

WEST HAWAII TODAY | HAWAII TRIBUNE-HERALD | NOVEMBER 2017

at home

LIVING WITH STYLE ON HAWAII ISLAND

GRAND REDESIGN

Kona Home Gets Contemporary Makeover

FEATURE

Interior designer Sue Moss selected the impressive color palette that brings warmth and style to the previously all-white condo. The mahogany wall trim and doors had also been covered in white paint and are now restored. Rug is from Indich Collection.

THEN AND WOW

Condo Remodel Earns Award of Merit For Waimea-Based Interior Designer

For award-winning interior designer Sue Moss, the most important recognition is one that comes from a happy client.

Recipient of this year's prestigious ASID Hawai'i Award of Merit for her condominium re-design at Mauna Lani Point, Sue recently transformed the previously stark, two-bedroom condo into a warm and inviting residence for homeowners Dan and Pat Nelson.

The couple's '80s-era condo had been renovated by a previous owner who covered every ceiling and wall with white vinyl wallcovering, painted over solid African mahogany doors with white paint and redid the kitchen and master bath in black, teal and white.

"This was definitely not our client's style," said Sue Moss, ASID, LEEDAP, of Trans-Pacific Design in Waimea.

One of her many challenges was to come up with a color palette for the walls, trim and soffits that would bring much-needed warmth to the mostly sterile white interior. The scope of the work included redesigning and reconfiguring the kitchen, bath and master bedroom, installing new lighting, fixtures and plumbing, and working with the Nelsons to select all-new furnishings, finishes, countertops, appliances and accents.

No strangers to Mauna Lani Point, the Nelsons



The newly enlarged master bedroom includes space for an office niche. Interior designer Sue Moss selected colors and furnishings to complement the homeowner's favorite art pieces. Textured wallpaper adds a tropical warmth.

have stayed in many different units at the resort compound through the years.

"We've been renting units here for over 15 years whenever we'd visit Pat's parent's in Puako," said Dan. "We knew when we bought this unit that we would need a contractor and an interior designer. We are so happy to have found Sue, as well as our contractor, Dan Berg. Sue has been incredible to work with and did an amazing job every step of the way."

With Sue as the homeowner's "eyes and ears on the ground" throughout the process, the contractor gutted the master bathroom and kitchen, and also removed the awkwardly placed slider out from the master bedroom. In the kitchen, the newly expanded space allows for more storage and seating. Quartz countertops complement custom cabinetry by Steve Alterman, of Kailua-Kona, who also crafted the beautiful cherry wood vanity and cabinets in the master bathroom based on Sue's specs.

A color specialist, Sue came up with a combination of Benjamin-Moore paint colors that sets the stage for the fresh, new interiors while also complementing the couple's existing collection of art.

"The paint job is the absolute best and we are blown away by the colors," said Pat. "One thing that we couldn't paint was the enormous cove ceiling in the living room. It had been painted white but the paint could not be stripped. So Sue



The redesign of the kitchen allows for more space and seating. Custom cabinets were crafted by Steve Alterman of Kailua-Kona.



Rug from Indich Collection sets the stage in the dining room, which showcases fresh colors and new tile.



Floating cabinets by Steve Alterman complement the contemporary redesign of the master bathroom.

suggested installing tropical panels. It was a look we wanted and it turned out great.”

Married 58 years, Dan and Pat are enjoying every minute of their well-earned retirement years, splitting their time between Hawai‘i and Seattle. The former president of an art museum in Boise, Idaho, Pat is a skilled potter and arts enthusiast.

The living room takes its cue from the koi fish painting the couple bought in Kona. Throughout the condo, Sue chose colors and furnishings that would blend well with the selected art and tile. The closet and interior doors and trim have been restored to their natural African mahogany after having been covered, inexplicably, in white paint.

As noted by one of the ASID judges: “The designer made a great decision to revitalize the mahogany trim, enriching the aesthetic. The [remodel] is a huge transformation that makes a house a home.”

The Nelsons concur. They have happily settled into their renovated, new digs surrounded by soothing hues, custom accents, stylish furnishings and handsome woods.

“We’ve traveled the world and decided we would have one more big project and this was it,” said Dan. “It has been an absolute joy. Sue, God bless her, waltzed between Pat and me and our decision-making. She is a master at keeping a sense of humor. She is our friend and we are in love with our condo and enjoying our time here.” ■



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