

WEST HAWAII TODAY | HAWAII TRIBUNE-HERALD | **APRIL 2018**

at home

LIVING WITH STYLE ON HAWAII ISLAND

KONATIKI MODERN

Creative Remodel in Keauhou Features Local Talent



COVER STORY

Crafted by Roy Lambrecht Woodworking, custom koa cabinetry includes drawers made of black wenge wood that mimic a lava flow. The tikis were custom made by master tiki carver, Don Craig, via Roy Lambrecht. Chairs are from Plantation Living & Interiors in Kailua-Kona.

KONA TIKI MODERN

Transformative remodel in Keauhou features work of local artists and craftspersons

Creative living comes naturally to Kevin Swanson and Sean Monico, whose gorgeous home in Keauhou imparts an enticing and imaginative aesthetic they call Kona Tiki Modern.

After purchasing the three-bedroom home in 2013, the Alaska transplants embarked on transforming the previously mundane premises into a more practical, yet stylish, living space. A retired engineer,

Kevin plotted out new dimensions for the kitchen, lanai, bedrooms and bathrooms, while Sean, a retired economist with abundant artistic talent, built 3-D scale architectural models to depict their proposed remodel.

“The home was built in 2001, but it had some major issues like a small kitchen and a tiny lanai,” said Kevin. “The house was so basic but fortunately it had good bones. The first phase was the reconfiguration of the kitchen and front entry, and

enlarging the lanai. We did the renovations in three phases over the course of three years and are about to undertake a fourth phase with the pool.”

Front and center in the kitchen, magnificent, custom koa cabinetry reveals the craftsmanship of Roy Lambrecht Woodworking, of Kailua-Kona. A certified kitchen designer with the company, Karri Hogan collaborated closely with the homeowners to help them achieve their vision. The super-sized upper cabinets are 17 inches

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAREN ANDERSON

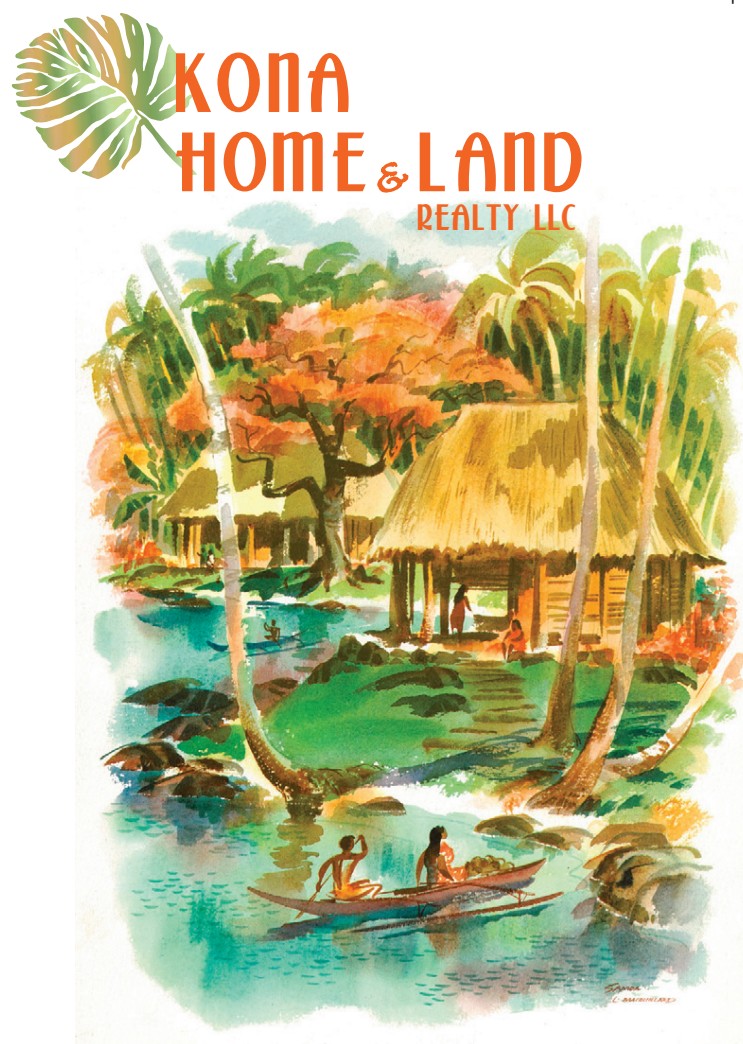




Homeowner Sean Monico designed the pendant lighting array comprised of stars and planets. The lights are on dimmer switches that allow for creative mood lighting day or night.



The master bathroom showcases luxurious koa cabinetry by Roy Lambrecht Woodworking. The blue tile backsplash is illuminated by a hidden strip of LED lighting that changes colors.



Meet John R. Clay

Realtor Salesman (RS#19148)



John knows the Big Island inside-out, having spent 13 years with AmeriGas Propane Company, the past 6 years as its Hawaii Island District Manager.

John was born and raised in Crestview, FL, and is a diehard Florida State Seminoles fan. He now lives in Waimea (Kamuela) with his wife, Karyn, who is owner/operator of Ho'oNani Adult Care Services, and their daughter, Charly, a 3rd grader at HPA.

John looks forward to sharing his love of Hawaii and the benefits of island home ownership with friends, colleagues and folks who need a helping hand. He delivers attentive, quality service, whether you're planning to move in, move up or move out.

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The extraordinary mango range hood was custom carved by Don Craig. Custom koa cabinetry is by Roy Lambrecht Woodworking, of Kailua-Kona.

deep, allowing for plenty of storage. Topped in a blue opalescent, labradorite granite, the large koa island includes a special footrest that spans the width of the counter, an idea that Kevin came up with.

“If you are a detail-minded individual, Karri will collaborate well with you and also guide you,” said Kevin. “We had good plans in place, and the folks at Roy Lambrecht really listened to us, were very thoughtful, creative and responsive, and also shared ideas enthusiastically.”

The star attraction in the kitchen is the extraordinary pendant lighting array that mimics stars and planets. Conceived by Sean, the galaxy-style lighting has dimmer switches, allowing for creative adjustments day or night.

“The lights definitely became a watershed moment in developing our plans,” said Sean. “Even though they turned out to be quite a splurge, it was worth it. We decided, let’s just enjoy this process and have fun. If we are going to make this house really unique, we want to do it right.”



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Another concept designed by Sean, the delightful range hood is crafted in mango by master tiki carver Don Craig, via Roy Lambrecht Woodworking. His carved images feature a monolithic volcano with Maui in the distance. Don also carved the enormous custom tikis in the great room that stand sentry atop custom koa and wenge shelving built by Lambrecht. The wavy patterns in the wenge allude to lava flows descending from basalt tiles above.

Continuing the tiki theme, Sean sketched out a design for the front entry doors etched in glass by Cynthia Davis, of Cynthia's Little Grass Shack in Kailua-Kona. The finished etchings include images of the homeowner's resident cats.

From furnishings and artwork to vendors and contractors, local talent is at the forefront of Kevin and Sean's amazing abode. Greg Putman Construction handled all the architectural renovations

including the expansion of the lanai to make room for a dining area, as well as the bathrooms and laundry renovations. Roy Lambrecht Woodworking was involved in all three phases of the remodel, creating beautiful koa bathroom vanities, along with custom components made of sapele wood in the walk-in closet and laundry room.

Other Kona vendors include Aloha Light & Design, Hakoda's Builders Appliances, Tile Warehouse, All-Natural Stone, and Plantation Living & Interiors, Kona Art Gallery, and Dovetail Gallery. Much of the artwork came from local galleries.

"Local talent informed our decisions," said Kevin. "This isn't just a remodel, it's the dynamics of what Kona's craftspeople have to offer. The joy was finding such a rich repository of skilled tradesmen and artisans right here in Kona. They all made for a great team." ■



The master bedroom is replete with local artwork, including a dramatic painting by Kona artist Edwin Kayton.



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