

THE CAMP HALE

What happens when an open-minded family collaborates with the best in architecture and design?

A lot of fun.

WALKER WARNER ARCHITECTS + PHILPOTTS INTERIORS + DAVID TAMURA LANDSCAPES
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Camping memories stick with us forever. Summer camps, family camps, getting away from daily noise. Simplicity. These are times when we feel a little closer to friends and family. The food tastes better. Sleep comes easier. The stars shine brighter.

At an undisclosed location on Hawai'i Island, Kahua Kuili is the Ultimate "camp" that truly blends indoor with outdoor, yesterday with today, and today with tomorrow. A recent collaboration between Walker-Warner Architects, Philpotts Interiors, David Tamura Landscapes and (very importantly) an open minded client resulted in a space destined to create memories for generations. The design team had license to be quirky, yet architecturally and visually pure.

The result is the Camp *Hale* (house).

Photos: a nod to the "Old Style Lu'au" creates a relaxed and playful setting for dinner parties or picnic lunches; from the tiki bar, looking across to the kitchen window, are barn style windows that open for ease of serving and ventilation.





We caught up with Interior Designer Marion Philpotts to gain insight into the project...

WW *How did Walker Warner Architects establish the spacial and structural elements?*

MP “Greg Warner and his team defined the core vision for the project. This is a family retreat, and the client was open to doing things differently. Kahua Kuili provided an opportunity for modern interpretation of the classic Hawai'i summer camp; there are elements that you might find in Hawai'i 100 years ago, and will still be relevant 100 years from now. Places like Camp Sloggett in Koke'e, the lodge at Ko'e, and summer residences of missionary families served as reference points. These “camps” had communal hangout areas—the main hale, bunk rooms, kitchen, and picnic areas—that allowed guests to move about freely and interact in new ways. They also feature intimate spaces for privacy, reading, reflection. Greg has this ability to tune into the landscape, the climate and most importantly the people that will enjoy a home. In the case of Kahua Kuili they once again designed something unique, timeless and yet totally current. Walker Warner created the canvas and spaces, we had the honor (and joy) of adding finishing elements, furniture, fabrics and visual elements.”

WW: *How does the home interact with the surrounding landscape?*

MP “Because it's open one is naturally drawn to the surroundings. While the home does have ocean views, we were equally inclined to interact with the mauka views. Also, within the property boundaries we wanted to be in touch with the land, the vegetation and elements. There is a picnic area underneath a Keawe tree that has a very natural feel. The dirt on the ground, the shade of the Keawe, rocks and other elements

are very prominent. Consequently the interiors, furniture and surfaces all had to be very durable. These places are meant to get a bit dirty, worn; they actually look better over time.

These mauka views contain many Pu'u's or lookouts. We carried the Hawaiian names of these various pu'u into the rooms. This further enhanced the camp feeling, and the connection to the surrounding landscape.”

WW: *How did you approach the fabrics and furniture?*

MP “We were going for vintage, so there are elements and designs that you'd find 100 years ago. Palaka, quilting, monkey pod, Koa, vintage art. At the same time, we didn't want to make it “old-fashioned” or dated. We offset the retro elements with contemporary elements made of reclaimed materials, bright colors and modern functionality. The materials are durable, user friendly, easy to clean up. And always we tried to keep it simple. We exercised restraint.”

WW: *What are some of the design highlights?*

MP “The breezeway daybed for reading. The Koa pune - a Hawaiian classic but built in a modern way. The large TV hidden behind the map in the main room. The outdoor Furo shower and tub - so simple yet elegant with jalousie windows and open air feeling. The Tiki Bar - a great place for end-of-the-day dining and cocktails, watching a game, relaxing by the pool. The BBQ / Luau hangout under the Keawe tree (especially when lit up at night). The fabrics and quilts.”

WW: *What were the challenges?*

MP “Sourcing vintage pieces is expensive and limiting so we did have to create some of them on our own. The result was these pieces were more durable, environmentally friendly, and less costly.”

Photos on previous spread: Tiki Bar poolside means Mai Tai time day or night; looking mauka from the lanai; the kitchen is reinterpreted in camp green base cabinets on the island juxtaposed to teak upper cabinets. Opposite clockwise: a classic inspired Koa daybed with vintage inspired bark cloth prints and indoor/outdoor family friendly fabrics, Koa calabash and coconut bowls on the shelf; a large vintage format map obscures the TV, red Terrazzo Table is complimented with Koa chairs; Palaka fabric in this cabin is inspired by the Paniolo cowboy culture of the Hawaiian Islands; a contemporary interpretation of the Japanese Ofuro; a contemporary inspired Hawaiian quilt by Michael Pechinski of Kapa Mua.



“An amazing, open client. The accomplished team. A process as rewarding as the result. It was fun. Kahua Kuili created some lasting memories for me as well.”

Marion Philpotts



Photos: Drinking vinegar paleo direct trade, American Apparel keffiyeh before they sold out gastropub quinoa banh mi DIY sustainable.

