

## INTERIORS

# This Tranquil Refuge Blurs The Lines Between Indoors & Outdoors

Though it looks like one, it's not a resort.

By: Camille Freestone

If you're fortunate enough to reside in Hawaii, you'll likely want to spend most of your time outdoors, weather permitting. That notion was top of mind when interior designer Stephanie Brown embarked on a Maui-based project for one of her clients. For obvious reasons, she approached the outdoor space with as much attention to detail, if not more, as she did the interiors. The result is something worthy of a resort—billowing palm trees, a gently rippling pool, and natural materials and fabrications that mesh effortlessly with their surroundings. Brown wanted to create a mood of "quiet, modern luxury."

Not only has Brown created a tranquil oasis, but in doing so, she has also blurred the line between indoors and outdoors with 20-foot door openings and kitchen windows that pocket away. The space is also filled with lanai's—think of them like a roofed porch with multiple walls open to the exterior—that allow the client to dine, snooze, play, and do just about everything else without stepping foot indoors. With the help of the architecture firm Weigang Marvick & Associates and general contractors Makena Builders, all of this was done while paying homage to the native plant life and architecture styles of Hawaii. Discover more about Brown's process below.





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"The exterior layout was mostly driven by site conditions, including the grade, driveway access, view, and house position. The architect (Bill Weingang of Weingang Marvick) did the full property site plan and positioned all large elements. We later adjusted some spacing to suit furniture layouts, entertaining options, and provide subtle yet modern pathway connections between all spaces."





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"The materials and features we incorporated are all very contextual for Hawaii, from the tiki torches and large fire-bowls (flanking the pool) to woven palm pendant lights and the predominant use of lava stone —both as the smooth pathway stones and rough retaining walls. Native plants were used throughout and the sprawling green lawn is a very classically 'Hawaiian' landscape element."

COJ/ETEUR







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"The heat, sun, and sea-air do wreak havoc on exterior materials in Hawaii. Almost all exterior materials will require maintenance to look their best; however, we were careful in keeping the limestone flooring under cover in the lanai's only, as it would not perform well out in the elements. There are also local considerations, such as red dust and wandering cats, birds and critters, which drove our selection of patio furniture and fabrics towards darker grey's to better conceal the inevitable dust and markings."





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"The main living and dining spaces feature a 20-inch-wide door opening to the outdoor living lanai, and the kitchen window pockets away, opening to the dining lanai. Several rooms have unique corner openings, creating an expansive indoor/outdoor connection (principal bedroom, guest bedroom, office, and gym)."



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"Wiliwili trees were preserved, and brought back to life, around the site. We designed the property around the native trees that are declining in numbers throughout the Hawaiian islands, specifically framing the yoga pavilion. Foxtail palms frame the drive and front entry. Royal Poinciana trees were utilized to add pops of color (bright orange flowers) and to provide canopy screening for additional privacy around the 2.5 acre parcel. Slow-growing varietal Samoan coconut palms throughout the rear yard provide pockets of shade around the pool area and manicured Seashore Paspalum lawn. Flowering Plumeria trees are used across the property to provide separation between outdoor spaces. Over 2,000 Temple Fire Bougainvillea throughout re-naturalized landscape pockets add vibrant colors and contrast to the stark lava ground cover. A single large canopied Monkey Pod tree is the central focal point of the drive turn around."



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"Our client was keen on having an organic shape to the pool, following the line of the retaining wall below. We expanded on the pool shape by adding two organically shaped planting beds on either side with palm trees and tropical plants, to add texture and soften the hard lines. We also designed a central wood pool deck, which is organically shaped next to the pool, but more crisp and linear on the house side—a nod to the more linear, modern lines happening inside the home. The pool itself has an inner rich blue color to feel light, bright, and tropical. We accentuated this color with hand-made glass tiles that rim the waterline and cover the infinity edge. The edge of the pool, planters, and deck are surrounded with black lava-stone basalt, which unify the area with the connecting paths around the yard. We chose garapa wood for the pool deck due to its durability, and it's warmth contrasts nicely against the other pool materials and provides another connection to the materials on the house itself."



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"The exterior lanai's are meant to provide a seamless indoor-outdoor living experience, and as such, the interior limestone-slab floor is carried straight out. For the outdoor furniture, we opted for sleek yet textural modern forms that would complement the interior furnishings as well. The dark charcoal frames and grey upholstery feel modern, and balance out the black basalt and strong wood tones throughout. We also brought in black-stained wood and concrete planters throughout the lanai's to bring greenery closer to the living spaces, and used modern steel lanterns throughout the property, which create ambient candle-lit pathways during the evening hours."





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"The client wanted the views to be maximized and to create many different areas for activities and entertaining family and guests both young and old. The exterior areas go far beyond just lounging and swimming. Additional features include, a yoga pavilion (connected to the gym via a suspended walkway), bocce court, pickleball court, and even an orchard."



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"The sheer magnitude of the site was a challenge in itself, as the completion of the landscape from initial clearing to final plantings took longer than the home construction itself. Add in a close shave with a hurricane, the pandemic (and all of its material delays/shortages), plus difficult site access via a single narrow driveway, and it was a feat of perseverance and coordination to complete the project."

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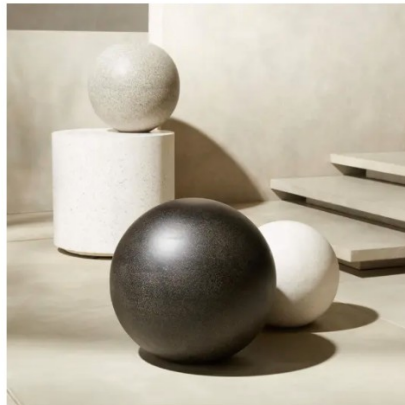
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