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THE HOME GENTRY

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Aloha Modern

Famed California architect Hagy Belzberg conjures a modern masterpiece at Hualalai on the spectacular Kona Coast.

ARCHITECTURE BY HAGY BELZBERG • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: BELT COLLINS
CONTRACTOR: TINGUELY DEVELOPMENT • INTERIOR APPOINTMENTS BY MLK STUDIO

Set just off of the 7th green and 8th tee of the Hualalai Golf Course is one of Santa Monica-based architect Hagy Belzberg's favorite residential projects—a stunning contemporary home that covers nearly 8,000 square feet of indoor and covered outdoor space.

“Many architects look to a property’s heritage for cues,” notes Belzberg (the man responsible for the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles). “In the case of Hawaii, one can draw from colonial architecture or native structures, many of which melded lava stone and woven grasses.” As Belzberg—who earned the 2014 *Interior Design Magazine* Hall of Fame Award that recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Design and Architecture industry—notes: “We chose

to work with those elements that were indigenous to the island and reinterpret them in fresh way.”

One of the customs Hawaiians have passed down through the centuries is that of the welcome. People would gather fruits and flowers in baskets to offer guests. Belzberg took the idea of a welcome basket and extrapolated it—creating a spectacular ceremonial welcome sequence for guests arriving at this special home. A driveway of lava stone with grass joints winds up to a negative-edge pool with a dramatic fire feature crossed by a basalt plinth and topped by a latticework parabola that resembles an inverted basket. “Essentially this gateway,” notes Belzberg, “acts as a gift of sorts—a gracious welcome to all who visit the home.”

From the parabola, one sees a breezeway that runs through the center of the home connecting various structures or pods on a



A great room pod includes a kitchen, living room, and dining area complete with a built-in wine cellar wall. Sliding glass doors on two sides open to the garden and a dramatic raised lap pool with views of the golf course and Pacific beyond.

direct axis between views of the dormant volcano and the ocean. The breezeway features reclaimed teak beams, wall-mounted conical glass vases displaying the owner's beloved orchids, and swinging floor-to-ceiling glass doors that keep out strong breezes. At the end of the breezeway, a stunning reflection pool beckons. An additional infinity-edge lap swimming pool becomes a quiet art piece reflecting the sky, the clouds, and the setting sun while

a raised hot tub enjoys sweeping golf course and ocean vistas.

The home's interior spaces are at one with the surrounding gardens. Floor-to-ceiling Honduran mahogany windows and pocket sliding doors abound in nearly every room. The largest of the pods is a great room featuring a kitchen, dining room, and living room that open to the lap pool and view. A domed ceiling in the great room is lined with strips of cedar to resemble Hawaiian



destination design



The master suite (above) features a laser-carved cedar headboard and ceiling, office, private gym, and a spa-like bath with indoor and outdoor showers. Award-winning architect Hagy Belzberg's parabola entrance (below left) to the home welcomes guests through a water and fire feature. The view from the lap pool (bottom right) is to the Hualalai Course.

grass skirts, and a stacked lava stonewall features a hidden pop-out television. The kitchen includes European walnut cabinets by Boffi with counters of crystallized glass and stainless steel.

Other pods include an office, media room, and garage. Additionally, two separate guest pods feature three bedrooms and three baths each. Belzberg situated the master suite pod at the western corner of the home and set it a few feet higher in elevation than the rest of the home, thereby creating privacy while still allowing the home to remain on a single level. The master suite boasts stunning views of the horizon and the island of Maui, and features

a vaulted, carved cedar ceiling. Corner-less pocket doors open the bedroom onto a private covered lanai, pool courtyard, and open grass lawn. The master bath takes advantage of the views as well through a unique glass wall with floating mirrors. An adjoining outdoor garden offers a stacked stone shower enclosure featuring two outdoor showerheads and a soaking tub.

The lush gardens surrounding the home are planted with a variety of tropical fruits that bloom throughout the year. "Essentially, the homeowners can pick their own fruit salad at a moment's notice," smiles Belzberg. Ahh . . . welcome to paradise. ♦

