

at home

living with style in west hawaii

West Hawaii Today
JANUARY 2010



Inspired Design

**Keauhou Family Builds
Dream Home by the Sea**



Operated by remote control, propane fire bowls flank each end of the infinity-edge lap pool, which was designed by the Silveiras and constructed by Bolton Pools. A hidden pump house is located downstairs beneath the pool.

Family Affair

*Two generations
collaborate to
build Keauhou
dream home*

By Kristina Anderson

Photography by Giselle Thompson

Fifty some years ago in the Portuguese archipelago of the Azores, a young boy started his first job — milking cows on the family's dairy farm. Today, Gabe Silveira works just as hard at his own contracting business — although the fruits of his labor have proven much sweeter.

Together with his wife Maria and son Scott, Gabe has crafted a 4,200-square-foot Keauhou resort home resplendent with beautiful tile work, custom cabinetry, infinity-edge lap pool, luxurious bedding and most prominently, lots of lively, Portuguese-American hospitality.

Enormous eight-foot-high doors add to the expansive, airy feeling of the home and its pod-style design. Every detail is of the highest craftsmanship, down to the remote-controlled tiki torches and fire pits in the backyard that enhance and encourage parties, something that the Silveiras are known far and wide for.

With Maria also hailing from Portugal, ►



The Silveira family enjoys morning coffee on the lanai near Maria's favorite appliance, a Miele coffeemaker. From left to right: Gabe and Maria, with son Scott.



The Silveira's Bayview Estates home unveils more than 5,000 square feet of travertine inside and out, including at their dramatic entry. All travertine was purchased from Marblehaus Hawaii.



An enormous 11-foot granite countertop from Tile Warehouse graces custom African mahogany cabinetry by Tri-County Cabinets in California. Viking stovetop provides a convenient cooking area in the center of the island.



Original painting by Warren Rapozo.

"The Silveira residence is sophisticated and elegant, yet infuses you with comfort like a big, warm hug."
— Christina Birtcher, ASID-IP, IR



Mahogany-framed sliding doors, with motorized screens, open up to the living room highlighted by a built-in entertainment center crafted of rich, African mahogany. Sofa from Koehn's Interiors; table from C.S. Wo & Sons, Ltd.



A chandelier from Sunlights Hawaii in Kailua-Kona hangs above a distinguished dining set by Tommy Bahama by Lexington. Artwork by local artist Shelly Maudsley White imparts a tropical mood.

the Silveira family has been in the drywall and contracting business for more than 22 years. Born into a family of 12 siblings, Gabe milked cows, sold potatoes and worked with concrete before eventually starting his own drywall business. When he moved to the United States, he founded S&S Drywall in San Jose, California, and Kailua Coast Construction Company on the Big Island.

A family affair, their impressive Keauhou compound incorporates three separate structures plus office, showcasing an astonishing 5,000 square feet of travertine throughout, including at the exterior entryway. The south wing and master bedroom display Maria's personal love of finding and arranging linens, bedding and accent pillows.

Enlisting the help of local interior designer Christina Birtcher of Interior re*DESIGN, Maria built the master bedroom around colors inspired by an original painting of a hula dancer by Warren Rapozo of Kona. The teals and oranges in the painting carried over perfectly in the room, balancing out a palette of Hawaiian colors with just a touch of the Mediterranean. At the mauka end of the house, a guest suite ideal for extended family features a private entrance and an en-suite bath with full tub and Italian-style accents. ►



Interior designer Christina Birtcher sourced the magnificent Timberlake bed, which makes a strong statement in the master bedroom. Custom pillows by Patti Richard complement the colors in a Warren Rapozo painting.



Maria purchased this glass sail boat in Venice, Italy, creating a base made from the root of a coffee tree.

Christina and Maria became friends while collaborating on the rooms. "It's such a joy to work with a client who has good taste," says Christina with admiration. "I love this house, I love the floor plan. And I love the Silveiras, they are so warm and personable."

Indeed, onshore ocean breezes flow soothingly through the home, an inviting place that can easily be shared with family and friends.

"I wanted it to be a house that is comfortable and easy to live in," she says. "We love entertaining friends and family. And nothing makes me happier than when my family is sitting together on the lanai in the morning drinking coffee."

Their son Scott, who is in the process of earning his own contractor's license, grew up learning the business. Brother Brian also works in the family business in San Jose as a safety coordinator.

Taught by his dad never to cut corners and to achieve the highest quality building standards possible, Scott admits he has only recently gained an appreciation for his dad's perfectionism.

"My dad drove me to be the best I could be as a craftsman," says Scott. "I admire and respect what Mom and Dad have achieved. They started with nothing and built something. I want to emulate them. I want to make them proud of me."

Throughout the home, subtle hidden details add to the extremely high levels of quality and aesthetics. A strong sense of building ingenuity runs in the Silveira family.

For example, Scott built the support columns on the lanai from scratch, designing a way to contain water-drainage ►



The front patio is framed by lava-rock waterfalls built by local mason Ryan Kaipaka. Table and chairs from Champagne Spa & Lanai in Kailua-Kona.



The luscious travertine guest bath features whirlpool tub with European-style accents and shampoo niche, installed by SP Tile of California.

chains inside lengths of PVC pipe, which are concealed inside the columns. In another example of ingenuity, Gabe installed a hidden strip-drain beneath the poolside travertine decking, successfully eliminating the need for unsightly plastic drains.

Before building the house, Gabe raised the lot three-and-a-half feet to maximize the view line. A Japanese designer planned and planted the enchanting landscaping by following Maria's wish for white blossoms and fragrance to be carried over in the breeze.

Shipping over some of the building materials themselves, the family also relied on local vendors such as Sunlights Hawaii and Tile Warehouse, who installed the extensive granite countertops throughout. All rooms have soffits and trim of African mahogany. Many details, such as sun shades on some of the windows and the masonry on the column bases, are common features on Portuguese homes.

"The practical and well-crafted details incorporated throughout this home truly exemplify the kind of quality that is only found through hard work, experience and a practiced and intuitive eye," summarizes Christina of the home.

"And it's a great place for parties," adds Maria. **AH**

How do you Picture Your Office?

We Deliver

Your local Source for Office Suites

KONA COAST OFFICE SUPPLY & FURNITURE

329-9411 Open M-F 8-5:30 & Sat 9-2 • 74-5583 Pawai Pl. Kona's Old Industrial

Providing Sustainable Green Building Materials for over 10 years

BAMBOO TOO

(808) 322-5642 74-5598 Luhia St

- * Furniture
- * Pottery
- * Water features
- * Shoji screens
- * Natural rugs
- * Bamboo fencing and Modular fence panels
- * Wall and Ceiling treatments