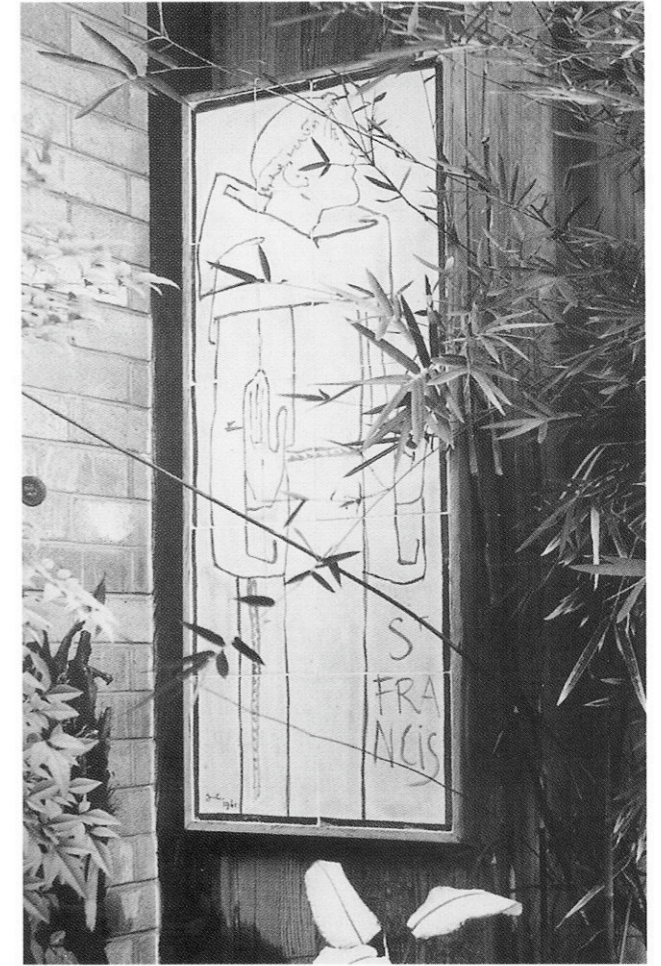


Modest by Wai'ālae standards, the compact home that famed muralist Jean Charlot designed and built in 1958 is a marvel of handcrafted woodworkmanship and multicultural influence. "This house is my father's biggest artwork, an important part of his artistic legacy," says John Charlot. The UH religion professor, his late mother and his siblings Ann and Martin have donated the home to the University of Hawai'i for use as a residence; faculty club; or facility for the study and promotion of the arts, literature, history, architecture and culture. UH Mānoa's Hamilton Library already houses the Charlot collection, a major archive of writings and artwork created or collected by Charlot, including the largest collection of early 20th century Mexican artwork outside of Mexico. Like the house, the collection reflects the artist's journeys from France to the U.S., Mexico and the Pacific.

Zohmah Charlot was an "artist magnet," according to son John—a tiny Utah Mormon girl who traveled to Mexico in 1931 because she heard artists gathered there. "She was passionate about art and enormously admired artists, who were themselves fascinated by her dark, innocent but exotic waif-like looks." Her detailed letters and diaries form an important historical record in the Charlot collection.

Information at [www2.hawaii.edu/~speccoll/charlot.html](http://www2.hawaii.edu/~speccoll/charlot.html).

# The legacy of Jean Charlot



Tiles by Charlot appear in both kitchen and bath and a ceramic mural adorns an exterior wall. A devout Catholic, Charlot did a number of works depicting St. Francis of Assisi. Like the saint, he had an affinity for birds. His family often found him sitting outside drinking coffee, a stray bird perched on his shoulder.

Early portraits of Jean and Zohmah Charlot by Edward Weston. Photos of their house by P. E. Guerrero.



The door at the Charlot home was always open to friends and students from many cultures. A prolific artist, Charlot also had a playful side. Seated at the cantilever table with the sliding window that joins inside with outside seating, son Peter turned to see his father poised to pounce on him. "I'm practicing haunting you," said the artist, who was also known to slide down the banister with his grandchildren.





Photos by P. E. Guerrero

A mural in unmistakable Jean Charlot style greeted the artist as he rose each morning in his balcony bedroom and graced gatherings in the family living room below. The home is now a UH property (page 14). Other murals, paintings and sculpture by the famed artist, who taught at UH Mānoa from 1949 to 1966 and lived in Hawai'i until his death in 1979, appear in churches, schools and other buildings throughout the islands and across the United States.