



INSPIRED BY OPENNESS
TO EMBRACE THE NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT

Interior Design by/ Archipelago
Hawai'i, refined island designs
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ON O'AHU'S EASTERN FLANK, THE KO'OLAU Mountains reach out like ancient brown-green earth fingers towards the aquamarine waters of Maunaloa Bay. A small road, Paiko Drive, follows one narrow peninsula that juts into the Paiko Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Here, in this quiet sunny spot, coastal birds and migratory fowl flutter and chirp as humpback whales—wintering in warm Hawaiian waters—breach off shore. At the end of Paiko Drive, a one-lane unpaved coral rock path leads to the peninsula's sole structure: a low, flat-roofed, wood frame house encased in white coral walls.

In 2006 the home's owners, Garrett Saikley and Robert David Carpenter, decided to reconfigure the great room. When originally built, this space never fully realized the spectacular ocean and mountain views because of blocking walls that kept the house hot inside and disrupted the sense of harmonic flow.

Inspired by the openness of the Outrigger Canoe Club, Saikley and Carpenter knew they wanted to rebuild their home in a way that completely embraced the natural setting. And what a setting it is, with water on three sides and the nearest neighbors visible only on the far side of the lagoon.

As the lone residence surrounded by a Department of Land and Natural Resources bird sanctuary, the house presented unique challenges owing to state conservation requirements, building codes and limited access for construction vehicles.

When Saikley and Carpenter learned their house did not conform to certain FEMA flood and setback requirements, they saw an opportunity to transform the structure into one that would fully open to the sea and sky and mirror the softness of its coastal environment. They wanted a modern, flexible home with a classic air that would be comfortable whether there were two people inside or 200.

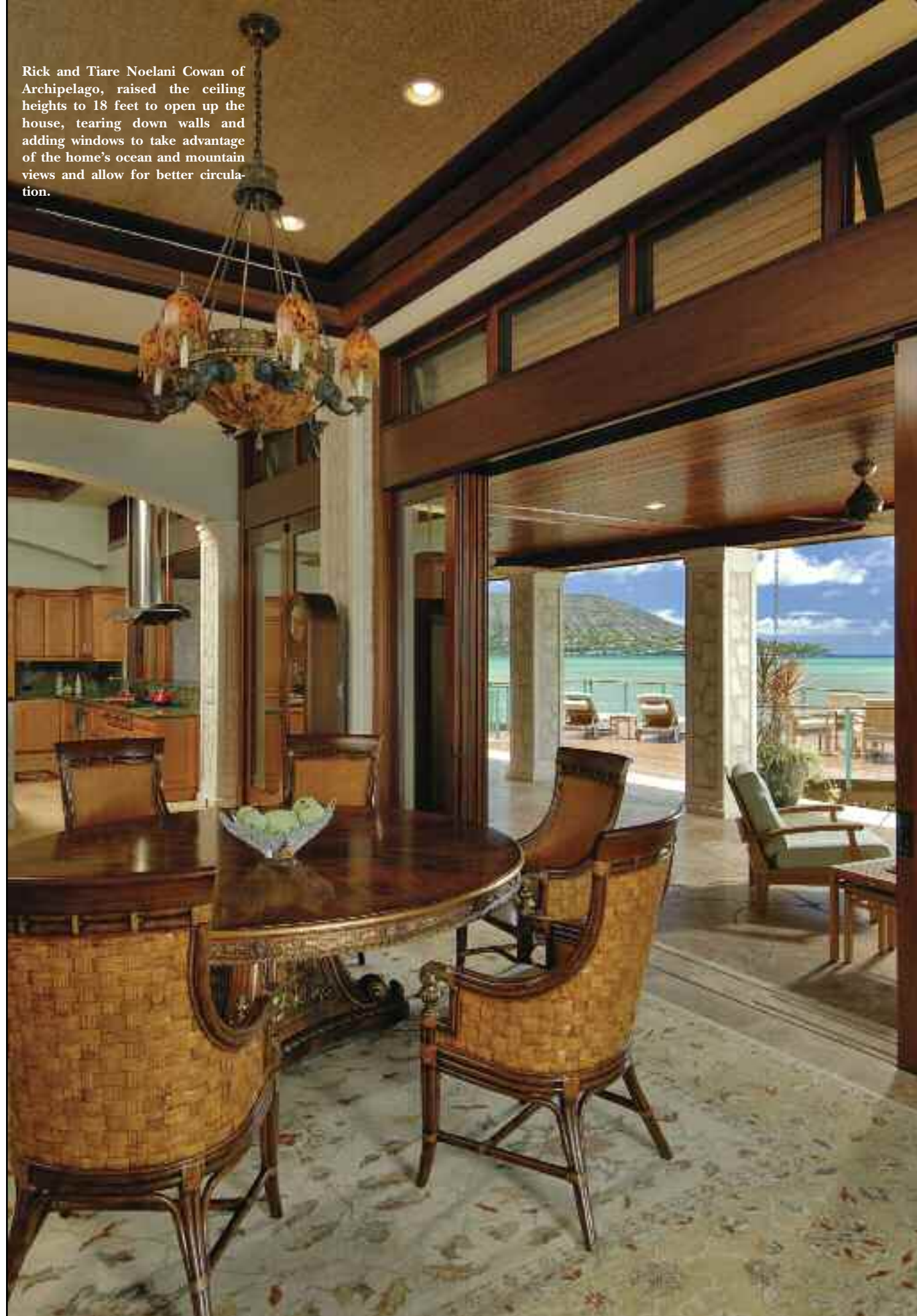
No small order, Saikley and Carpenter teamed up with kitchen and interior designers Rick Cowan and his sister Tiare Noelani Cowan, president and vice-president respectively of Archipelago Hawaii, refined island designs.

Carpenter, himself an interior designer and owner of Residential Design Concepts, explained they selected Archipelago because of the company's expertise in

ABOVE: What was originally to be a revamping of the great room in the home of Garrett Saikley and Robert David Carpenter turned into a full demolition which resulted in a renovation inspired by the Outrigger Canoe Club with its open spaces.

A Lagoon Room with a View

Rick and Tiare Noelani Cowan of Archipelago, raised the ceiling heights to 18 feet to open up the house, tearing down walls and adding windows to take advantage of the home's ocean and mountain views and allow for better circulation.



“This is an easy house for two people to live in, or to entertain 200 people. It’s as big or as small as we want it to be,” says Carpenter.

ABOVE: The “two cook” kitchen has an island with a Wolf cooktop, prep sink, two dishwashers, two ovens, kitchen cabinetry by Studio Becker, and a main sink overlooking the ocean.

designing kitchens, the one room around which they wanted the entire house to revolve.

Starting with a redesign of the original home’s great room, the Cowans decided to raise ceiling heights to 18 feet and add sliding African mahogany doors and clerestory windows, letting in light and air while affording panoramic views. In inclement weather, the doors are closed while the clerestory windows can remain open for ventilation.

Explaining interior design elements, Tiare said, “We used a woven textured wallpaper with the look of lau hala (woven pandanus) with indirectly lit ceiling coves to accent the home’s Hawaiian character.”

A smooth finished Philippine white coral stone is used for wainscoting and custom made pillars inside. The same coral with a rougher finish is used for the exterior, giving the house the feel of a contemporary reef home which offsets the tropical light and complements the surrounding blue lagoon.

This embrace of the home’s uniquely Hawaiian Island setting, with its generous use of natural stone, coral, sapele wood and travertine and ipe decks, achieves a look Carpenter calls “modern but not trendy.” It’s reminiscent of classic mid 20th century buildings like Vladimir Ossipoff’s Outrigger Canoe Club (1963).

Because they entertain frequently, the owners wanted a kitchen large enough to accommodate up to 250 guests and a catering staff, but intimate enough to sit and enjoy morning coffee.

Accordingly, Archipelago Hawaii designed a 42-inch wrap around countertop that wraps the kitchen on two sides and two independent cooking stations with a generous center island and bar overlooking the kitchen allow for guests to chat over martinis while drinking in the ocean view.

The master suite features a sitting area/library, a small bar, a front loading washer/dryer behind custom cabinetry, walk-through Studio Becker Wardrobes, and two master baths—one with a dark marble shower and vanity, the other green, white and peach marble with a soaking tub and walk-in shower. Sliding mahogany doors open onto a full view of Koko Head crater and create the sensation of sleeping on the protected deck of a luxury liner anchored in an exotic port.

A hallway with sliding glass doors leading to two guest bedrooms connected by “Jack & Jill” bathrooms achieves openness, while the mauka bedroom extends onto an expansive lanai overlooking the lagoon.

“It was important that our windows also serve as doors and walls,” Carpenter said.

Beneath the master and guest suites, a separate entrance reveals a private one bedroom, two bath unit with full kitchen offering privacy for visiting family and friends.

With plenty of room for guests and 365 degrees of mountains, sea and sky, fewer walls means being able to enjoy living in a coastal bird sanctuary from all of the bedrooms, kitchen or any



ABOVE & RIGHT: The kitchen, which the entire house revolves around, is designed for casual dining and entertaining. With a 42" countertop, a large island and secondary cooking station and prep sink, a bar area, and views of the ocean throughout, the kitchen is a natural focal point. Integrated Sub-Zero refrigerators appear as cabinets, distinguished by the sturdy handles.

of the home's six full baths.

Stepping onto the main lanai, subtle landscaping like potted dracaena, plumeria, coco palms and a shock of temple fire pink bougainvillea give the deck tropical accents that are set off by the area's rugged kiawe (mesquite) trees.

At Saikley's request, a Badu SwimJet system was installed for swimming stationary laps in a small pool beside a water feature planted with taro, cannas and Hawaiian marsh grass. A second soaking pool was designed for rolling directly into after sunbathing on the deck and is the perfect place to view birds, whales, stingrays and the white owl that frequents the sanctuary.

For Saikley and Carpenter, the predominant theme of their home is harmony with its lagoon environment and maximizing the natural elements of the property—wind for ventilation, sun for solar energy, and lighting and views that create a natural ambiance throughout the house.

Reflecting on their home, Carpenter conceded the house itself is not that big, but insists it "lives in a very big way." As for working with Archipelago, Sutton Construction, and the entire construction team, Carpenter called it his most positive home designing experience to date. Given the chance, he said, "I'd do another project with them all tomorrow." 🌿



Eclectic tastes are reflected in the home's décor, adding a sense of refinement and culture to a house which otherwise embraces its natural surroundings, the Paiko Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary. Seated in the living room, the nearest neighbors are barely visible on the far side of the lagoon.



ABOVE: Sliding mahogany doors open from the master suite to reveal views of the sea, giving the house the feel of a luxury cruise liner. Ceiling details feature textured wall paper that mimics the look of lau hala (woven pandanus leaves).

LEFT: The powder room /guest bath pictured has a custom pineapple base and mother of pearl vessel sink with a matching mirror, bronze wall mounted faucet, a walk-in shower, and frosted glass window for additional natural lighting and privacy.

OPPOSITE TOP: The guest bedroom has a generous lānai overlooking Paiko Lagoon.

OPPOSITE RIGHT: Across from the sitting area in the master suite is a Studio Becker Wardrobe System. The master suite also has a small library with bar and hidden laundry area.

