

EXTRAS

Positioned above new kitchen cabinetry, illuminated soffits provide display shelves for Nani Lim-Yap's collection of hula awards and instruments from the Merrie Monarch Festival. The kumu hula and her husband, Ed, commissioned interior designer Sue Moss, of Waimea, to transform their previously dated kitchen into a showplace.

THEN AND WOW!

Waikoloa kitchen remodel earns ASID award for Interior Designer Sue Moss

It's an award-winning kitchen for an award-winning kumu hula.

Renowned singer, musician and hula master, Nani Lim-Yap, was in dire need of a kitchen makeover at her home in Waikoloa. So she and her husband, Ed, sought the services of an interior designer who has an award-winning resume of her own.

Sue Moss, of Trans-Pacific Design in Waimea, helped the couple transform their previously

cramped and dated kitchen into a spacious, practical and contemporary showplace. The remodel was recently lauded at the American Society of Interior Designers' (ASID) 2015 Hawaii Design Excellence Awards this September on O'ahu, earning Sue the Award of Merit for a Single Space Contemporary Hawai'i Kitchen.

The before-and-after photos tell the story, says Sue, who founded her design firm in Waimea in 1991 after working as a designer on O'ahu and Kauai for many years.

"First of all, the old kitchen had a corner sink, which was really awkward because only one person could stand there. There was also a 'peninsula' counter with cooktop that jutted out into the room, blocking access. A long, overhead crossbeam really closed in the space and had unattractive florescent lighting panels in it. The entire kitchen needed more storage space and more lighting to brighten things up."

Sue called on Waimea architect Clem Lam to advise about the remodel and draw up the plans. The

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With the help of Waimea architect Clem Lam, interior designer Sue Moss created a practical kitchen remodel that involved installing new cabinets, relocating the sink, counters and stovetop, and opening up the space.



The old kitchen's awkward layout made access difficult due to the counter that jutted out into the entry. Also problematic: the cramped corner sink and imposing crossbeam.



The newly remodeled kitchen is contemporary, bright and spacious.



PHOTO: GISELLE THOMPSON

Interior designer Sue Moss, of Trans-Pacific Design in Waimea, earned recognition from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) for the kitchen remodel she completed for Waikoloa resident Nani Lim-Yap and husband, Ed.

strategy was to remove the awkward crossbeam and peninsula, relocate the sink, install new flooring, cabinets and counters and add more storage space.

Waimea contractor Tom Zambeck was instrumental in renovating the space. He also added the display soffits, designed by Sue, against the far walls above the new cabinets. Doubling as art shelves, the soffits display Nani's collection of *pahu* (drum) and *ipu* (gourd) hula instruments awarded through the years to her halau, Na Lei O Kaholoku, winner of the 41st Merrie Monarch Festival in 2004.

The '80s-era plastic laminate cabinets were replaced with custom-sized maple cabinets from Lowe's that fit perfectly around the original fridge. The Sharp microwave actually pulls out of an oven cabinet like a drawer, which is situated near a prep counter next to the fridge. A new electric stovetop takes its rightful place in the "cooking zone," while the sink has been relocated to the "clean-up" area of the kitchen.

The beautiful glass-and-stone tile backsplash came from Hawai'i Stone Imports in Kailua-Kona. Resembling wood planks, the porcelain tile came from DalTile in Honolulu. For countertops, sleek, white quartz complements the new color on the walls, a light teal called Icy Morn, from Benjamin Moore.

Sue recalls with a laugh how she was dressed like Mrs. Claus when she initially landed Nani's kitchen remodel job.

"Ed had called us awhile back about hiring us to do some work, but then we didn't hear back," said Sue. "Much later, I ran into them at the Parker Ranch restaurant after the Waimea Christmas parade. I was dressed up as Mrs. Claus but that didn't faze Nani. She called me right away and we got the ball rolling."

The couple is so happy with the remodel they've hired Sue to redo their master bathroom next.

"The kitchen turned out exactly how we imagined it," said Sue. "It took a lot of planning but it was really rewarding." ■