

The Krauses' new vacation home is located in a private community called Kuki'o on the central western coast of the island. RIGHT: Designer Bob Miller convinced the couple that a view that included land as well as ocean would be more visually appealing.



**A LOW-KEY HAWAIIAN HIDEAWAY
LETS A BUSY BAY AREA COUPLE
SLOW DOWN AND ENJOY THE VIEW.**

BY ERIN FEHER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON

Dinners at Bill and Gay Krause's Colonial-style Los Altos Hills home are impressive affairs. Meals with the couple, who are avid wine collectors and amateur vintners, might include a bottle of their very own 2003 Pinot Noir. And, as founders of the Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College (Gay is the center's executive director, and Bill is active on numerous education-related boards), they frequently play gracious host to distinguished guests who come to speak at the college.

But travel a couple thousand miles offshore with the pair, to their recently completed second home on the coast of Hawaii's Big Island, and the contrast is remarkable. "Entertaining at the Hawaii house has a different flavor," says Gay. "As opposed to hosting formal dinners, we'll have a few people over to sit outside for cocktails while the sun is setting, and then we'll all walk over to a restaurant."

In 2004, when the Krauses purchased the seaside lot, they knew they wanted a low-key vacation house that still felt like home. Robert Miller of Miller Design in Woodside (formerly of Miller Dolezal Design) had been

TRADING PACES

the Krauses' exclusive designer for nearly 15 years so he was already in tune with the couple's design needs.

"I felt that I knew what they wanted without much discussion," says Miller, who worked alongside architect Shay Zak of San Francisco to design the 5,000-square-foot single-story residence in the classic Hawaiian plantation style. "I've seen so many bad resort houses. They try and get too fancy and end up looking cheesy," says Zak, who opted for a variety of natural finishes such as locally sourced koa wood and steel-troweled plaster. Inspired by the old church buildings that had been brought to the island with New England missionaries in the 1800s, the architect used a subtle mix of materials. "What really attracted me to these old structures was the blend of the Hawaiian materials—black lava, ohia wood—with the familiar farmhouse-style buildings," says Zak.

Miller was able to deftly guide the Krauses through every step of the design process. When the couple was first considering the lot, they expressed disappointment to Miller that the site had only partial ocean views, with the coastline entering the frame from the south. "Bob explained that if our view was strictly out to the ocean, once the sun went down we would be looking at complete blackness,"

BELOW: In the entryway, Ring chairs from Ironies flank a custom side table from Enid Ford Atelier. RIGHT: For the lanai, steel columns were hidden inside hollowed-out ohia trunks; the thatched roof was handcrafted in the traditional Hawaiian style.





says Gay. "But if you also have the land in the vista, it's much more interesting visually." Now the contrast of the mirrored surface of the infinity-edge pool against a backdrop of black rocks and windblown grasses, with the ocean visible in the distance, draws compliments from every guest.

The slate floors and durable fabrics used throughout the house were also meant to withstand a lively pool party.

"We didn't use anything that a wet bathing suit would ruin," says Miller. Yet his design didn't sacrifice style for the sake of practicality. The wood, plaster and slate interiors are embellished with textured fabrics in golds, umbers and greens. Gay credits Miller's creativity as a key factor in their long, successful relationship. "Designers I had worked with previously were mostly interested in pleasing me. They asked lots of questions about my ideas, what colors and fabrics I liked," she says. "But I'm not a designer—I think I made some mistakes and the end result wasn't as innovative as it could have been. But Bob comes to the table with his own ideas."

When it came to the layout, the architect and designer abandoned the long hallways of the couple's California home in favor of wide-open spaces and rooms that open directly onto one another. The drastically different floorplan helps inspire a shift in mentality, so Bill can go from days filled with board meetings to a schedule of golf and basketball. For Gay, she loves being able to spend time with old friends who have homes nearby. "Back home, everyone keeps such a busy work and social calendar," says Gay. "Once we get here we have this group of people we have a history with. And you can just drop by anytime for dinner or a drink. It's a very refreshing pace." ■

LEFT: Michael McEwen's corrugated-copper Gear chandelier hangs over an Emanuel Morez dining table in the main living space. BELOW AND RIGHT: Teak pocket doors offer privacy but bring the cherished view into every room, including the master bedroom.

