

# *at home*

living with style in west hawaii

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## *Perfect Harmony*

Designing Women Collaborate  
on Hualalai Resort Home



# Welcome *ekomo mai*

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### At Home

Living with Style in West Hawaii

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Cover Photo by Giselle Thompson:

Donna and Brad Chipps' Hualalai Resort  
home features a handcrafted walnut table  
and buffet by Gerald Ben of Holualoa.

Rug from Indich Collection.



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# Designing Women

Homeowner and Designer in Sync with Style



An infinity-edge pool enhances the island-living feel of Donna and Brad Chipps' Hualalai Resort home. Designed by California architect Kevin O'Brien and built by local general contractor Russ Trull, the residence features five bedrooms, some with outside entrances.



Homeowner Donna Chipps (left) with Waimea-based interior designer Gina Willman, ASID.

**By Kristina Anderson**

**Photography by Giselle Thompson**

If creative home interior collaborations were meant to be, they don't happen any more effortlessly than the one between Hualalai Resort homeowner Donna Chipps and interior designer Gina Willman, ASID. Not only was Gina the first designer Donna had ever worked with, the collaboration turned out to be a match made in heaven.

Even though Donna, a retired pediatric nurse practitioner, had no formal interior design training, she began selecting much of the furnishings, upholstery and fixtures herself. Soon thereafter, she met Gina through local tennis connections and ►



Replete with glass backsplash from Bella Pietra, the kitchen unveils Magma granite counter from Tile Warehouse and mahogany cabinets with a horizontal grain. Customized swivel-seat barstools were commissioned through A. Rudin in Los Angeles.

realized she had stumbled upon the perfect design partner. Together, the two completed the entire five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath home with extraordinary results.

When Gina came on board, she helped Donna choose custom rugs, art, window coverings and bed linens, as well as design some of the custom furnishings.

“We think alike and work together so well,” says Donna. “We were so fortunate to find each other. I just enjoy decorating. It’s fun when everything comes together.”

In turn, Gina, originally from New Zealand, and owner of Waimea-based Willman Interiors, credits a great client for the successful result. “Donna is wonderful to work with. It has been an absolute ►

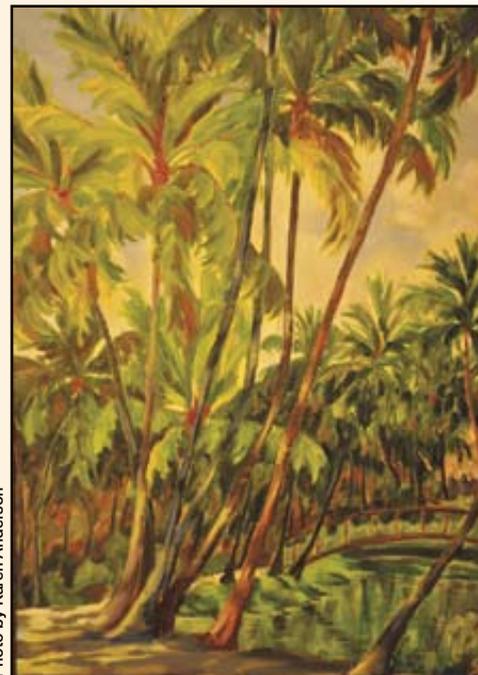


Photo by Karen Anderson

Original oil, of Kona Village Resort, by local artist Sita Soesmann.



On the lanai, a swinging sofa hangs from the rafters by tugboat ropes.

*"I love the whole process of building a house – the creativity and vision of the builder and the designer. When everything comes together, I find that amazing."  
– Donna Chipps, homeowner*



In the master bath, glass-etched doors by Scott Potter open up to a Japanese soaking tub.

pleasure to have the opportunity to help enhance her own great taste."

Donna and her husband Brad, a physician ("We met in ICU, isn't that romantic?" Donna laughs), completed construction on their home last July. Dividing their time between Sacramento and Hawai'i, the couple, married 16 years, enjoy the Big Island community. When they decided to build a home in Hawai'i, they considered other islands but the Big Island felt like home.

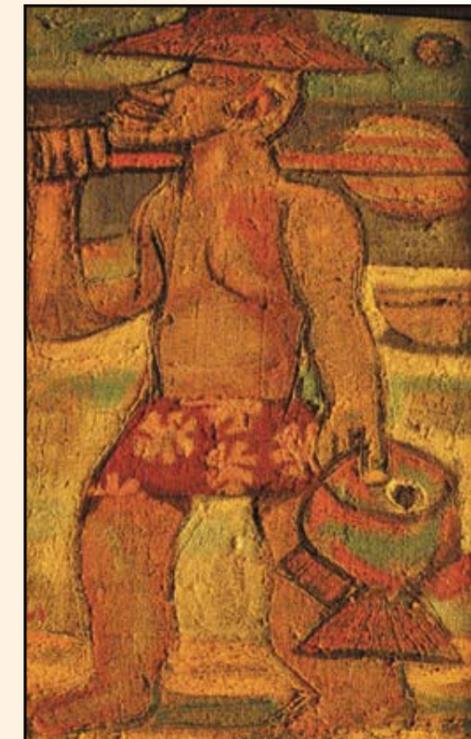
"The first time I came to Kona was in the 1970s," she says. "I just swore to myself that at some point in my life, I would live here."

Taking about a year and a half to finish, the home was built by general contractor Russ Trull, of Kona-based Aina Ola, Inc. Donna credits Russ, whom she met playing tennis, with bringing their vision to life. "His eye for detail is extraordinary and his finish carpenter crew is first rate."

Whenever possible, Gina and Donna sourced local artisans to create custom pieces, such as the walnut dining-room table and buffet crafted by furniture maker Gerald Ben of Dovetail Galleries in Holualoa, or the built-in beds by Hap Tallman of Hawi. ▶



The master bedroom is themed around an abstract piece by Big Island artist George Wooland. Interior Designer Gina Willman designed the "floating" bed, which was crafted by woodworker Kevin Karg.



Avi Kiriatty original.



The living area's conversation grouping is accented by an Asian-style entertainment center designed by Gina Willman and built by Kevin Karg. Gina also helped design the custom rugs from Indich Collection found throughout the home.

In the master bedroom, Gina designed the “floating” bed in the center of the room, hiring California woodworker Kevin Karg to hand-craft the piece. Showcasing paneling inspired by a hotel in Bali, the master suite takes its theme from a multi-panel abstract relief in celadon green by Big Island artist George Wooland.

“Donna and I were shopping together in Honolulu and saw his work,” says Gina. “We were very ‘wowed.’ We enjoyed the process of building a room around the art and playing with varying and intermingling textures and colors.”

Likewise, the amazing master bath features a soothing aqua color palette complemented by an original silkscreen by Kealakekua artist Mayumi Oda. Local glass artist Scott Potter created the etched glass in the bathrooms, while Deb Thompson, of Kona, created the wall treatments and faux painting inside and outside the home.

Donna’s travels throughout Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia have ►



Gina and Donna found the Sutherland teak furniture at The Design Center in San Francisco. Perennial outdoor fabric offers longevity and beauty.

Photo by Karen Anderson



Twin beds featuring pillowed headboards provide a cozy retreat in the guest suite.

netted her many great pieces, such as the immense Bali sandstone carving at the home's entry.

Designed for a real cook, the kitchen is Donna's favorite room in the home. With Magma granite installed on the countertops and island, plus custom-made swiveling barstools by A. Rudin, the room actually sparkles when bathed in warm, glowing light of sunset.

The entire home conveys a welcoming, yet sophisticated style.

"It's a great personal home, so very warm," says Gina. "There's a nice soul and her personality that is a direct result of the homeowners themselves."

"I love the whole process of building a house — the creativity and vision of the builder and the designer," says Donna. "When everything comes together, I find that amazing." **AH**



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