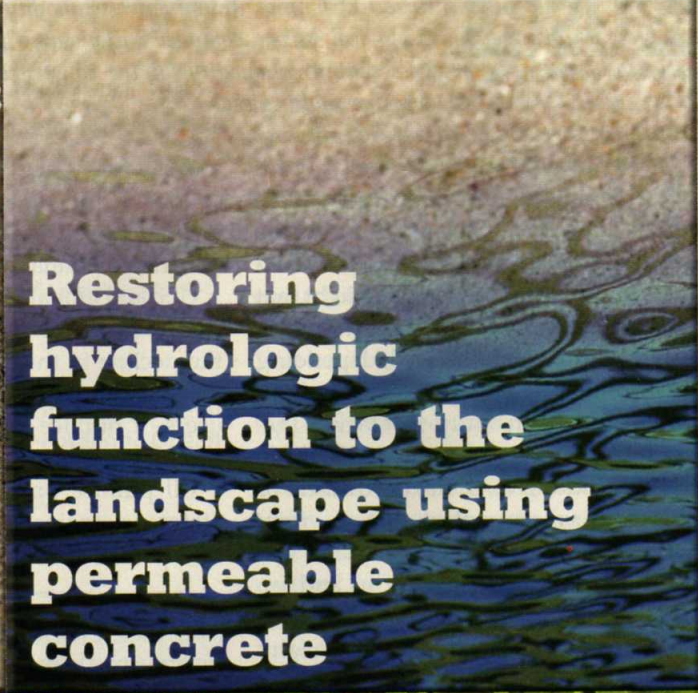




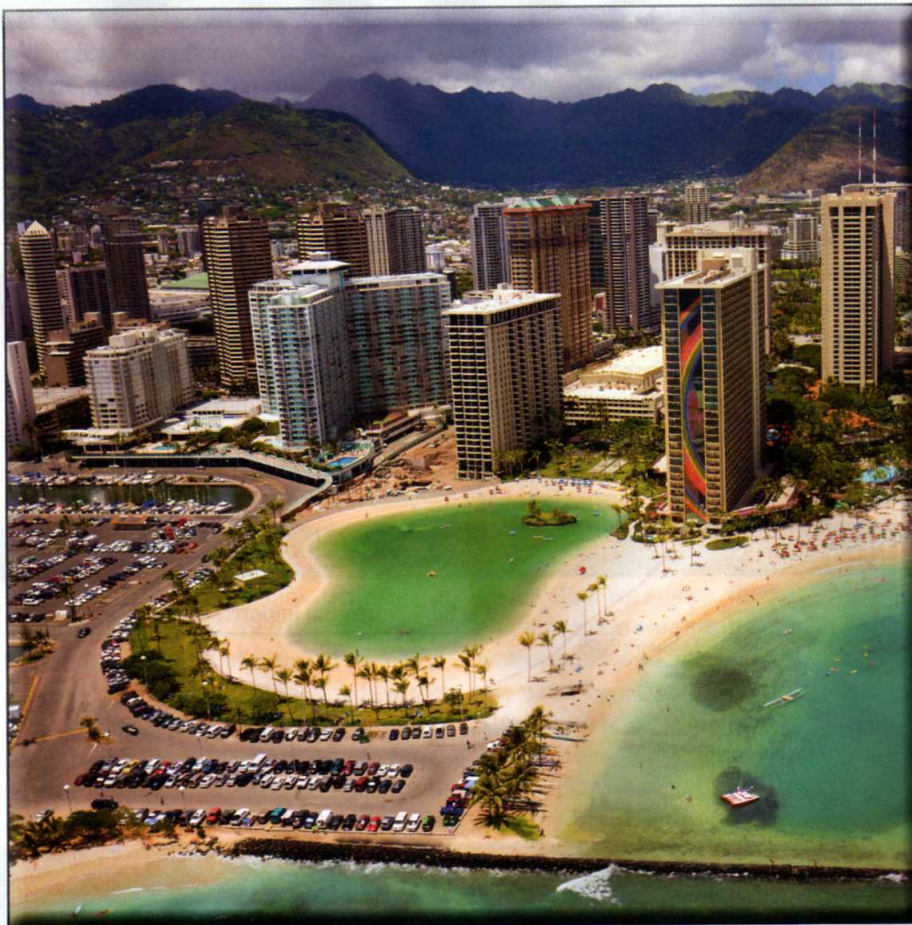
# DULL AS CONCRETE?



Think Again.



**Restoring hydrologic function to the landscape using permeable concrete**



**T. DeLene Beeland**

**F**olk singer Joni Mitchell told a reporter that she created her 1970 hit single, “Big Yellow Taxi,” after awaking on the morning of her first trip to Hawaii. She peered out from her hotel window, transfixed by lush mountains, and then her eyes fell downward to a paved, urban sea of parking lots. Appalled, she penned the famous lyrics: “They paved paradise and put up a parking lot.”

Environmentalists seized the sadly whimsical refrain as a line that captured the big-picture impacts of urban development on natural ecosystems. But today some types of pavement — permeable, or pervious, concrete — are designed to give something back to nature: water.

Pervious concrete is a pavement made with a cement-like binding material devoid of the sand- or silt-sized particles used in traditional concrete. This absence creates interconnected voids between large pieces of aggregate, which allows

Maybe parking lots made from permeable concrete won't ruin “paradise.”

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