

It's All About The View

IN THIS REMODELED HILLTOP MAUI HOME,
THE INSIDE NOW DOES JUSTICE TO THE OUTSIDE



LEFT: The 14x18 foot living room is an elegant but very comfortable combination of traditional and contemporary Island styles. A woven bamboo thatch ceiling treatment features a middle box beam composed of a bamboo pole sliced in half. Cabinets are African mahogany; their front panels are also woven thatch bamboo.

Interior Design by/ Heather Latteier of Silver Creek Custom Homes Hawai'i

Text by/ Marcus Webb

Photography by/ Joe D'Alessandro & Colleen Pegg



ABOVE: The kitchen's dark mahogany cabinets and black-finished wooden chairs are offset by unstained light bamboo paneling, plus frosted glass panels with interior illumination and glass shelving.

WHEN HEATHER LATTEIER OF SILVER CREEK CUSTOM Homes Design Division got an assignment to remodel a 2,500 sq. ft. hilltop condominium in the Ho'olei community on the island of Maui, she knew exactly what to do.

"The whole reason to have a vacation home in Hawai'i is to enjoy one of the world's most beautiful settings," says Latteier. "Many properties, such as this home, are purchased for the view. So for a designer, the most important guideline is to take those beautiful surroundings into consideration.

"This is why so many designers of Hawaiian homes talk about 'bringing the outdoors into the indoors,'" Latteier continues. "You want to focus on the lānai, the windows, the sliding doors because that's your portal to the Island's natural beauty. At the same time, a designer knows it's also very important that the home's colors, furniture, fabrics, and décor provide a tasteful, vibrant, and authentically Hawaiian setting that lives up to that beautiful view."

Working from Silver Creek's branch office in Maui, Latteier tackled this project with enthusiasm—and with virtual carte blanche from the owner to do whatever she thought would be best for the property.

Latteier began by gutting the interior of the home, even though it was a brand-new residence that had never been lived in. She left only the walls and ceiling in place. Out went the orig-

inal cabinets, the original cold marble flooring, and dull beige carpets. Out went the tiles, flooring, tub and shower surround. Out went every fixture, fabric, and wall covering.

What was left? A three-bedroom, two-bath, split-level home; white wood-framed windows (the owner would have preferred mahogany framing, but the original materials had to stay); and, most of all, a wonderfully wide, unobstructed view across the roofs of the Grand Wailea Resort, to the ocean. Latteier started with that glorious panorama and designed everything around it.

"There was no big vision or grand plan from the get-go," explains homeowner Geoffrey Granum, president of Silver Creek Custom Homes. "I told Heather I wanted the tropical feeling of the Islands. Like all of the residences we build and design, both in Utah and in Hawai'i, I said it should showcase the finest quality with rich, tasteful furnishings and décor. The result should be extremely elegant, but also totally comfortable—basically, a contemporary Island rendition of our signature high-end style."

When Latteier's work was done, the home was a sumptuous blend of traditional Hawaiian colors, textures and motifs—giving the home a subtly classical yet decidedly contemporary sensibility. The 14 by 18-foot living room, which opens to that eye-popping view, features a woven bamboo thatch ceiling treatment with a middle box beam that is composed of a bamboo pole sliced in

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ABOVE: Twin beds feature bamboo on all four posts; the headboard interior is also bamboo paneling with traditional Hawaiian carving on top. The ceiling fan blades and roll-up window shade in this 9x12 bedroom are also bamboo.

half. Cabinets are African mahogany; their front panels are also woven thatch bamboo.

Sofas have curving arms with a pineapple motif and cane backs, adding up to a traditional Hawaiian design. The coffee table is walnut with woven bands on the side and four integrated top sections that meet in the center. The living room floor is walnut, accented with a colorful yet subtle hand-woven wool rug.

Explains Latteier: "We tried to make the base color palette very neutral—ivories and browns—then we added yellows, reds, and greens as accent colors. You see these vibrant splashes of color in flowers, in multicolored rugs, and in a wide variety of original Hawaiian art."

A plentiful selection of original artworks by local artists such as Darrell Hill is on display throughout the home.

The living room's bamboo motif is subtly repeated through-

out the home: in the master bedroom's four-poster bed; in the twin beds, ceiling fan blades, and roll-up window shade in the children's bedroom; in the cabinetry of two bathrooms; and most of all, in the kitchen. Not only is the kitchen ceiling covered in the same bamboo thatch as the living room, but inlaid bamboo graces the African mahogany cabinet door panels, while eight-inch bamboo poles serve as the legs of the island countertop.

"I love natural elements," says Latteier, "so any time I can use real wood, leaves, or stone for an interior rather than a man-made version I use as much as possible."

In addition to bamboo, the other woods that run through this elegant residence are African mahogany and walnut. The master bedroom, for example, benefits from the luster of mahogany in the trim of the woven bench at the foot of the bed;



ABOVE: Above, the master bedroom's accent wall features tongue & groove wood planking; poles of the four-poster canopy bed are bamboo.



ABOVE: To capitalize on the view over the rooftops of the Grand Wailea Resort to the ocean, designer Latteier ensured that the lānai was a functional living space. The outdoors is the key focus of this 2,500 sq. ft. three-bedroom condominium residence.



LEFT: The master bath's cabinetry shows a contemporary Asian influence with glass doors that suggest rice paper.

the master's walnut nightstand is carved with a traditional Island-style motif across the top drawers and reeded diamond pattern panels on the base.

Too much wood can be oppressive or stark, but the lush fabrics, furnishings, and accents throughout this design mean the home is never in danger of anything less than warmth and luxury. The sheer good taste of the designer is cheerfully on display in the kitchen, which features those dark mahogany and lighter bamboo cabinets, plus black-finished wood chairs, and a scraped walnut floor...yet all this is enlivened by frosted glass panels with interior lighting and glass shelving. Three pendant lighting fixtures contribute a distinctly Asian feeling.

"I really love the Asian influence in Hawai'i," notes Latteier. "I wanted to incorporate as much of that feeling as I knew Geoffrey would like. Where I really feel we pulled it off in a very contemporary, almost international-Asian mix is in the cabinetry

of the master bathroom. I knew that traditional rice paper door panels would not be functional, so we emulated that look with glass as best we could.

"We ended up using a beautiful honey onyx glass with yellow and white waves running through the surface, for an appearance that was as close as we could get to rice paper. The detail in the wooden latticework over these glass panels resembles flowing tree branches, creating an even more natural feeling. In a room as bare as most bathrooms, the cabinets are your only real chance to make a visual statement with furniture, and this approach to the cabinetry helped establish the relaxing, spa-like feeling that I wanted."

The ultimate validation of Silver Creek's remodeling efforts came not from the homeowner, but from visitors who purchased other condominiums in the same complex after seeing Latteier's work. With a modest smile, she admits: "They saw how