FALL 2007

FIVE DOLLARS

HAWAII INTERIORS® & ARCHITECTURE™

It's All In The Details

The Artful Home

Vladimir Ossipoff - Modern Visionary

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A Retro Cottage at Puako Beach

- Text by Suzanne Watkins
- Interior by Shirley Wagner, ASID
- Photography by David Franzen

Hawaii's South *Kohala* Coast is famous for its ocean views, blue lagoons, petroglyph fields and magnificent sunsets. It's no wonder the area has become a resort and second home haven. Residential designer Shirley Wagner, ASID of Fine Design Interiors, Inc., located in *Kamuela's* historic Spenser House, is a second home specialist, with current projects at *Mauna Lani* and *Mauna Kea* resorts, several beach houses in *Puako* on *Hawaii* Island, a historic home renovation in the Diamond Head neighborhood in *Honolulu*, and lakefront summer homes in Lake Tahoe, CA. and in Bellevue, Washington.

Several years ago, long-time clients approached Shirley to design a beach cottage on their property at *Puako*. "The clients wanted an *Old Hawaii* feel to the architecture, with a large ocean *lanai* extending the interior space to the outdoors," explained Shirley. "We got to work with interior programming for a two story cottage with an open great room, including dining and kitchen, a master suite and study and two guest bedroom suites for visits by family and friends. As a vacation home specialist, I prefer starting with the clients on their project as soon as possible, working side by side with them, a draftsman and an architect to design the structure as a team. I specify the initial spaces and generate the floor plans and elevations, and then select and establish the material specifications." After they purchased the property, the clients decided to divide the lot and eventually designed and built another home with Shirley's firm.

To capture a "retro" *Hawaiian* feel and add dimension to the 1940's style details of the cottage, we used natural *ohia* posts from *Hawaii* Inland in both the interior and on the ocean side *lanai*," said Shirley.

photo © David Franzen 2007

photo © David Franzen 2007

This charming, Old-*Hawaii*-styled beach cottage features comfortable retro furnishings - directed towards a spectacular ocean view - and a quartet of polished *ohia* posts. *Hawaii* Island glass artist Gary Wagner, husband of the designer Shirley Wagner, designed and fabricated the etched glass windows used throughout the house. A concealed door system opens the indoor living area to the deck, visually inviting the tide pool and ocean into the yard. (small photo right) A *puneé* awaits a guest's afternoon nap, in a private corner of the living area.

Shirley Wagner, ASID

Shirley Wagner, ASID designed the kitchen with easy to maintain granite counters, contemporary high-end appliances and white Shaker styled cabinet doors, accentuating the casual cottage design features. Glass shades on pendant fixtures illuminate the bar. The dining room features colorful floral paintings by Mary Spears. (below) The entrance, featuring another Gary Wagner etched glass original, leads guests into the living space and also provides access to the powder room. A niche cabinet provides display space for island treasures and adds a subtle transition between the entry hall, kitchen, great room and a stairway to the upstairs bedroom suites.

The decorative entry hall and dining room rugs are a matched wool pair by the Indich Collection.

photo © David Franzen 2007

photo © David Franzen 2007

"The *ohia's* wood tones complement the beautiful Brazilian walnut floors. Beadboard paneling was specified as a wainscoting detail and fine quality reproductions of vintage rattan furniture were ordered from a supplier in *Kailua-Kona.* We selected pastel blue and green *Hawaiian* patterns, screened on cotton bark cloth for the upholstery, along with reproductions of artwork created in the 1930-1950's," she added. The ocean facing back wall is punctuated with a sliding door system that opens the wide wall to the *lanai* and ocean view.

The display kitchen is contemporary and functional with period details. "We selected white Shaker doors to accentuate the cottage theme," Shirley continued, as she explained the kitchen's material selections. "The cabinet door is made of a wavy glass, with an antique crystal look. The appliances are all top of the line, and the blue-green hues of the *verde* granite counters are easy to maintain." The open plan allows for easy serving to the sheltered dining area or *al fresco* dining on the *lanai*.

The oceanfront master suite features a relaxing adjacent veranda and a *lauhala* ceiling, reminiscent of a *hale* in old Hawaii. The windows were designed to fit the size of the king bed - design and space planning from the inside out! (below) 2" tiles of aqua glass were etched with petroglyph images of a *honu*, a surfer and a paddler for the welcoming open shower in the master bathroom. Glass block and solid surface counters complement the white, recessed panel cabinet doors.

photo © David Franzen 2007

photo © David Franzen 2007

(top) Two queen-sized beds furnish another colorful guest room. The bedroom's louvered windows have wood privacy slats, eliminating the need for additional window coverings.

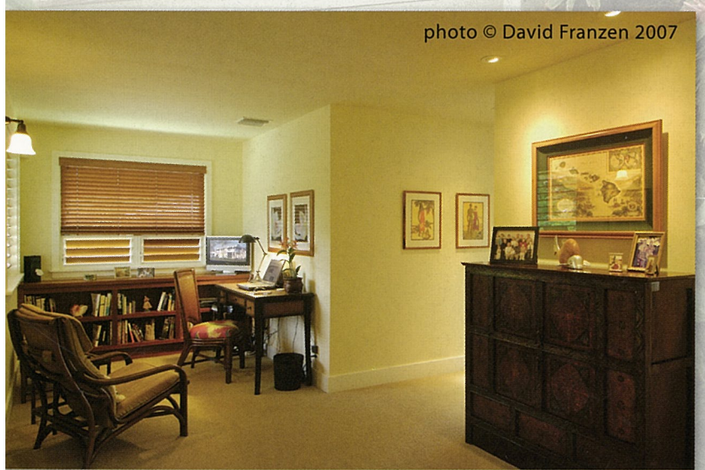


photo © David Franzen 2007

Even a vacation house has to have room for a study and computer! This second floor den off of the bedroom suites features a library, a Tibetan storage chest and a casual plantation chair.

Gary Wagner, Shirley's artist husband, provided another artistic touch with custom made etched glass doors and windows. "With the clients' other vacation property so close to this one, the etched glass adds a subtle and important facet of privacy without blocking the sunlight," she commented. Wood louvers were also used throughout the home for privacy and cross ventilation.

The upstairs is devoted to family quarters. The spacious master bedroom opens onto a wide veranda, perfect for afternoon reading on a *chaise longue* or admiring the panoramic ocean views of *Puako* beach. Luxury custom cotton and linen fabrics grace the master bed, accented with a woven *lauhala* headboard. Two more guest bedroom suites open off the study landing, allowing plenty of room for visiting family and guests.

photo © David Franzen 2007

This welcoming entrance to this beachfront home, with plenty of room on the porch for beach gear, features a view from the kitchen window.

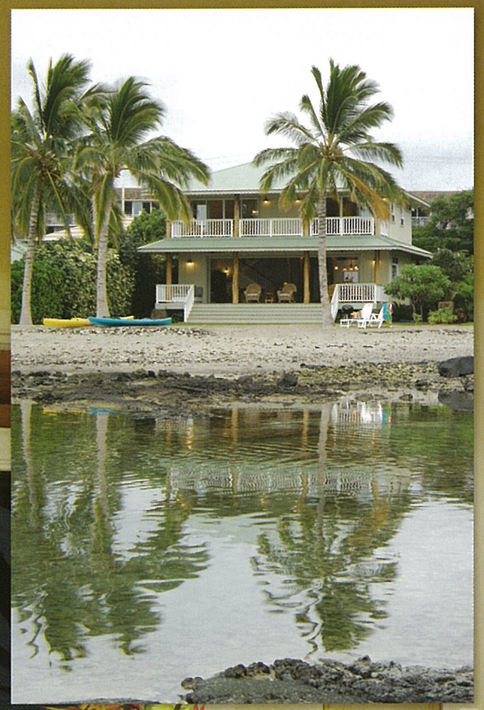
Shirley continued, "By the end of 2006, we'd designed a charming, 3500 sq. ft. beach cottage for this dear family, reminiscent of the coast's old *Kohala* way of life, while incorporating the comforts and details of a luxury, contemporary ocean-front home."

Her long list of returning clients attests to her success. These same clients did two previous projects with Shirley, including an up-country *Waimea* Ranch home in 1996 and a renovation of an earlier *Pauko* beach house, as well as the more contemporary neighbor home to this project in 2007. Earlier this year, Shirley's clients sold the adjoining property. After the quick sale of that property, several people approached the owners expressing a keen interest in buying their beach cottage. After much deliberation, they reluctantly agreed to sell it, and although it was not even officially on the market, it sold in a few days.

"These clients are always a delight to work with," exclaimed Shirley. "Their familiarity with and understanding of the design process gave me a huge head start on both the projects. After working with these same clients on several projects they have become special friends to me." So what's in store for Shirley and her good friends and clients in 2008? Yet another *Hawaii* Island beach retreat!

The carpeted guest suite introduces coffered *lauhala* ceilings to the architectural design, with wood trim and fans. Reproductions of sketches by artist John Melville Kelly (1878-1962) are framed in *koa*. The carved dresser was made for the designer by a local *Kailua-Kona* vendor, who replicates *Hawaii* furniture designs from the 30's to the 50's in various woods.

photo © David Franzen 2007



A room with a view - and what a view! Imagine enjoying your evening *pupu* and a *mai tai* on this outdoor deck, creatively enhanced by *ohia* posts. Photographer David Franzen captured the misty twilight view of the ocean and tide pools just beyond the *lanai*. An indoor dining table for six is anchored by a two-toned Indian *dhurrie* rug from the Indich Collection.