

A woman in a blue bikini and a patterned cover-up is relaxing on a dark brown lounge chair with a tan cushion. She is positioned in the foreground, looking towards the right. In the middle ground, a man is swimming in a large, clear blue infinity pool. The pool's edge is dark and blends into the surrounding landscape. In the background, there is a lush green golf course with several green umbrellas, palm trees, and a building. The ocean and distant mountains are visible under a blue sky with light clouds. The overall scene is a serene tropical resort setting.

Living at
Hualālai
at Historic Ka'ūpūlehu

**Masters of the Waves
Defining Hualālai Style
Hualālai Realty**

Hualālai Style

Top designers discuss their take on the signature look of Hualālai homes.



Photos: Katie M. Simmons

While many designers, developers and homeowners refer to Hualālai-style to describe the distinctive, tasteful design incorporated throughout the resort and residential communities, its definition is somewhat elusive. We turned to a few local interior designers to answer the question “What is your interpretation of Hualālai-style design?”

Willman Interiors, Hawai‘i Island. Native New Zealander Gina Willman, ASID, a self-confessed city girl, always imagined running her own design firm ensconced in an edgy, cool, urban loft in Auckland. But life had its own plans, she laughs, from her Quonset hut design studio, home to Willman Interiors, in sleepy Waimea town here on Hawai‘i Island.

Willman, who completed interior design training at Auckland’s Unitec New Zealand, turns out over-the-top contemporary interiors grounded in clean lines and complemented by strong, organic materials (basalt, river rocks, granite-flaked wall coverings, indigenous woods) and highly-textured fabrics.

At Hualālai Resort, Willman most often chooses a neutral palette for furnishings, accenting this “blank canvas” with artwork, hand-woven rugs of her own custom design, and various home accessories in colors flavored by her native island nation – its native Maori culture, the European influence and



amazing natural resources – as well as her current Hawai‘i Island home. Asian-inspired focal points also find their way into many of her interiors, a nod she says to the multi-racial make-up of our Pacific Rim location.

Getting to know the client, their personal style, the unique personal expression they want reflected in their home is what drives her most. And a common thread among most of her clients here at Hualālai, she says, is their desire for uncluttered, tranquil, Zen-like living spaces. “It’s no surprise really. Most of these individuals live a frenzied, fast-lane life in large cities located throughout the world. They’ve come to Hawai‘i to relax and re-energize in our warm, comfortable environment.” That includes choosing calm, soothing colors – lots of greens and blues which also reflect the natural environment here, she says.

“In the end, it all comes down to forming relationships – often long-term since the completion of these luxury homes can exceed two years from start to finish – and delivering on your client’s vision of their Hualālai-style home,” she says.

