

Ocean

# Treasure



By Kristin Holmes ASID  
Photography Ryan Siphers

## Revealing the hidden gem in a South Maui condo took reinventing it wall to wall

**H**ow Does Space Define Us? Do we need a lot or can we get by with less? What gems are discovered when setting about to remodel an ocean front condo? With new construction, restrictions in terms of size and solutions are clear and commonplace. When it's a 4<sup>th</sup> floor condo, creating an efficient and unique space inside "the box" while thinking outside of it can prove challenging.

For Fred & Carolyn Wood's South Maui condo, Kristin Holmes ASID, of Swan Interiors, had to do a bit of digging to uncover all of its potential. Featuring open views of the Pacific Ocean, glistening sun, serene sunsets, and size constraints, the unit demanded resourceful design and imagination. From the beginning finding every usable inch and utilizing it with maximum efficiency was imperative. The Wood's tastes and their dazzling Kihei coastline views established the aesthetics of the project. Kihei translates to "cape" and an existing mirrored wall extending out onto the lanai makes the "cape" seen and felt. Working with the existing mirrors, a collection of blue & white porcelain, and the precious space allotted, Kristin helped the Wood's reveal their hidden treasure.

The clients, retired medical professionals from the Bay Area, inherited the collection of blue and white Asian porcelain when they purchased the unit. An early decision was made to incorporate the art but not have it be the center of attraction.

**Interior Designer: Kristin Holmes ASID, Swan Interiors**  
**General Contractor: Ty Goff, TyRa Designs & Construction**



A color scheme developed supports the dominant azure of the view, while white bead board cabinetry was used throughout introducing a beach cottage theme. Originally designed in the 1970s, the building's concrete ceilings and defining walls represented a challenge for the new design. From there forward, everything was rebuilt. In the living area walls were realigned to yield more usable space. The hallways and bathrooms were completely reconfigured to yield more usage out of the tight spaces. Perimeter soffits added around the rooms, provide not only design character, but also accommodate essential fans and lighting. Continuing the beach cottage feel of the unit, detailing was added by cladding the ceiling in bead board.

Traditionally, blue and white porcelain has been offset against sunny yellow walls but interior designer Kristin Holmes ASID, wanted a departure from the predictable. Noting the calm demeanor of her clients, and colors already present in both of their wardrobes,

LEFT: Detailing in the kitchen includes bead board on the ceiling and cabinetry,

ABOVE The backsplash features prominent use of glass in various blues and greens to continue the beach cottage feel.

she chose a cool mint green for all the walls, and kept all color choices in the blues to greens to establish that calmness in their home.

In the kitchen the Malaga glass tiles of the backsplash, and Corian counter-tops, blend aquatic shades of blue and green. Coupling these elements with the white bead board cabinets provided the bright and refreshing effect desired by the clients. To help capture a few more precious feet, a built-in refrigerator was used. Carrying color choices throughout the unit was important to enhance the feeling of space. Walker-Zanger Mizu tile in the guest bathroom shower was selected in a watercolor crackle glaze. And in the master bathroom Trikeenan Ginkgo Tile, a simple and natural pattern, was custom colored to the overall palette. Recessing the towel bars into the walls of both bathrooms further utilized the precious space.

Ocean influences are not far from any area of the condo, and the custom living room rug was designed with a sea-life motif. Kristin introduced her clients to Sharon McElroy a local artisan that handcrafts hooked rugs. Scavenging through thrift stores for fabrics, Sharon's designs feature a wide array of colors and textures. In the design created for the Woods, marine life swims across the living room floor yet everyone stays dry. On the LaCor lounge seating Pierre Frey fabric in a small wave pattern was used. Choosing the sofa and lounge chair it was important to keep with the clients' wishes of a dark wood frame, while not encroaching upon the small room. Elements in the dining area were intentionally kept clean and simple to make the space feel open and airy. Pendant fixtures by Besa and Tech interplay the aqua and white color scheme.

Throughout this couple's South Maui condo ingenuity and comprehensive design led the way to revealing and unfound jewel.



RIGHT: St. Thomas chairs by David Francis are upholstered with a sea life motif from Duralee.



A built in entertainment cabinet show off some of the blue & white porcelain collection, while the Sharon McElroy rug sits prominently in the living area.