

HOME[®]U S A italia

PROJECT CONTRACT & COMMUNICATION

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT PLACE

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MAKANT' EKA

WALKER WARNER ARCHITECTS

Photography by Matthew Millman

THE HOUSE, DESIGNED BY WALKER WARNER ARCHITECTS
WITH PHILPOTTS INTERIORS,
IS LOCATED ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII.
THE DESIGN IS AN INTERESTING MERGER
OF TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL FORMS AND MATERIALS
AND MODERN DESIGN.
IT'S A SPECTACULAR SETTING AS WELL



HERE. Sofa and armchair by Christian Liaigre; leather armchairs by Poltrona Frau; Custom Rug by Indich Collection.



HERE: Table and stools by McGuire; Chair produced by Flexform. **BELOW:** Rec Room with table by Knoll.



HERE: Guest bedroom, benches by Herman Miller. Custom beds by Maui Custom Woodworks; custom covers by Rosemary Hallgarten. **BELOW:** The bathroom with a minimalist design.



Set atop a hardened lava flow with views of sky, sun, and water, this family compound strikes a balance between modernity and tradition. Old and new ebb and flow through a simple composition of small structures linked by a lush courtyard and a series of walkways and patios. Composed of four independent structures, including a cedar-clad main living pod, the siting balances the desire to host friends and family as well as privacy. Architecture and interiors are modern yet rely heavily on traditional materials and touchstones. “We call it the Village,” notes Greg Warner, of the arrangement, a grouping of four separate structures. The home is built to rest gently in the landscape but also to last for generations. “We execute enduring architecture—in the sense of material quality but also livability,” Warner says. “We have high hopes for the legacy of this project.”

Traditional Hawaiian villages, typically organized in loose clusters, inspired both the 1.5-acre site plan and the architectural style. The composition of canted steel columns, steep-pitched roofs, and rhomboidal window and door openings “represent a contemporary interpretation of early Hawaiian hale shelters,” Warner says. “They’re like modernist lean-tos.” Total interior space encompasses approximately 4,800 square feet. The compound is surrounded by a field of lava and native grasses.

The main living pod is pushed to the edge of

the sea, while the supporting structures, containing the two guest suites and communal relaxation areas, are set back, deeper in the property. Guest suite bedrooms open onto concrete-walled private courts for additional seclusion. The arrangement assumes that the three-bedroom residence feel expansive and take advantage of the views.

The structures housing the master suite and the main living areas are located on the site’s ocean side. Set back deeper in the property are pods containing the two guest suites and communal relaxation areas. Bedrooms open onto concrete-walled private courts for additional seclusion. Interiors encompass approximately 4,800 square feet, but the arrangement makes the three-bedroom residence feel expansive.

The use of heavily mortared lava rock was inspired by the historic Mokuauka Church, located in nearby Kailua. Windows are framed in stained sapele mahogany. Western red cedar serves as the dominant wood—both for cladding and the roof shingles—since it resists heat, moisture, and insects. Inside, stained and lightly polished concrete flooring keeps things cool during the day.

Inside spaces flow seamlessly to outside. Sapele-framed sliders glide open to the elements, and operable windows swivel to coax in the breeze and encourage cross ventilation. “The living room unfurls to become porch-like,” Warner adds, noting the continuity of



HERE: In the patio, dining chair by Kettal. The landscape design is by David Y. Tamura Associates.



floor and ceiling materials between interiors and adjacent alfresco spaces. The degree of openness led Marion Philpotts-Miller of Philpotts Interiors to favor “indestructible” solution-dyed acrylic upholstery for much of the casual furniture. A Lee Kelly oil on canvas animates the living room’s assemblage of Christian Liaigre furnishings, including an oak lamp and sofa and wenge lounge chairs; the ceiling slats are bleached Douglas fir. The kitchen’s island and table are topped in honed Cararra marble. Custom surfboards—one hand-painted, the other crafted of paulownia—hang above the rec room’s Eero Saarinen table.

Philpotts-Miller sought to capture the “adventurous nature” of the clients. “The use of color is very playful and dynamic,” she says. In the rec room, for instance, custom surfboards are mounted on the wall like artworks. A koi pond is the focal point of the courtyard between the main living and master suite pods. The scheme is no-frills, simple, and airy, with a midcentury vibe that Philpotts-Miller explains was inspired by the work of Hawaiian modernist Vladimir Ossipoff. “Because the architecture is so thoughtfully put together and there’s so much natural texture, we didn’t need to load up the interiors,” Philpotts-Miller continues. The

master bedroom is likewise grounded with earthy, timber-toned accents—whitewashed wood wall paneling, a walnut bench—and also lifted via a sky-blue rug and throw pillows. The master bedroom’s bench is walnut. Concrete walls and cedar slats enclose the courtyard off the master bathroom. Flooring in the master bathroom and throughout is polished, stained concrete. A niche in the master bedroom features a chair by Naoto Fukasawa. The master suite’s study culminates in a sitting area with a Charles and Ray Eames lounge offering Maui views. 



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Walker Warner Architects

Greg Warner co-founded the San Francisco based firm, Walker Warner Architects, in 1989. The firm specializes in custom residential and estate design with projects located throughout the Western United States and Hawaii. Greg’s work, and that of the firm, has been recognized globally through numerous design awards and publications.

Greg’s artistry in place-sensitive design grew from his unique upbringing in Hawaii, where he found that culture and environment combine to inform the regional architecture. In particular, Greg found inspiration in the work of renowned regionalist Vladimir Ossipoff and attributes his early interest in architecture to his years attending Hawai’i Preparatory Academy, whose campus Ossipoff designed. For over 30 years, Walker Warner Architects has designed meaningful buildings that are site-responsive, stylistically timeless, and well-crafted. With active projects throughout California and the Hawaiian Islands, Greg continues his endeavor to create enduring architecture for inspired living.



The relaxation angle
The choice of defining a private place with black and white is interesting.



Living outdoors
Next to the villa, a canopy provides the perfect spot for outdoor relaxation; tub by Apaiser.