THEN AND WOW
Kitchen Remodel Inspired by Homeowner’s Ocean Lifestyle
OCEAN INSPIRATIONS

Kitchen remodel in Kobala Estates reflects homeowners’ ocean lifestyle

Owningers of Kobala Dunes in Kahaluu, Rebekah and Greg Kaufman wanted a new kitchen in their home that reflected their love of the ocean and their active lifestyle. Achieving this goal, however, would require a substantial remodel of their formerly cramped 1970 kitchen in Kobala Estates.

The “before” situation was dismal. The corner cabinets were difficult to open due to a construction error, plus there wasn’t enough clearance between the fridge and oven doors. Inside the tiny space, a wall dividing the kitchen from the living room obstructed the glorious ocean view.

Enlisting the talents of certified kitchen designer Carol Ann Vostale, of Kailua Kona, the couple proceeded to dive headfirst into the remodel. The first order of business was to expand the kitchen by an additional 325 square feet. Carol Ann spent months conceptualizing and modifying the plans, as well as dealing with the permitting process and working with contractors on all aspects of the project. The kitchen was completed in December 2017.

“We blew out the back exterior wall and then knocked out an interior wall to make it one big, great room and bring in light and space,” said Carol Ann. “We also added a breakfast nook with built-in benches and hinged storage. Rebekah wanted a nice display area at the home’s entry that would tie into the kitchen and include a built-in wall unit. We sandwiched rough hewn monkey pod between the unit’s open shelves above and the storage below.”

From the start, the color palette was to be ocean blues and whites. A key design element, the colorful backsplash made of recycled mburi wood, was sourced from Cambria Quartz in Oahu. The counters complement cabinetry featuring MDF doors from Pacific Source in Kailua Kona.

“We liked working with Pacific Source,” said Greg. “We’ve now ordered our bathroom vanities from them.”

Carol Ann is the exclusive distributor of high-end cabinet pulls made of recycled aluminum by an artist. “They don’t rust and are worth every penny,” she said. “Discount them to my customers.” Other top-quality features include the Franke stainless steel paired with a Hans Grue Encoir from Germany, both sourced from Ferguson Waterworks in Kailua Kona. Embedded beneath the prep island, the sharp-built microwave glides out automatically from the cabinet.

Greg is a fisherman and captain, while Rebekah is a dive instructor and captain. For 11 years, they have owned and operated Kobala Dunes along
The backsplash above the Wolf range is edged with quartz countertop material.

The “before” kitchen was a tiny 8’x10’ space.

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Certified kitchen designer Carol Ann VonHake conceptualized and oversaw the project.

Before

with Siren Sportfishing. This spring, they will acquire a new double-deck 46-foot Newton dive boat. Greg captains a 34-foot Black Watch Sportfisher.

Their love of marine life can be seen throughout their home, including colorful kitchenware and art. Created by local sculptor Chris Barela, a beautiful bronze octopus sculpture sits atop the Cambria quartz countertop in the kitchen.

“I have an octopus obsession,” said Rebekah. “I’m the underwater octopus whisperer. I can usually find them when we are diving. The whole family loves the ocean. We’re on the water every day.”

A realtor with MacArthur Sotheby’s International Realty in Keauhou, Carol Ann also has a design studio in the Chamber of Commerce building on Kuakini. She says that a beautiful, functional kitchen done right will command lasting value for the home. The Kaufmanns concur:

“It’s jaw dropping to compare the before and after photos,” said Rebekah. “We were so glad we hired Carol Ann.”