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# at home

LIVING WITH STYLE ON HAWAII ISLAND

# GRAND REDESIGN

Kona Home Gets Contemporary Makeover



COVER STORY

Lead project designer for Fine Design Interiors in Waimea, Diane Bobek redesigned the living room to include the addition of distinctive cumuru wood floors from Floor Coverings Hawai'i. Original paintings by Maui artist Eric Tore came from Kohala Art Gallery.



# GRAND REDESIGN

*Local talent on display for Kailua-Kona remodel*

When homeowner and designer are in sync with style, magic happens. And that's exactly what took place when Diane Bobek, lead project designer for Fine Design Interiors in Waimea, achieved an amazing transformation of an '80s-era home in Kailua-Kona.

Showcasing fresh new accents, stunningly gorgeous custom cabinetry, beautiful hardwood

flooring, and newly reconfigured living spaces, the impressive remodel fulfills the vision of homeowners, John and Hanna, who purchased the house in February 2016. The project was completed in December of last year.

"At first we thought we'd just change the windows and floor tiles, but then we thought, let's fix everything," said John. "Diane was exceptional every step of the way in making sure all of our decisions were of value. We wanted our house to

be practical, livable, and accented with big, bright colors and comfortable things. Diane was the creative mind behind all of it."

The couple, who previously owned a condo on Ali'i Drive near Hanna's father's home, discovered the house for sale while driving around town admiring Christmas lights and decorations. John took one look at the location and declared: "I don't care if this house is a shack, I want to buy it. The view is fantastic."



The stunning kitchen remodel showcases custom mahogany cabinets by Kona woodworker Steve Alterman. Textured granite counters from Tile Warehouse impart a beachy look. Diane came up with the idea for a mango table integrated into the island. The dining area was converted into a sitting room.



Although it certainly wasn't a shack, the outdated 1,800-square-foot home was definitely in need of a makeover. Built in 1988 for an elderly Japanese gentleman to his exact specifications, the house was somewhat dark, with few windows. The original floor plan featured an ill-conceived kitchen disproportionately dwarfed by an unnecessarily large laundry room. An entire wall of kitchen cabinets obscured the incredible ocean view.

The first order of business was to remove

the weight-bearing wall between the laundry room and kitchen so that the kitchen could be expanded. An enormous beam now supports that section of the house.

"It took seven strong guys to install the beam," said John. "It seemed like an impossible feat, but they were able to lift it into place, inch by inch."

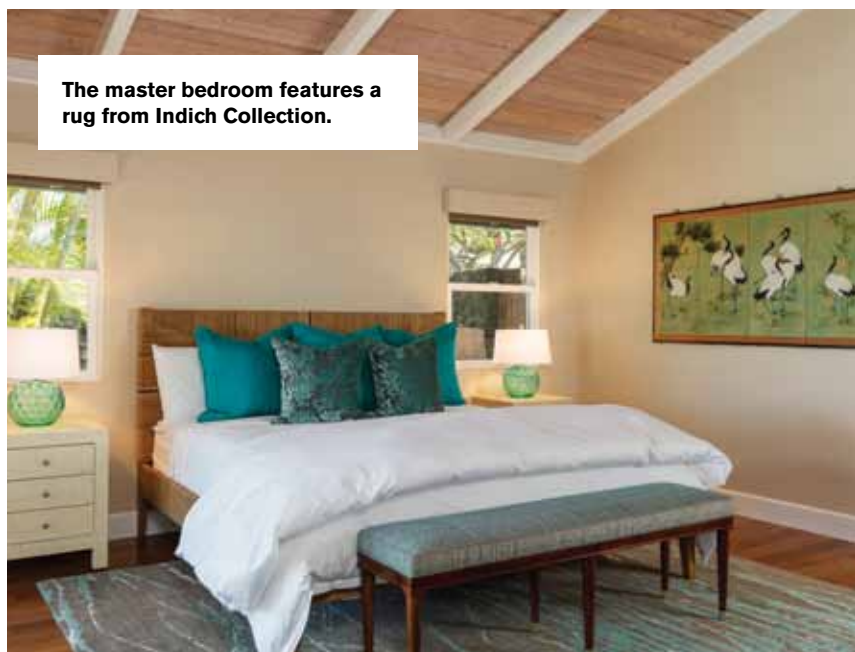
Diane artfully envisioned the entire redesign of the kitchen. She was the creative mind

behind the designs of the mahogany cabinets crafted by master woodworker Steve Alterman, including the gorgeous slab of mango integrated into the kitchen island for a dining table. Sourced from Tile Warehouse, in Kailua-Kona, Coastal Green granite counters impart a beachy feel that perfectly complements the distinctive, custom woodworking.

Among Diane's network of professionals includes contractor Rene Guidry, of Cajun Construction



The sitting room offers a perfect whale-watching perch.



The master bedroom features a rug from Indich Collection.



Original Matson menus hang next to etched-glass doors by Scott Potter.



The remodeled master bathroom leads to an outdoor shower.

in Waikoloa. When Diane introduced Rene to the couple, they immediately appreciated his straightforward, detail-oriented approach.

“He is the epitome of a project manager,” said John. “We knew we could put one-hundred percent of our faith into Rene and his team of sub-contractors. The key is hiring the right people for the job, from the plumbers and the patio people to the finish carpenters. After our remodel was completed, we hosted a thank-you party for

everyone who worked on the project.”

Architect Matthew Graves oversaw the structural remodel plans. Local glass artist, Scott Potter, crafted the etched glass for the kitchen cabinets and newly installed French doors that lead to the pool. Other local vendors included Chris Hamilton, of C&H Tiles; Steve Edmonds, of Keep It Green landscaping; and Steve Dodson, of Kona Kai Pools.

The existing pool deck turned out to be an

unexpected expense for the homeowners. The failing Futura Stone material needed to be replaced, along with the cracked concrete below it. Gerry Garland and his team at Concrete Technologies Inc., of Kailua-Kona, hauled out eight tons of material prior to replacing the deck and lanai. Bob Tremain of Railing Systems Hawai'i installed the glass fencing around the pool.

Diane suggested the original dining room be converted into a sitting room, where lovely, blue

swivel chairs now provide the perfect vantage for whale watching. Light streams into every room thanks to a combination of casement, awning, double-hung, jalousie and picture windows. Solar shades disappear into custom valances, installed by Mauna Kea Pacific Screens.

“The new windows, doors and interior trim make a huge difference to the feel of the house,” said Diane. “It’s a timeless look, showcasing a little bit of a tropical theme combined with the woods and art pieces.”

Additionally, the master bathroom received a complete makeover that included the addition of a water closet for the commode, as well as a new entrance that leads from the glass-enclosed shower to an outdoor shower clad in lava rock.

According to Hanna, the house had previously been a mishmash of tile, fake bamboo laminate floors and linoleum. Now the home features handsome cumuru wood floors, sourced from



Railing Systems Hawai'i installed glass fencing around the pool. The aging deck was restored by Concrete Technologies Inc., of Kailua-Kona.

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**Designer Diane Bobek achieved an amazing transformation of the '80s-era home in Kailua-Kona. She is the lead project designer for Fine Design Interiors, headed by Shirley Wagner.**

Floor Coverings Hawai'i in Kailua-Kona. All rugs came from Indich Collection in Kailua-Kona. Lighting fixtures and ceiling fans are from Kona Coast House of Lights.

For the interiors, Diane provided a whole palette of options to consider down to the fabrics, fixtures and door handles. She even came up with the idea for a "floating" cabinet below the TV that includes carved-out cutouts in the wood that resemble *pahoehoe* lava. When crafting the cabinet, Steve Alterman added red colors beneath the design, suggestive of molten lava.

"Diane made everything so easy," said Hanna. "This is a family home that's livable, easy and beautiful. This style will last for a long time. We are so happy with how everything turned out. Everyone involved proved to be better than we ever imagined." ■



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**The carved design mimics molten lava in the floating cabinet by Steve Alterman.**