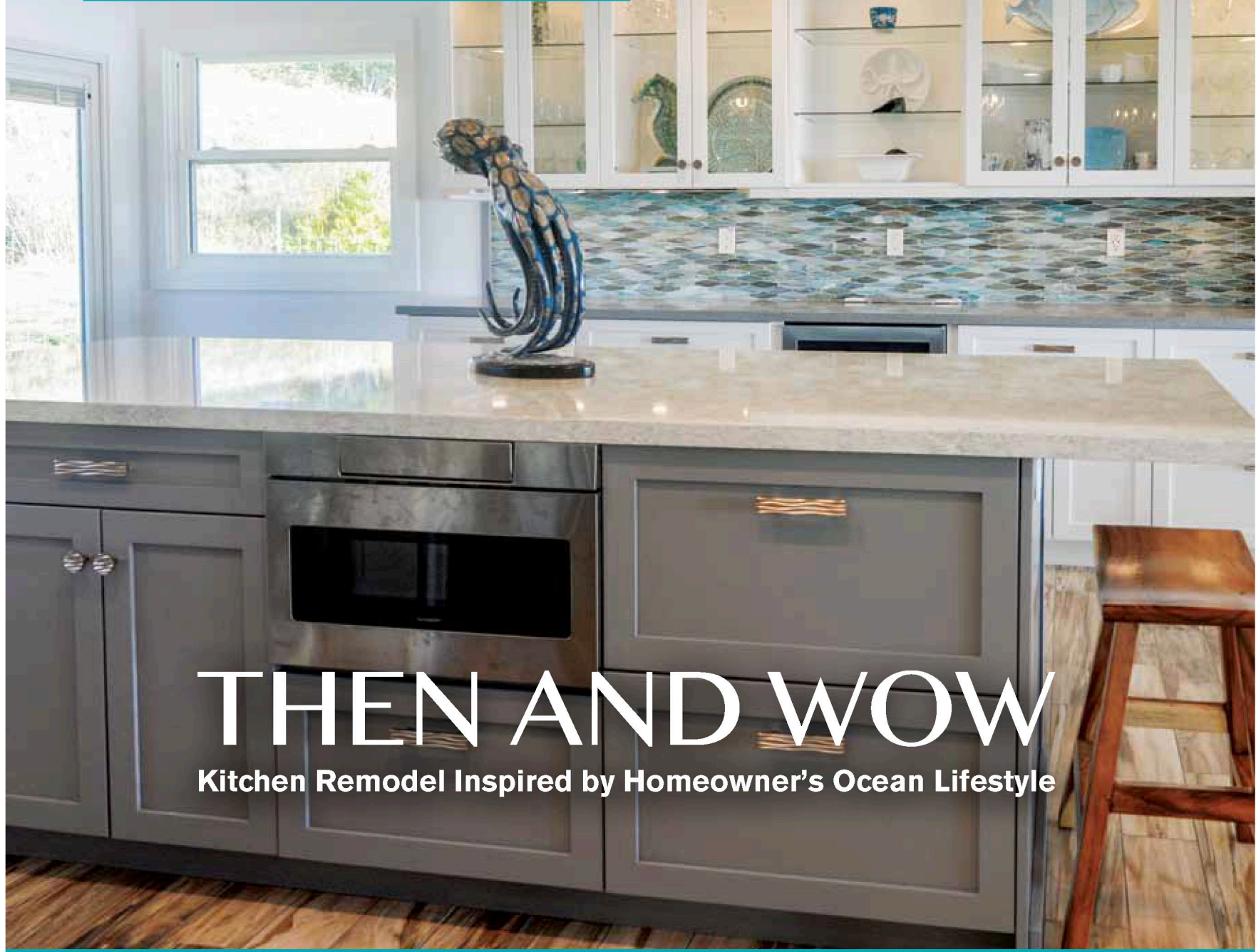


WEST HAWAII TODAY | HAWAII TRIBUNE-HERALD | FEBRUARY 2018

at home

LIVING WITH STYLE ON HAWAII ISLAND



THEN AND WOW

Kitchen Remodel Inspired by Homeowner's Ocean Lifestyle

COVER STORY

The new kitchen showcases custom cabinetry from Pacific Source in Kona's New Industrial. The "beach-glass" backsplash came from Davis Tile & Marble, while the Cambria countertop and wood-grain plank porcelain flooring came from Tile Warehouse.

OCEAN INSPIRATIONS

Kitchen remodel in Kohala Estates reflects homeowners' ocean lifestyle

A bronze octopus sculpted by Chris Barela sits atop a beautiful Cambria quartz countertop from Tile Warehouse in Kailua-Kona. The counters and floors were installed by Stone Solutions, based in Kawaihae.

Owners of Kohala Divers in Kawaihae, Rebekah and Greg Kaufmann 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 8'x10' kitchen in Kohala 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. Aside from the tiny space, a wall dividing the kitchen from the living room obscured the glorious ocean view.

Enlisting the talents of certified kitchen designer Carol Ann VonHake, 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 monkeypod between the unit's open shelving 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 tumbled-glass comes from Davis Tile & Marble in Kailua-Kona. Sourced from Tile Warehouse, Cambria

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 anodized recycled aluminum sculpted by an artist. "They don't rust and are worth every penny," she said. "I discount

them to my customers." Other top-quality fixtures include the Franke stainless sink paired with a Hans Grohe faucet from Germany, both sourced from Ferguson Waterworks in Kailua-Kona. Embedded beneath the prep island, the Sharp built-in microwave glides out automatically from the cabinetry.

Greg is a fisherman and captain, while Rebekah is a dive instructor and captain. For 11 years, they have owned and operated Kohala Divers along

The backsplash above the Wolf range is edged with quartz countertop material.



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

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



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.” ■