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Designer Profile
A Visit with Cindi White

Flavor
with Roy Yamaguchi
Four Seasons
Resort Maui at Wailea
A TRANQUIL REFUGE IN THE TRADE WINDS

Renovation & Expansion Architecture & Interior Design by/ Island Design Center
Original Architecture by/ Wimberly, Allison, Tong and Goo
Text by/ Douglas King
Photography by/ Don Bloom - Tropical Light

Talk about spectacular amenities within the privacy of your own room.

Forget comfortable furniture and handsome art on the walls; how about sapphire-blue water?

A horizon that goes on forever...

A glorious crescent of white sand...

Palm trees swaying in a soft tropical breeze...

At the Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea, guests need not even walk outside their accommodations to enjoy these "amenities." Boasting the Island's largest standard guest rooms at 600 sq. ft., the resort's gloriously open-to-nature lodgings can bring the beauty of Hawai'i right inside your suite.

No wonder this 15-acre tropical oceanfront playground has rated a Five-Diamond rating from the AAA every year since 1990. No wonder, also, the Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea consistently ranks among America's top four resort destinations on the prestigious Zagat survey.

"Guests tell us frequently that they return year after year because our open air design "feels" like Hawai'i should feel," says General Manager Thomas Steinhauer. "Everything is geared to the outdoors—our restaurants are all either open air, or in Ferraro's case, roofless, and our public space is all washed continually by the fresh ocean breezes."

The Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea was designed and built by one of Hawai'i's most prolific resort architects, Wimberly, Allison, Tong and Goo of Honolulu.

The open-air theme encompasses the entire property, which offers 280 guest rooms including 75 suites, of which 36 are Four Seasons Executive Suites. There is also the Lokelani Suite and the luxury 5,000 square-foot, Maile Suite.

The Maile Suite is named after the Maile leaf that Hawaiians weave into a sacred lei for very special occasions. Island Design Center, the interior design firm, understood the importance of the

LEFT: The view from the top floor The Maile Suite is breathtaking. The suite overlooks the quiet activity of the central fountain and swimming pool.

OPPOSITE: The main lobby lounge is drenched with filtered sunlight as the tropical breeze romances the soul. "Guests tell us frequently that they return year after year because our open air design "feels" like Hawai'i should feel," says GM Steinhauer. Warm inviting fabrics and textures capture the mood.
ABOVE: Custom area rugs are composed of Hawaiian earth colors and moss greens with a "scattered" Maile leaf pattern. Residential by design, the television lounge is grounded with oversized chenille sofas, carved artifacts, and comfortable yet durable textiles.

RIGHT: The placement of the chaise within the Maile master suite invites one to rest, read, and dream towards the ocean view.

BELOW: The designers added modern Hawaiian rugs by the Indich Collection, teak benches, and local original paintings to provide the desired warmth to the four suite bathrooms.
regional element of the Maile and incorporated it into the décor to capture the essence of the name.


For the Maile Suite, the largest of all the suites and offering the most spectacular setting and view, Gagon and the team of IDC used deep elegant hues that evoke the region and the native Maile plant. The designers paid careful attention to the finishes so that everything in the room would respond to the rich values that the suite, and the Maile plant represents. Exotic deep tone woods such as koa, mango, and eucalyptus were used in the construction of the custom built furniture. Regal textiles with native colorings were used to reflect the concept and confirm the quality within the first class suite. Natural coloring includes Maile green, Hawaiian clay, and subtle sunset hues.

"We blend regional sensitivity with a love for our craft," says Gagon. "We are very fortunate to reside and work in an environment flourishing with a naturally diverse pallet of color and texture."

Among the striking features of the Maile Suite are its interior columns. IDC commissioned local Brazilian artist, Ana Gaion to provide custom Venetian Plaster finishes.

As a final touch, original oil paintings by Darrell Hill grace the walls. Other local artists’ works were used in the other rooms and suites including those of Avi Kiriaty, Daryl Millard, Adam Fields, and Leon Vanover. These decorative wall elements were combined with beautiful antiques and sculpture from various sources.

In addition to their work in the individual suites, IDC also completed the design and décor of the Club Level Lounge and The Spa. The Club Level Lounge required a newly designed environment, updating it and converting the room into a warm and comfortable lounge, suitable for entertaining special guests. Again the designers relied on important regional themes such as the Ah"i (Hawaiian royalty), and created a space worthy of Hawaiian cultural leaders.

"We designed and local artisans fabricated custom furniture pieces in beautiful teak and walnut wood finishes combined with rich ‘āina, (Hawaiian for land, or earthen) and elegant moss hues," Gagon says of the regional elements used in the Club Level.

TOP: Rich wood furnishings reinforce the Hawaiian regional design influences in one of the bedrooms of the Maile Suite. Carved wood lamps and custom bedding by Kathleen Pierceall create the warm environment sought by the designers.

ABOVE: The Maile Suite master king size canopy bed is forged in iron and carved wood. Warm and sumptuous wall textures surround the room. The original oil by local artist Darrell Hill was commissioned thru Lahaina Galleries on Maui.
The main living area of the Maile Suite is colorful and alive. Hardwood floors, custom bronze patina artwork, and plantation grass cloth ceilings surround the environment. The Pacific Ocean is the cool contrast to the warmth of the interiors.

A focal point in the Maile living room is an original oil from Lahaina Galleries. "The abstract colors in the painting by Darrell Hill were a perfect fit for our color concept," says Gagon. "My favorite piece in the room is a hand carved ebony wood baby's bath with lid in the form of an exotic tropical bird, imported from Sumatra." Oversized cayenne colored floor pillows respond to the designers push for absolute comfort.
OPPOSITE: Spanning nearly 90 feet, the Maile lanai encompasses carved standing palm lamps for subdued evening lighting. Colorful plantings reinforce the color palette from the interiors. A solid teak cabinet, complete with a recessed copper sink, is ideal for ice chilled beverages.
ABOVE: In the club level lounge earthen spice tones stimulate the senses yet respond to the Hawaiian surroundings. Brazilian artist Ana Gaion provided the Venetian plasterwork for the entry columns, a stately framework to the Avi Kiiriaty painting in the foyer.

BELLOw: A hand split bamboo vase upon an inlayed shell and coconut table respond to local regional influences. Classic clean lines of the furniture simplify the rich abundance and variety of colors and materials.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Comfortable dark wood lounge seating with abstract “bamboo” fabric patterns provide an updated old Hawai‘i feel. Modern artwork contrast carved wooded floor lamps blending this decade into the islands past.
AFTER: The guiding theme of The Spa—rough and textured on the exterior and soft, delicate interior—was integrated into all of the fabrics, fixtures and color choices to lead guests through their rejuvenation process.

BELOW LEFT: Classic soft furnishings continue the transition from rough to smooth and complement the deep rich wall coverings, designed to relax the guest.

BELOW: A standout custom feature is a carved stone vessel sink that does double duty as a utilitarian sculpture. The stone sink is textured on the outside and polished smooth within reinforcing the overall spa concept.
Top: A warm glow beneath the Hawaiian night sky is the best way to describe the allure of Ferraro's Bar e Ristorante, an expansion that Island Design Center was responsible for. Island Design Center created the concept of “oil and vinegar” and selected red wine and olive colored materials to support their ideas. Tumbled stone, rusted iron, and retractable awnings that reveal the stars at night, reinforce the finest Italian food service in the islands. “It’s as if you can feel the Italian food artistry becoming one with the architecture,” says designer Gagon.

Left: The same textured quartzite walls were used to connect the spa area to the new store facade. Natural light woods and brushed nickel materials were used to keep the passageway fresh and lively. The upper transom windows are dried leaves encapsulated within the translucent panels as if captured in the wind. Hence the name of the store “Breezes.”
ABOVE: The entrance porte cochere invites guests to enjoy the Four Seasons Resort and begins the transition into becoming one with Hawai'i.

For The Spa, IDC used native elements such as bamboo, pili grass, and reeds, cast in thick acrylic panels to provide a glimpse into the multi-layered healing process that The Spa represents. A subtle cascade of water was strategically integrated within the windows of The Spa to create a literal illustration of the healing fluids that guests find within.

The Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea benefits from the property's openness and the position to the ocean. This openness carries over into the design of the entire resort, from the rooms, of which 85% have ocean views, to the appropriately named boutique shopping area, Breezes.

Traditional Hawaiian elements—the Maile leaf and the Ahī meeting place—combine with the fresh tropical trade winds to create a one-of-a-kind destination. And in true Hawaiian fashion another important cultural element is integral to the resort: ohana, family. Many of the staff have been with the resort for more than a decade and guests can feel the aloha that the staff exudes.

“The Hawaiian style, as experienced at the Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea, is a combination of abstract Hawaiian influences combined with the necessity to provide comfort and durability in a modern resort environment,” says Gagon.

“The design is meant to reflect a Hawaiian palace in terms of luxury, feeling, and openness,” adds GM Steinhauser. “These elements combine to make the resort feel like it belongs on Maui as opposed to another culture’s building that has been relocated to Hawai’i. You become one with the island the moment you enter our porte cochere.”

Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea
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