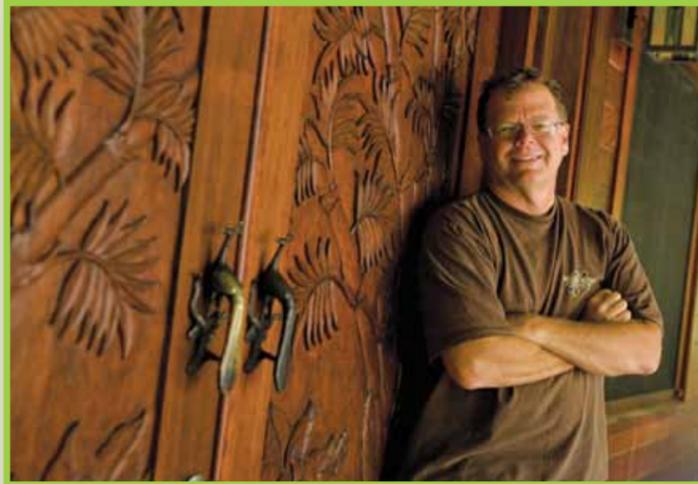


To Bali and Back

Captain Cook Home Pre-Assembled in Bali



Homeowner Bill Buckingham of Captain Cook.

By Kristina Anderson
Photography by Giselle Thompson

When Bill Buckingham and his wife Jane wanted to save money on the construction of their dream home in South Kona, they took the quest all the way to Bali — and back.

After all was said and done, the cost-effective home factored in at about \$150 per square foot. Designed by the Buckingham, with the help of local architect Neil Erickson, the home was pre-framed and assembled in Bali by a company called Teak Bali, then disassembled and shipped in containers to Kona.

After preparing the complex foundation — terraced into blue rock on an extreme slope — Bill and his local crew of six reassembled the house on the five-acre property in Captain Cook, called Sacred Grounds.

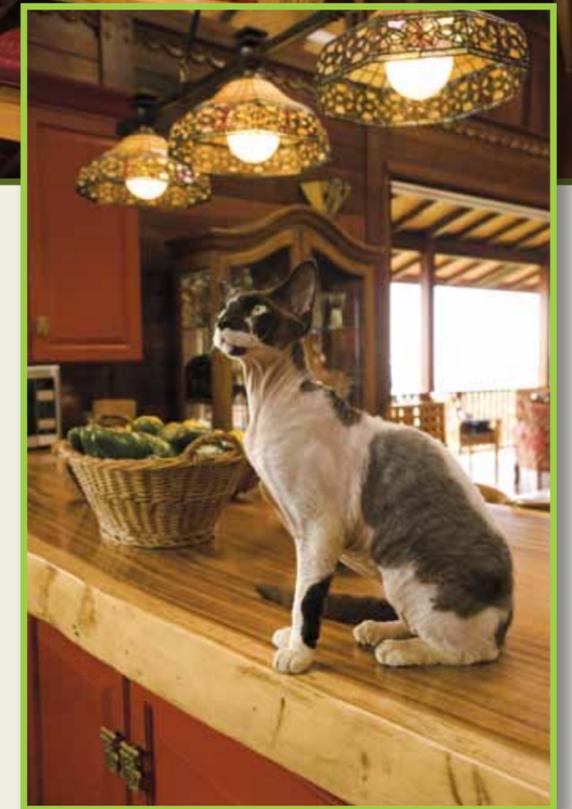
The stunning residence appears much more extravagant than its final price tag would belie, showcasing beautiful Indonesian hardwoods such as bangkirai and merbau. With its open ▶



Bill's wife Jane designed the nine-foot-high entry door carved in Bali and depicting images of bamboo and anthurium. The skylight is one of 15 polycarb skylights in the home sourced locally from HPM Roofing.



The dining room table was made of antique wood salvaged from an old building in Bali. Ali'i Woodtailors, of Captain Cook, crafted the custom kitchen cabinetry painted in Chinese red.



The Buckingham's exotic devon rex, "Taz," sits atop the kitchen counter made of suar wood from Bali.

"Jane would dream it, I would build it."

— Bill Buckingham, homeowner



Carved furniture from Bali.

floor plan, a wide wrap-around lanai, 16-foot ceilings and nine-foot entry doors, the two-story home is both spacious and spectacular.

“We wanted an open Polynesian look but we didn’t know how to go about getting the style of house we wanted at an affordable rate,” says Bill. “Teak Bali provided everything we needed, including working directly with our architect. We also found all our furniture in Bali and had it delivered to Teak Bali. They packed it and sent it to us with the home.”

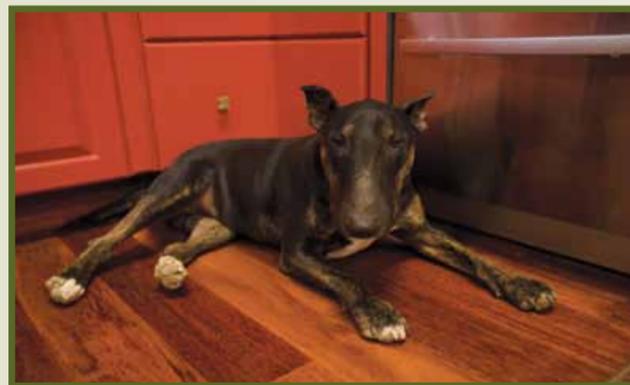
Married for 25 years, Jane and Bill met at an art show in Oregon. Sadly, Jane lost her brief struggle with cancer in 2011, leaving Bill to finish the house they had started together several years before. Bill credits Jane with the entire design and concept.

“All of this was really Jane’s vision,” notes Bill. “She had been conceiving this house in her head for 40 years. Jane would dream it, and I would build it.”

Bill and Jane worked extensively on all ►



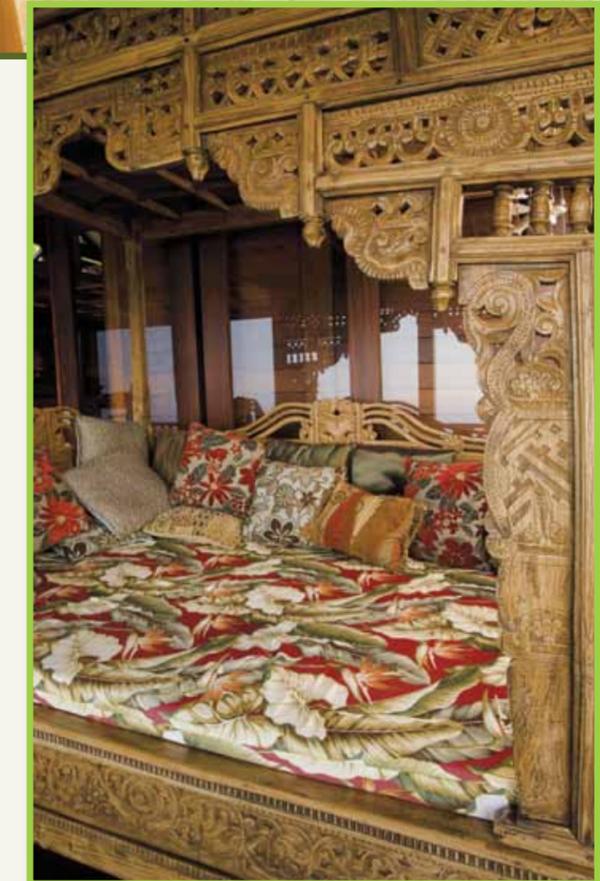
The master bedroom is divided from the living room (see cover photo) by two enormous sliding doors carved in merbau wood. The couple found all their furniture in Bali — including this four-poster teak bed — which was shipped to Kona along with their disassembled home pre-built by the Teak Bali company.



“Kalani,” the Buckingham’s bull terrier.



In the master bathroom, marble flooring and merbau walls create a luxurious, spa-like feeling that complements the composite-stone resin bathtub — all from Bali.



Outside on the lanai, the Balinese day bed provides stellar views of the Honaunau coastline.


 “I envision a community center for the arts here at Sacred Grounds.”
 — Bill Buckingham, homeowner



Pictured above, the custom-designed home was pre-assembled in Bali, then disassembled and shipped to Kona in containers. The Teak Bali company worked directly with the Buckingham's and their locally based architect, Neil Erickson, of Hilo.



Photo courtesy Bill Buckingham

Bill and his late wife, Jane Buckingham, worked together on the home, installing fixtures, tile and more. Jane hand-painted every board in the house.



Photo by Karen Anderson

Ali'i Woodtailors, of Captain Cook, crafted this ingenious corner draw in the kitchen. Granite countertops come from Tile Warehouse in Kailua-Kona.



Outfitted entirely in merbau, the lower story functions as a retreat for visiting clergy. The home sits on a working coffee farm, Sacred Grounds, which also includes a pottery-making studio and art center.

Jane gets credit for the many Asian- and Indonesian-themed touches, décor and finishes such as the Chinese-red kitchen cabinetry with kanji character drawer pulls, the Balinese bed linens and Javanese marble floors. The elaborately carved four-poster bed from Bali was a bargain at only \$300. Various treasures from Oregon include an antique gaslight from Jane's parents' home.

For Bill, the project also had a divine purpose. In the room below, Bill created his own heavenly space — an interdenominational meditative retreat designed to host guest ministers, allowing them a spot to refocus and recharge. Quiet and fully furnished, the suite gives visiting clergy from all over the world an opportunity to draw nearer to God, says Bill.

"I wanted to invest in a kingdom that was not just earthly, but one that had eternal value," explains Bill, who studied theology at seminary and in college and readily shares ►

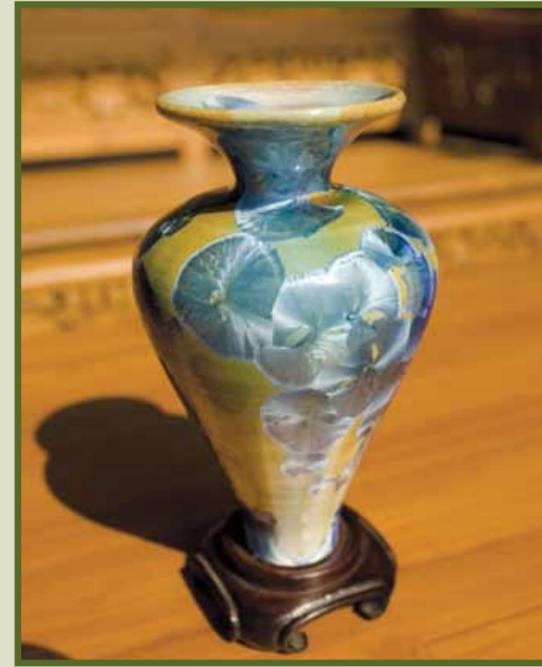
WEST HAWAII TODAY; 4.7383 in; 5.25 in; Black; 000056324r1

Pacific Kona Landscaping; 4.7383 in; 5.25 in; Black plus three; 000056309r1

the details, down to the fixtures and furniture — every board in the home was hand-painted by Jane. Hilo architect Neil Erickson and his son, a structural engineer, worked with the Buckingham's on the design of the 5,000-square-foot home and its massive, earthquake-proof foundation, a building feat in its own right. The couple even traveled to Bali to witness the assembly process.

"The Buckingham's were as 'hands on' as any clients we have ever had," said Danny Uffner, director at Teak Bali. "They came to Bali during the construction phase and were intimately involved with every step of the re-assembly process in Hawai'i. They really put their blood, sweat and tears into their wonderful house and we consider it our pre-eminent Teak Bali house in the Hawaiian Islands."

Bill says the house qualifies as "almost green," considering the 24 photovoltaic panels with net metering installed. ►



Homeowner Bill Buckingham is also a professional potter accomplished in the complex art of crystalline glazing.

his faith with those who visit the Sacred Grounds coffee farm on the property. “The Lord really spoke to me about it and I knew I had to build the retreat. My heart and passion lie in ministry and serving in the community.”

In addition to his spiritual pursuits, Bill has excelled as a professional potter for decades. Back in Eugene, Oregon, he researched how to grow crystal patterns in glaze, a highly specialized process that requires special minerals, temperatures of 2,400 degrees and firing schedules that exceed 20 hours. The resulting intricate designs resemble otherworldly starbursts of light. Only a few potters in the world practice this time-consuming and complex art, called “crystalline glazing.”

To embrace his love of pottery, Bill built a new studio on the property, where he plans to hold pottery workshops for a few select students. The goal, he says, is to “build relationships, get to know people in the enrichment of their lives, and find what hidden gifts someone might have inside.”

Not surprisingly, Bill also grows and processes award-winning coffee on the property. He calls it “Sacred Grounds.”

Says Bill: “This has been a true labor of love for both Jane and me. I was also excited about creating something that has more to do with helping people. How can we love people more? That’s what it is all about.” **AH**