



Wyland Waikiki Resort & Spa

WYLAND IS THE NEW
WAVE ON THE BLOCK

LEFT: A sculpture garden of Wyland's sea creatures greets visitors as they make their way from the parking lot to the lobby entrance. Observant guests will recognize the walkway as the tail of a great whale.

Design by/ Wyland and Ed Bushor
Text by/ Jon Letman
Photography by/ Marc Schechter



"The lobby has curved walls, giving guests the sensation they are flowing through the hotel." ABOVE: In this ocean-themed hotel, guests are greeted by a large 360-degree salt water aquarium before stopping at the water inspired registration desk. Custom glass was designed and installed by Pacific Glass LLC.

THIS SUMMER, A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAVE HIT WAIKIKI IN THE form of Hawai'i's first boutique hotel to be wholly inspired by an artist, the Wyland Waikiki Resort & Spa. Designed around the art of marine life artist and conservationist Wyland, Waikiki's newest hotel is making a splash with lovers of art and Hawaiian ocean beauty.

Famous for embracing large-scale projects (Wyland has painted 93 enormous sea life murals), Wyland partnered last year with Ed Bushor, founder of eRealty Companies, Inc., to design what Bushor called "a contemporary marine life-themed hotel with a hip atmosphere."

Bushor first got the idea for the Wyland-themed hotel after walking through every property in Waikiki and asking himself if there wasn't something different that could be done with the Ohana Waikiki Surf, which eRealty Companies, Inc. purchased in March 2005.

"I thought about the whale mural Wyland painted on our Pacifica Airport Center and the idea of integrating marine life with artwork into the motif of the hotel popped into my head," Bushor said.

With 34 bronze sculptures and 17 murals, brush and oil

paintings, watercolors, Lucite sculptures, photography, and abstract art, the Wyland Waikiki has, as Wyland said, "brought the ocean into the hotel."

Wyland added that designing a boutique hotel was the ideal way to share his work and love for Hawai'i's sea life. "It has allowed me to present my art a certain way, choosing which pieces are used, the lighting and even the surroundings."

Wyland's design team started by painting the exterior of the 400-room hotel a color the artist called "Waikiki sand."

Bushor explained that an element of subtle surprise was key to the development of the hotel. For example, guests enter the



Wyland said, "There's a real cool vibe to this hotel. We wanted to give people an art experience, and I think we've achieved that."

LEFT AND BELOW: More than \$5 million worth of Wyland's art is hanging throughout the hotel, beginning in the lobby and ending in each of the guest rooms. Artwork consists of Wyland's Sumi-e pen sea creatures, his ocean inspired abstracts, photography, and his popular undersea vistas.



hotel by crossing a life-size quartzite tile whale's tail. "The whale tail might not be noticed at first step, but will be fully appreciated when looking down from the balcony," Bushor said.

Guests continue through a garden of bronze sculptured *koholā* (whales), *nai'a* (dolphins) and *honu* (sea turtles), beneath a subtly landscaped "W" of coconut palms, past gracefully arcing bronze dolphins and into a hotel lobby like no other.

Incorporating the concept of sea-meets-earth, the main entrance flows with wave-inspired curved walls rising to bubble-like *puka* (indentations) in the ceiling as if floating to the surface. Accenting the lobby are pieces of Wyland original brush art, exclusive to the hotel, and primary latex foam cube chairs designed by Arne Quinze.

The islands, represented by native Hawaiian *koa* wood slats and imported African jatoba inlaid with glass, lend a sophisticated, smooth feel to a space called "the office" where guests can check email and surf the net with high-speed connections. An open floorplan lets guests drift between the bar, casual lounge and sculpture library.

Earthy browns and greens color a cozy bar overlooking the pool and waterfall illuminated by 40 bamboo tiki torches each night. The rectangular seamless sea grass green Avonite bar and custom row couch make an intimate setting for cocktails.

"We traveled the world to furnish the hotel, adding some things, taking out others. We probably spent more than we should have, but money was never an object," Wyland said.

The lobby itself was designed by Tom Philippi of Graham Downes Architecture combining furnishings and finishes by Jan Solomon of Solomon Design and custom couches manufactured by Cal-Moda furniture.

Wyland Lucite sea life sculptures are perched on a Hawaiian *koa* mantel set off by a "deep ocean blue" Venetian lime plaster specially designed by local artist Nenad Hecker. Together, with candles and glass puffer fish, they give the lobby



ABOVE: Earthly browns and greens color a cozy bar overlooking the pool. The rectangular seamless sea grass green Avonite bar was custom designed for the hotel.



RIGHT: The pool area sits off of the lobby and refreshment bar. The pool is surrounded by lush landscaping and a lava privacy wall. "We loaded the common areas with palm trees," says Bushor "I think we have more palm trees per square foot than any other property in Waikīkī."



OPPOSITE: The one Bedroom Ocean View room includes a comfortable living space with plenty of seating and small kitchenette area.

the feel of a designer's Hawaiian aquarium. The ground floor of the Wyland Waikiki also features a spa, coffee bar, indoor/outdoor dining, a Wyland gallery store and special Kidz Klub.

Bushor explained that the lobby was laid out specifically so children could enjoy fun time while parents relax, separately, but just steps away. "The bar overlooks the pool and the Kidz Klub is next to the spa," Bushor said.

Checking in at the semi-circular front desk, blue panels of translucent eco-resin mirror waves in hue and texture as water flows down a golden glass wall. The colors of the reception area are echoed nearby in the 400-gallon cylindrical aquarium where yellow tangs and blue damsels swim amongst white coral, evoking images of Hanauma Bay, east of Diamond Head.

"We want our guests to have an experience relating to the ocean and marine life. Part of that is enjoying the sound of water from the moment they step out of their car until the elevator doors close," Bushor said.

This immersion in a sea of style has been achieved with the property's seven water features leading to the elevator button, strategically placed in front of the lobby's 360° aquarium.

With key in hand, guests ascend to their room, enjoying glimpses of a vertical gallery of different Hawaiian sea life wall murals on each of the main tower's 17 stories.

Corridors leading to guest rooms create an ambience of quiet ocean calm with unexpected details like floor tiles inlaid with pieces of sea shells and overhead cable lighting curling like waves casting soft light on black and white giclée of submarine Hawai'i. Solomon Interior Design customized corridor carpet to elicit the colors of sand and sea, with bubble motifs 'breaking' at the doorway.

"I was able to achieve the vision of my art displayed with complementary colors and textures. Every single detail was accomplished," Wyland said.

"Even getting into bed is a surprise, when you find marine life hidden in the flower designs," Bushor grinned. **OPPOSITE:** Wyland designed the pillow casings and other soft goods as well as supplied artwork for every room including this one bedroom Ocean View.



ABOVE: Rooms offer ocean or mountain and city views. "I was able to achieve the vision of my art displayed with complementary colors and textures," Wyland said.



ABOVE: Studio rooms offer the same plush decor and high end amenities. "Everything was designed to be subtle—something that would appear once you sat and observed for five minutes," says Bushor



ABOVE: Solomon Interior Design created bed skirts and cotton-silk-polyester blend throw pillows using Wyland's designs. From a distance, they resemble tropical flowers, but upon closer examination are found to actually be kissing fish and spinning dolphins.

LEFT: All guest rooms are simply decorated with one of a five-themed series of *sumi-e* ink brush paintings, each signed and numbered by Wyland. Also in every room is a limited edition giclée reproduction of an abstract oil painting entitled "Wyland's View."

Bushor concurred, "We wanted the hotel to have textures not seen in other Hawaiian hotels. For example, stones on the lobby floor or the suede in the elevator."

Even guest room number blocks are striking, each one cast in colored and clear hand-polished demi-crystal blocks by Pacific Glass LLC.

Rooms and suites at the Wyland Waikiki blend tropical comfort with high-tech amenities like flat panel high-definition TVs, iPod compatible alarm clocks and high-speed Internet connections. Dark wood and bamboo furniture complement leaf-toned carpet, reminiscent of *lau hala* (pandanus) woven floor matting. Solomon Interior Design created bed skirts and cotton-silk-polyester blend throw pillows using Wyland's designs. From a distance, they resemble tropical flowers, but upon closer examination are found to actually be kissing fish and spinning dolphins.

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bles as the hotel's penthouse suite and is available to guests.

The vast majority of the art on the property is Wyland's work, much created specifically for the hotel, but there will also be guest rooms featuring the works of 14 select artists like hula photographer Kim Taylor Reece and landscape painter Walfrido.

Assessing his own first foray into hotel design, Wyland said, "There's a real cool vibe to this hotel. We wanted to give people an art experience, and I think we've achieved that."

Bushor added, "This has been the most rewarding development project I've ever been involved in. Wyland Waikiki is a resort where we can surprise our guests, creating fun, rewarding experiences."

Wyland believes guests and visitors will not only enjoy the hotel's art (more than \$5 million worth), but also the message of the hotel. Hotel policies and practices follow Wyland's ideals of conservation and respect for the ocean and all it sustains.

With Wyland at the creative helm of one of Waikiki's boutique hotels, guests can look forward to total immersion in Hawaiian marine beauty from the moment they step in the door. 🌺

Wyland Waikiki Resort & Spa
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