



Hawaiian Tropic

A developing duo loves to relax in their resort-like bath

By Stephanie Herzfeld

For most of us, Hawaii is a tropical daydream that we envision during the winter doldrums and a destination that only a few of us will get to visit if we're lucky—or on a honeymoon. But for the owners of this master bath, the joys of island living resonate 365 days a year. Part of a residence that's located on the outskirts of a Four Seasons resort community, the 240-sq.-ft. bath was designed by Gina Willman, ASID, of Kamuela, HI-based W Interiors, for a pair of real estate developers who travel frequently and wanted a private retreat for when they're at home. She said, "The space is supposed to be their 'calm in the storm.'"

Willman's solution achieves this in part by creating an open-plan layout that capitalizes on all that Hawaii is famous for—gorgeous weather and spectacular scenery. On one end of the room, floor-to-ceiling, glass pocket doors look out on a river-rock path and bamboo garden, establishing a link between indoor and outdoor spaces; while during the day, the absence of tall partitions allows sunlight to flood the entire bath. When the glass doors are open, the homeowners can relax to the tranquil sounds of the garden's bubbling fountain from inside.

The bath is entered via double, shoji-screen-inspired pocket doors that feature translucent resin-panel inserts. The panels introduce light into the room and, at night, help illuminate twin Asian retrofitted buffet vanities that flank the doorway. The vanities are made of dark, ### wood and feature squarish brass details on the drawers to offset their mass and add interest.

Once inside the room, the homeowners can opt to unwind in the freestanding tub or open shower, both of which serve as focal points in the bath. Although the tub and shower are dramatic in form and could easily have overwhelmed the room, care was taken to choose finishes that would complement the overall palette of neutral tones and natural materials. The tub is concrete, but resembles limestone, while the shower walls and floor are paved with marble and stone mosaics. Both are offset by pale Turkish travertine tiles that line the floor, walls and a plumbing pillar. Travertine slabs also top the vanities.

Despite the popularity of outdoor showers in Hawaii, especially in high-end homes, Willman decided to locate the shower area inside the bath because of limited outdoor space and concerns about the local fauna. "Outdoor showers can attract lizards and other wildlife, so we thought an indoor shower was best," she said. As it turned out, her decision did not diminish the shower experience for her clients, but enhanced it by enabling her to install a ceiling-mounted rainshower showerhead, which is also a popular bath feature in Hawaiian homes. Because the shower area is situated close to the glass doors and along a gently curved wall, the clients can bathe in privacy and still enjoy the garden view. The wall, added Willman, "also offers a great space for toiletries."

Additional toiletries can be stored atop a unique plumbing pillar that separates the shower area from the tub. On one side, the pillar contains plumbing for a waterfall tub spout and at one end, a handshower that can be accessed from both areas. Although placing the handshower on the pillar minimizes clutter along the shower wall and preserves the sleek aesthetic of the bath, its location is also highly practical, as it provides a perfect tool for cleaning the tub too.

Not that the homeowners will spend much time worrying about that aspect of their bath. With its tropical views and calming pleasures, the developers can devote their attention to the pleasures of their own island paradise. ■

This open, Turkish travertine- and mosaic-clad bathroom is both striking and soothing in its layout and material selections. Connected to a tranquil bamboo garden via glass pocket doors, the bath serves as a private resort for its energetic owners.

FITTINGS

- Ceiling-mounted showerhead is exemplary of popular Hawaiian installation, offers outdoor effect
- Plumbing pillar handshower can be used in both bath and shower areas, ties spaces together
- Waterfall tub spout creates graceful appearance and soothing sound, echoes bubbling Japanese garden fountain

FIXTURES

- Sculptural concrete tub has desired limestone appearance
- Retrofitted Asian-style buffets serve as vanities, enhance sanctuary setting
- Shoji-screen-inspired pocket doors feature resin panels, allow light to illuminate vanities

SURFACES

- Turkish travertine in myriad sizes/finishes clads counter-tops, floors and walls, creating sense of continuity
- Stone and marble mosaics define shower space, add texture and interest
- Glass pocket doors bridge gap between indoors and bamboo garden







The gently curved shower wall (left) adds structure (and storage) to the open area. Below, a plumbing pillar divides showering and bathing functions. Muted materials (travertine and stone mosaics) impart a spa-like, natural aesthetic that ties into the Asian-themed design elements (the shoji screen doors and vanities, bottom left).



SOURCES

Interior Designer: Gina Willman, ASID—W Interiors, Kamuela, HI; www.w-interiors.com

Design/Build Contractor: Gregg Todd—GM Construction, Kamuela, HI

Manufacturers

Vanities: Big Pagoda (custom)

Sinks: Kohler

Faucets/Fittings: Dornbracht

Mosaic Tile: Ann Sacks

Pocket Doors: Bello's Millwork, Inc. (shoji-screen-style application); Western Insulated (glass specification)

Shoji Door Inserts: 3Form

Sconces: Terzani Studio

Tub: Concreteworks

Flooring: Marblehaus Hawaii

Photography: © Linny Morris

products



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1 **3Form**'s Organics panels in thatch were specified for the bath's shoji-screen-style doors. The collection showcases materials—including bamboo, banana fiber and other natural offerings—encapsulated in resin that allow light to pass through. **Circle No. 214**

2 The Caxton undercounter lavatory from **Kohler**, installed in both vanities, allows the retrofitted Asian buffets to take center stage. Willman specified the vitreous china basins in biscuit; nine additional colors are also available. The lavatory measures 19 in. x 15 in. and complements both traditional and contemporary bathrooms. **Circle No. 215**

3 Selvaggio tile from **Ann Sacks** is a striking addition to both wall and floors. The stone mosaic tile, whose name means "wild" in Italian, can be used in field tile applications or cut into borders and drops. Crema, grigio, rosa and nero shades are offered. **Circle No. 216**

4 **Dornbracht**'s Tara Classic fittings were selected for both the lavatory as well as the tub and shower areas. The sleek, understated profiles, which include a handshower that can be used both in the shower and tub, and a rainshower showerhead, add elegance to the space without overwhelming it. **Circle No. 217**

5 **Concreteworks Studio**'s Barcelona tub is a generously proportioned bathing vessel that makes quite a visual impact in the bath. The concrete tub comes in five hues (Willman selected one with a limestone appearance) and is big enough for two bathers; it measures 22 in. x 72 in. x 42 in. **Circle No. 218**