

WEST HAWAII TODAY | HAWAII TRIBUNE-HERALD | MARCH 2019

at home

LIVING WITH STYLE ON HAWAII ISLAND



INDUSTRIAL ZEN

Local Talent on Display in Waimea Home

March Specials

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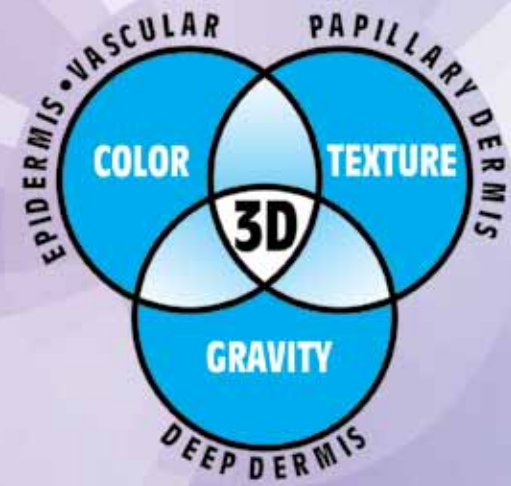
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LIVING WITH STYLE ON HAWAII ISLAND

MARCH 2019

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©2019 *At Home* is
distributed the first Sunday
of each month in *West
Hawaii Today* and *Hawaii
Tribune-Herald*

Published on
Sunday, March 3, 2019



On the Cover: Completed in October 2018, the industrial-style home showcases the talents of Waimea-based professionals including architect Clem Lam; interior designer Sue Moss; contractor Quality Builders; cabinetmaker Gary Aguirre; and structural engineer Afaq Sarwar. Construction materials came from HPM Building Supply in Waimea.

PHOTO: KAREN ANDERSON

COVER STORY

PHOTO: KAREN ANDERSON

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INDUSTRIAL ZEN

Newly completed home in Waimea showcases local talent

A talented team from Waimea has brought a homeowner's vision to life, creating a minimalist "Industrial Zen" residence that takes full advantage of the awe-inspiring rural views.

"I've never done a home like this before," said Waimea architect Clem Lam. "The homeowner played a big part in the design and had a clear vision of what she wanted. It's all about the

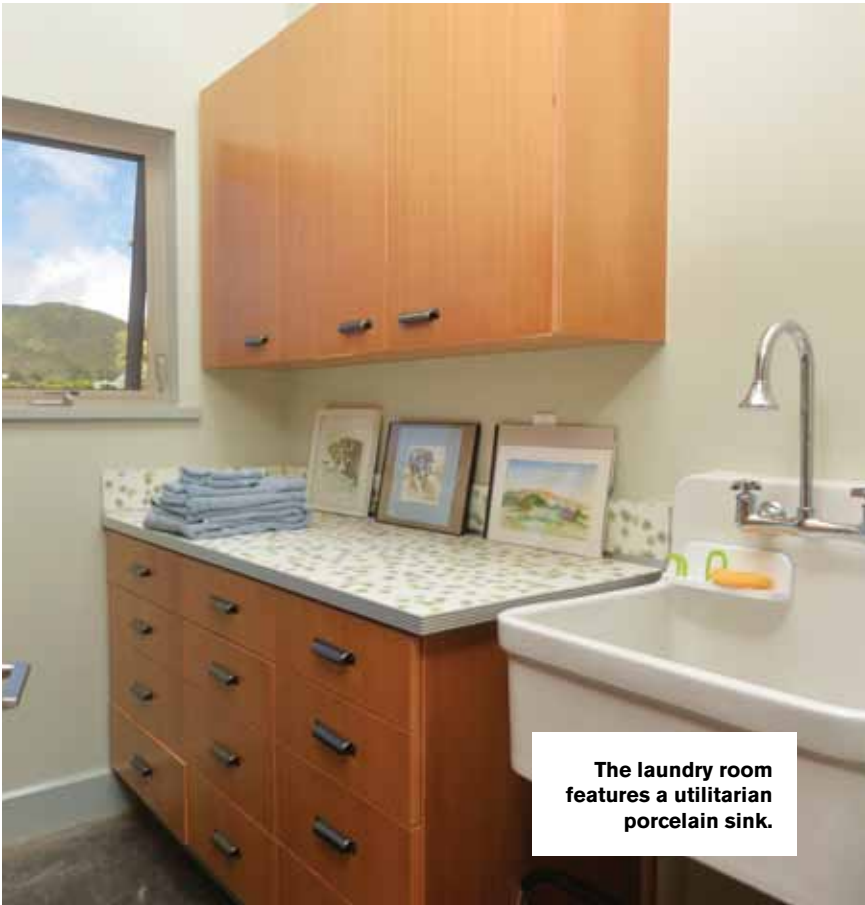
geometry. I really like the way it turned out."

Situated on one acre with two beautiful pu'u (hills) on one side and an unobstructed view of Mauna Kea on the other, the four-bedroom 2,500-square-foot home, completed in October 2018, reveals majestic panoramas from most every room in the house. In the great room, the ceiling reaches 15 feet in height. The towering sliding-glass doors, crowned with a series of transom windows,

perfectly frame the farmlands and foothills that stretch to the slopes of Mauna Kea. Skylights and large picture windows help usher natural light throughout.

"I like the way the daylight works in the house so that it's not all coming from one source," said Clem. "It's still very light inside even on foggy days. Just outside the bedroom, there's an entire wall made of translucent polycarbonate that brings diffused light into the space."

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAREN ANDERSON



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A series of transom windows expands the views of Mauna Kea.

Interior designer Sue Moss, of Trans-Pacific Design in Waimea, sourced and selected the lighting, fixtures, veneers, backsplash and paint colors. The kitchen combines stainless steel and wood accents that carry out the Asian-fusion industrial theme. Grouped in a bundle, industrial Edison light bulbs hang from long cords above the square island, which is topped with a thin sheet of brushed stainless steel.

“The backsplash behind the Bluestar range is a think brick tile produced by Fireclay Tile,” said Sue. “The paint colors in the home are all based on that color. We chose industrial-style pipes that hold up the shelves. Gary Aguirre, of Gary’s Custom Cabinets & Fine Furniture in Waimea, did all the cabinetry and doors. He did such a beautiful job with the clear vertical grain. It all matches perfectly.”

Sue sourced the lighting from Aloha Lighting in Kailua-Kona. Stretching across the great room, the Tech-brand wire cable track lights are low-wattage

and can be turned any direction to cast even lighting across the space. An accent wall made of corrugated metal adds to the industrial aesthetic, as do the polished concrete floors that replicate the color of the concrete floors at Costco.

Construction materials including lumber, roofing and siding came from HPM Building Supply in Waimea. The contractors for the project, Quality Builders of Waimea, began the build process by constructing 2’ x 6’ seed wall. Structural engineer Afaq Sarwar is also from Waimea.

“The exterior siding is panelized fiber cement board,” said Clem. “The fibers are compressed into the cement. It’s non-flammable and won’t rot. Fitting the panels into the framing was like putting together a puzzle.”

The home’s exterior is oriented to accommodate the views as well as protect from the elements on Waimea’s wet and windy “green side.” The low, single pitch of the shed roof sends rainwater to one

side and protects from wind on the other side.

Now that the home is complete, the homeowner and her parents will enjoy the low-maintenance, no-fuss, easily accessible living space. There’s even a ceramics studio attached to the garage that opens to the outside via an industrial roll-up door.

In addition to the home’s three bathrooms, the “dog wash” shower in the garage was designed specifically for the homeowner’s Border Collie, “Momo.” The cool concrete floors, abundance of natural light and one acre of fenced yard is a dog’s dream-come-true.

“The dog loves the house,” said Clem. “She felt right at home the minute she moved in and took over.” ■



The homeowner’s Border Collie has its own dog-wash shower.

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FEATURE

Marga Zack's handmade gig bags are the perfect fit for Michael Zack's cigar-box ukuleles.

GIG-BAG LADY

Kona artist makes guitar and ukulele bags out of recycled materials

“They are a lot of fun,” said Marga O’Brien Zack about the fashionable gig bags she crafts for transporting and storing ukuleles. “Part of the fun is that the bag designs itself. No two are alike. They are each a puzzle, all done by hand with up-cycled materials.”

A clinical hypnotherapist, Marga got into bag making thanks to her late husband Michael Zack, renowned maker of electric cigar-box guitars

and ukuleles. His one-of-kind instruments and amplifiers are collected around the world and have even made an appearance on the TV show, Pawn Stars.

To create her bags, Marga uses everything from placemats, ties and belts to gloves, curtains, baskets, pillowcases and vintage Hawaiian shirts. She seeks undiscovered treasures at the Goodwill, garage sales and second-hand stores. She also crafts hand-beaded leather guitar straps that are as

intricate and ornate as they are flashy and fun.

A longtime Kona resident since 1976, Marga has led a fascinating and colorful life. A hippie chick in the ’60s, she was pals with Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and other rock legends via an ex-husband/musician who played in bands in San Francisco. “Jimi was a sweet person, very humble,” she said. “Janis was a lot of fun.”

Marga traveled the world and lived in exotic locales.



Marga Zack dons a tribal-style gig bag.



Gig bags made of recycled materials.

After becoming a clinical hypnotist, she worked with the Olympic ski team, athletes, students and schoolchildren, helping clients overcome fears and anxiety.

On the one-year anniversary of Michael’s passing last month, Marga hosted a music and fashion event in his honor at Kona Oceanfront Gallery, where Michael’s cigar-box guitars and ukes are on display alongside Marga’s gig bags.

“I began the art of bag making to make cases for Michael’s instruments,” she said. “I feel like I’m continuing the tradition exemplified in his work, that is, a sensitivity to the ‘aina by using recycle, redeemed and repurposed materials to create unexpected works of art.” ■



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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Dry Humor About Water Bills



Last month, my water bill doubled for no apparent reason. I thought maybe I mist a payment, but it turns out I got soaked by unrecognizable charges.

Upon investigation, I saw that the meter was still spinning when I shut off the water. I ended up turning my entire house upside down trying to find the darn leak. It was a draining experience to say the least.

I called a plumber but he was too busy and put me on a wading list. When he finally showed up, he was unable to diagnose the problem even though he was at my disposal. What a total drip this guy was. Hey buddy, it's not drain surgery for cryin' out loud. Find the leak!

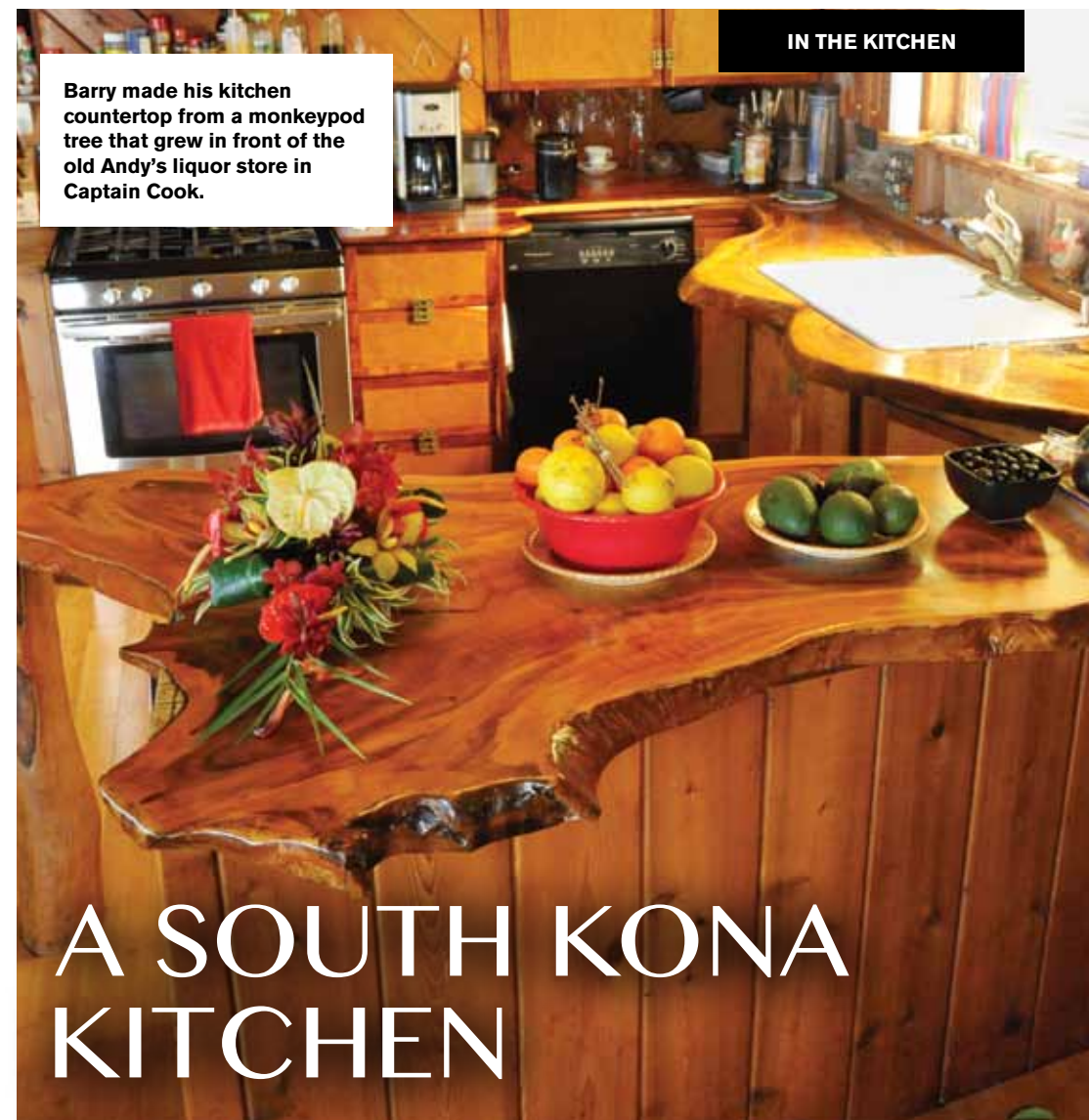
Truth is, my gimcracky sprinkler system has always been a constant source of irrigation to me. Over the years,

it's sprung more leaks than an FBI director. Sometimes the system works just fine but moist of the time, it doesn't.

The gardener finally found the leak and fixed it for free. He's a nice guy and easy to get a lawn with. "Just turn off the sprinklers," he told me, dryly. It was a watershed moment.

So now I use a garden hose to water the lawn. It was a turf decision but somebody had to do it. Is there mow to this story than meets the eye? Tune in next month for the watered-down version. ■

Karen Anderson is the managing editor of "At Home" magazine and the author of "The Hawaii Home Book, Practical Tips For Tropical Living." She can be reached at kananderson@westhawaiiitoday.com



Barry made his kitchen countertop from a monkeypod tree that grew in front of the old Andy's liquor store in Captain Cook.

IN THE KITCHEN

A SOUTH KONA KITCHEN



Barry Williamson in his woodshop overlooking Honaunau Valley.

Perched above Honaunau Valley on Rabbit Hill Road, the house that Barry Williamson built for himself brims with his own custom cabinetry, koa furniture, a spiral staircase and a creative kitchen all decked out in monkeypod, koa and maple.

Barry started building the three-story house in 1978. He became interested in woodworking after working in construction and finish carpentry. Fine furniture and cabinet making followed.

"I waited until I knew how to do cabinets to actually complete my own kitchen," he said. "I had laid down those countertops pretty crudely at first and had to design around what was already in place. I'm really happy with how it turned out."

The countertops are made of monkeypod while the cabinet doors feature birdseye maple trimmed in koa. One of the small counters is actually a chopping block. Barry also built drawers for spices, lids and large pans.

"I had a six-inch space by the dishwasher that was perfect for flat pans and cookie trays," he added.

When Barry's not in the kitchen brewing his own "Damn Fine Beans" harvested from his coffee farm, he's outside in his open-air woodworking studio taking in the views and creating "functional sculptures" and wall art.

"I was getting jaded and wanted to explore another medium in my woodworking," he said. "I started

doing these wall sculptures and it reinvigorated me. They are light in weight, come together quickly and are a lot fun."

Old-timers will remember Barry's former furniture gallery next to the Manago Hotel in Captain Cook. Today, his pieces can be found at Cliff Johns Gallery in Kailiua, and at Kona Oceanfront Gallery in Kailua-Kona.

"I love the challenge of creating things out of wood," he said. "There's always something new to learn." ■

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAREN ANDERSON

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