

# *at home*

living with style in west hawaii

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## *Hidden Treasure*

Keauhou Couple's Coastal Classic



Built around a central courtyard, the U-shaped house surrounds a small dipping pool with sandy beach made of imported sand. The upright longboard doubles as an outdoor shower.

**By Kristina Anderson**

**Photography by Giselle Thompson**

## Just Beachy



When they met as teenagers, Nancy and Greg Putman, now married 32 years, both worked at the same home improvement store in Irvine, California — Nancy in the nursery section and Greg in the hardware and lumber department. Little did they realize that years later, they would combine those exact skills on a professional level, leading to a successful contracting and landscape-design company in which the two created extraordinary homes for clients in Southern California.

After working in the business for over 25 years, they finally made their dream of moving to Hawaii come true in 2004. They knew that the unique Kona home they built for themselves would be a special blend of the things they created for clients in the past. This would include the myriad ideas for interiors that Nancy, inherently talented as a decorator, had researched and collected from magazines and books over the years. ►

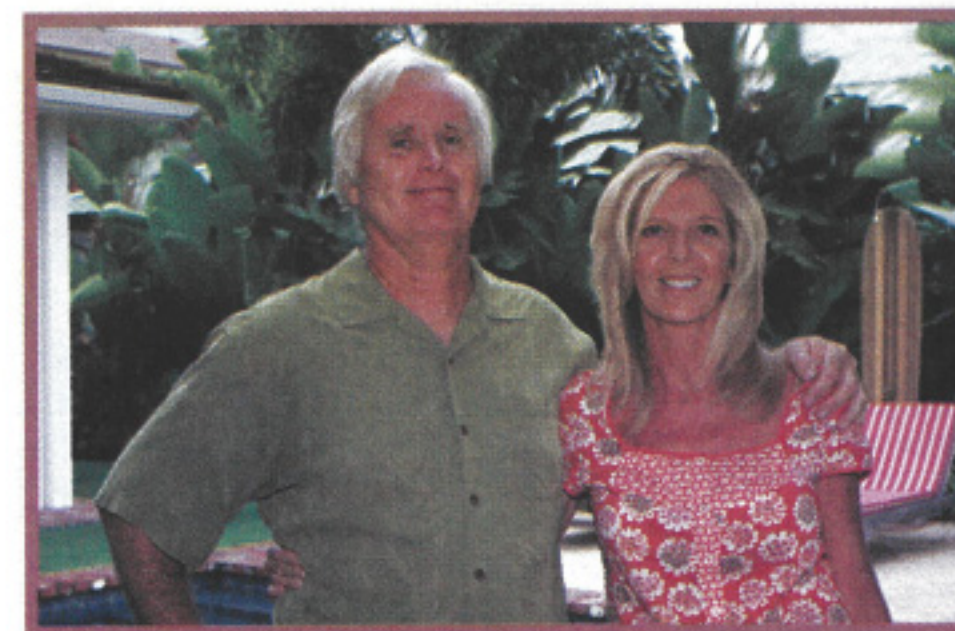
## Talented homeowners create their own Kona dream house

Photo by Karen Anderson



The Putman's kitchen opens up to a red brick patio, the couple's preferred dining area.

Greg and Nancy Putman designed and built their Keauhou house from the ground up, taking inspiration from their 25 years of experience working with clients in Southern California.



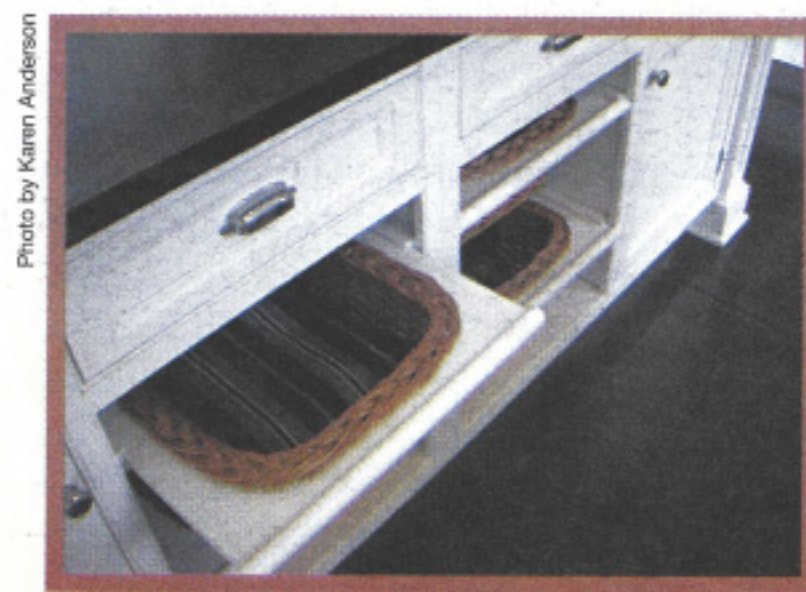


Soapstone countertops (from Davis Tile & Stone) impart a retro look in the kitchen, which features a farmhouse sink and fixtures from Island Bath in Kailua-Kona, and a pantry door/blackboard from HPM. "Soapstone is fabulous because it holds up to heat and doesn't absorb or stain," Nancy said. "I use mineral oil to bring out the color."



The Putman's work studio.

*"We enjoy our home. It reflects everything we love."*  
—Nancy Putman



Beneath the kitchen island, pullout drawers with baskets are used for storing items like garlic, onions, placemats and towels.



Distressed kitchen hutch belonging to Nancy.

"We wanted to get away from client work and build a place of our own for a change," recalls Nancy, who says the property they purchased in BayView Estates in Keauhou finally gave them enough space to do it. They drew up their plans and built the house themselves, doing everything except the plumbing, electrical, drywall and roofing.

Taking inspiration from multiple influences, the home reflects a touch of Southern California coastal, a bit of New England, and an overlay of Hawaiian plantation, and splashes of French country farmhouse thrown in for good measure.

Built around a center courtyard, the decidedly open residence welcomes visitors into a small, square entry parlor, replacing the traditional presence of a great room. Catching light breezes, the room also features high ceilings and hopper windows that allow heat to escape. The circular seating area creates a cozy conversation center.

In building the home, the Putmans ►



Outfitted with cabinets from Mauna Kea Kitchen & Bath in Kona, the kitchen displays double-hung windows, crown moulding, and shiplap ceiling for a beadboard effect. To match the cabinets, Greg built a stove hood that looks like a mantle.



used many tricks of the trade they picked up over the years. The white exterior trim is made of AZEK®, a PVC-type material that can be cut and molded like wood. Designed to maximize cooling, the roof contains a reflective sheathing applied to the plywood. Topping things off, the wood-shake roof is unique to the neighborhood.

The Putmans — who created brick courtyards for California homes such as those typical of beach towns like Corona del Mar or Laguna Beach — wanted a similar exterior for their Kona home. They incorporated a well-manicured lawn into the elevated, two-tiered fire pit with brick trim. The courtyard pool with red brick coping includes a sandy “beach,” fountains and festive lighting.

In designing their concrete flooring, Nancy did the color and staining, achieving the deep walnut color by mixing layer after layer of stain. “We were always trying to do something fun and inexpensive with concrete for our customers,” says Greg. “It helps to jazz up a floor.”

Flooring elsewhere in the house is a mix of cushy seagrass carpet trimmed in bamboo thresholds for a beach cottage effect. French doors are found throughout.

The star of the home, the kitchen showcases ►



Twin pedestal sinks in the guest bathroom are set against a backdrop of shiplap with wainscot cap. Light fixtures from Restoration Hardware.

*“We’re good at taking ideas and running with them.”*

*— Greg Putman*



Nancy made the pillows and much of the bedding herself.



a fabulous farmhouse sink, soapstone counters, old-fashioned, double-hung windows, shiplap ceiling, retro fixtures, and hopper windows that keep the air flowing. Greg built the stove hood to look like a mantle. The pantry door with a blackboard for writing came from HPM. And finally, as Nancy says, “Every cute, country kitchen should have a Dutch door.” Or two!

Decorator items and linens throughout the home reflect the Pottery Barn, Crate and Barrel or Restoration Hardware aesthetic, with pillows and bedding sewn by Nancy. The house includes an extra-large office/sewing/laundry/drafting room for the couple’s many projects.

Designing the landscaping to highlight tropical yellows, oranges and reds, Nancy says the patio is their main dining area. Her thriving vegetable and herb garden includes tomatoes, rosemary, parsley and oregano.

All in all, the home took about two years to complete. The Putmans say it was great fun knowing that at completion time, the house was completely their own creation.

Says Greg: “We really enjoyed the process of starting from scratch and putting this all together the way we wanted. We just loved doing this house.” **AH**



Double-hung windows and French doors offer ocean views from the master bedroom. Seagrass carpet from Bamboo Too is trimmed with bamboo thresholds. A hopper window above the door keeps the air flowing.