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at home

LIVING WITH STYLE ON HAWAII ISLAND

HOLUALOA RETREAT

Family Home Unveils Polynesian Flair



ISLAND STYLE

Holualoa home designed for family living

Whether working on residential projects, beach cottages, resort homes or condos, interior designer Diane Bobek is known for creating beautiful, functional spaces with flair and creativity.

A veteran of the Big Island design scene, Diane has been doing high-end design work here for more than 20 years. In the early days, she had her own

sole proprietorship, “Interior Styling by Diane B,” before joining Fine Design Interiors in Waimea, where she was lead designer under Shirley Wagner for almost two decades. In July 2018, she launched Diane Bobek Design, a full-service design firm headquartered in Waikoloa that specializes in everything from large-scale remodels and projects from the ground up, to simple, quick makeovers.

At her recently completed project in Holualoa, Diane’s use of bold colors, tribal fabrics, and

new and repurposed furniture has given a fresh, new look to a family home. The client asked her to update the interiors while also configuring warm and practical spaces for their children and grandchildren to spread out.

“I visualized incorporating multiple areas for the family so that everyone can hang out in their own comfortable niche,” she said. “The idea was so that all the family members can be in the house at the same time but not feel like they are on top of one





The concrete-composite coffee table features a propane-fueled fire pit with glass windbreaker and glass pebbles. The tabletop is big enough to dine on.

another. I took into account that young kids would be coming in and out of the house from the pool. Durable fabrics and robust furniture were essential.”

In repurposing some of the existing lanai furniture, Diane chose solution-dyed acrylic Sunbrella fabric suited for the outdoors. Likewise, the indoor upholstery is sturdy enough to withstand the wear-and tear of kids’ feet on the furniture. The fabrics imbue a sense of Hawai’i and Polynesia.

In keeping with the tribal accents, the David Trubridge orange pendant lights are actually sculpted of natural balsa wood painted orange on the inside. When turned on, the lights cast

an orange glow above the cocktail bar and complement the wicker textures of the chairs.

“The lights pick up the orange fabrics in the living room and the orange cushions on the barstools,” said Diane. “I love the unexpected, whether it be a cool piece of fabric or a fabulous piece of furniture or accessory that pops.”

Speaking of unexpected, the lanai near the pool features an extraordinary concrete-composite coffee table with a glass-enclosed fire pit in the center. Hidden inside the table is a small propane tank and switch. The cozy enclave offers the perfect gathering spot for the family to watch the sunset, eat a meal or linger into the evening.



Diane spruced up some of the existing furniture with Sunbrella fabrics.



Custom mango shelves were built by Kona woodworker Steve Alterman.

“The fire-pit table is big enough to use for dining or to set your drinks on,” said Diane. “The kids can sit there and roast marshmallows or be part of the conversation. The glass windbreaker is a nice safety feature.”

Meanwhile in the living room, stylish swivel chairs provide the option to face any direction desired, whether toward the sunset, the sitting area or the TV that hangs on the back wall. Complementing the mango coffee table, floating mango shelves installed by Kona woodworker Steve Alterman hold books and Hawaiiana artifacts. The entire redesign incorporates earthy textures and natural woods.

“Each room flows into one another really well now,” said Diane. “The client had a budget in mind, and I think we accomplished the vision.”

Completed in August 2019, the project took about six months. Diane says her new design company isn’t just about the physical aspects of design such as form, function and aesthetics, but more importantly, the impact that design has on her clients’ lives.

“I always want to make sure that my clients feel uplifted and love the space that I help to create for them. That’s what’s powerful about our profession. Even though our medium is very tactile, the impact transcends what is physical. This is what I hope to bring to all my projects.” ■



Conceived by interior designer Diane Bobek, the redesign highlights earthy textures, natural woods and Polynesian aesthetics.