Does the sum of the parts equal the whole? In the case of this beachfront, high-rise apartment, it’s debatable. At times the apartment’s elaborate “parts” nearly top the whole. Overall, the owners kept the remodel “contemporary and simple.” The project’s interior designer, Geoffrey Hassman, says, “My first design of this apartment looked nothing like this. It was much more traditional, with crown molding, pillars and so forth. But it was imperative to the husband to keep it simple. That was very important to him.” However, the apartment’s “parts” were mostly determined by the wife, a person with an eye for interior design. From a one-of-a-kind murano glass table from Italy to custom-etched glass herculite doors, the parts of this apartment define the whole.

Almost a decade ago, the couple bought one of the two top-floor apartments of this Diamond Head building, hoping that the second one would someday become available. They wanted to combine the apartments, making the building’s top floor one large penthouse. When the neighboring apartment finally opened up, they jumped on the opportunity to buy it. They hired Hassman, a well-seasoned New York designer, who recently relocated to Hawaii, to merge the two spaces. The new 2,150-square-foot floor plan includes a bedroom and bath, media room, guest bath, kitchen, dining/family room and master suite, with bath.

“The original apartments weren’t very attractive,” Hassman notes. “They were very long and narrow.” Once Hassman connected the two spaces, the residence became u-shaped, with a sweeping view of the south shore.

Hassman says the interior design was mostly a collaboration among himself, the wife and … the color purple. With a passion for a particular shade of purple, the woman of the house had many of the furnishings custom made in that hue.

Perhaps the most fabulous purple piece is the murano glass dining table, with blue and purple legs. Hassman says, “The owners were in Italy when they found this table. We were considering some other tables, but they kept coming back to this one. They asked the Italian artist, Roberto Fortunati, of Marco Polo Int’l, to design some new glass legs for the table to incorporate her special shade of purple.”

The glass table’s seats, which were designed in the ’30s, are metal chairs that were originally upholstered in leather. Hassman reupholstered them with purple mohair velvet to match the table. The same fabric was also used to reupholster the modern kitchen chairs from INpiration.
The master bedroom also has a punch of purple. The bed’s bench and the floor-to-ceiling headboard were upholstered in Designtex purple vinyl by Romeo, of VRS Upholstery. “Vinyl has a bad wrap,” Hassman explains. “When you think of vinyl, you think of naugahide. But the design market has taken vinyl to such brilliant levels, it’s now as expensive as some fine fabrics. People mistake it for satin.”

“The wife had everything to do with the interior design. The husband … he is spectacular … totally respected his wife and what she was capable of doing. He just stepped back and let us go.” However, he did have one demand. “He’s heavy into football,” says Hassman, “so his only major request was that everywhere he walked in the house he would be able to see a TV.”

Home Automation Hawaii, a high-tech home-theater company, wired the house with five TVs, and three separate surround-sound systems. One system was designed for a separate media room, with a Sony V Wega Engine wide-screen plasma TV.

Because of the breathtaking view, the owners decided to remodel with glass rather than concrete. Hassman says, “They realized that by combining the two apartments, they’d get a giant, three-sided glass room.” The apartment is enclosed with a series of sliding doors and windows. The three ocean-facing sides were installed with stacking glass doors. When open, the entire apartment becomes one gigantic lanai.

“Since this home is all glass and on the ocean,” Hassman says, “in the afternoon, this place fries. Window coverings were a major issue, but I didn’t want shutters or anything that would block the view. So we installed UV blocking solar shades from Kreative Kamaaina. The company is excellent … they’ve done a whole string of jobs for me.”

The 27 electric shades are on one of the three computer systems (shades, lights and audiovisual) that Kerry Bradshaw, in conjunction with Home Automation Hawaii, installed to run the apartment. “The shades can be raised and lowered individually, room by room or the entire apartment at once. In keeping with the apartment’s contemporary, clean-lines, the wife chose simple, light maple cabinetry for throughout the space. The woodwork here is staggering.”

The walls without cabinetry are textured with Venetian plaster. The plaster recipe is based on a mix of aged slaked lime, ground marble dust and pigment. “The plaster I ordered from Bonded Materials Co. is from Italy. The company sent me sample boards, so I could approve the color,” Hassman says.
Working with Venetian plaster is remarkably labor intensive, with several coats of plaster, sealer and polish. Hassman says, “It’s really about technique. It’s only as good as the person who does it.”

Bonded Materials’ representative, Gay Hamilton, instructed Hassman’s painter from Mariano Painting & Wallcovering, on the intricacies of this traditional plastering technique. Hassman walks up to one of the room’s plastered pillars and admires the workmanship. “The plaster is polished so well you can see the reflection of your face in it.”

The apartment’s floor also underwent special treatment. After the 18-inch tile limestone was installed, Hassman had it ground down by a 1/16 of an inch with a grinding machine. Hassman says that the treatment smooths out the floor. “You can barely see any of the seams.” Hassman says. “Like the plaster paint job, it’s very subtle, but it makes a huge difference. This is the way all the old Italian villas used to be built.”

For a final twist, Hassman asked his clients to bring down the ceiling by 3.25 inches. “It’s always the most shocking thing I ask my clients to do. But, because of this building’s concrete ceilings, I wouldn’t be able to do any creative lighting unless I could come up from underneath.”

He notes that this apartment’s structural vertical beams and doors draw your eye up, making the ceiling appear taller. “The ceilings don’t feel like they’re coming down on your head. And, now, with all the lighting, this place has some real drama … at sunset and nighttime, this place is mind blowing.”

Suppliers

Cabinetry: Custom maple cabinets, by Gavin Woodworking
Fabrics: Sofas covered in Tysilk, from Steven Harvey Textiles.
Vinyl & velvet mohair: Designtex mohair velvet for the chairs and vinyl for bed
Floors: 18-inch-square limestone tiles, from Marmol
Herculite glass etching: By Bill Grix, of WM Grix Art Glass
Herculite glass maker: KKK Glass
Kitchen counters: Granite, from Marmol
Hand-painted light switch covers: Todd Michaels, of Todd Michaels Design
Lighting: Lighting Elegance
Murano glass table: Artist Roberto
Fortunato, of Marco Polo Int’l in Venice
Painting: Armando, of Mariano Painting & Wallcovering
Solar Shades: Kreative Kamakina
Upholstery: Romeo, of VRS Upholstery
Venetian Plaster: Bonded Materials Co.
House is an ageless fashion brand which brims over with youthful energy thanks to its authenticity and creative approach to trends. We combine newest trends with a street look and our own unique interpretation of fashion, creating individual, original and versatile looks for any occasion. House offers compelling solutions, bold combinations and eye-catching accessories; it eagerly draws inspiration from art, pop culture, social media trends and everything else that young people are passionate about. House Wiki is a database that anyone can edit about the TV series House, M.D. airing on FOX created by David Shore and starring Hugh Laurie. About House, M.D. House, also known as House, M.D., was a critically-acclaimed American medical drama television series created by David Shore and executively produced by film director Bryan Singer. The Emmy and Peabody award-winning medical drama debuted on the FOX Network on November 16, 2004, and aired its last episode on May 21, 2012. [Progressive House] - Trivecta - Into The Limelight (feat. Danyka Nadeau) [Monstercat Release]. Monstercat: Uncaged. [Progressive House] - Eminence & Supermans Feinde - Night Goes On (feat. Q'AILA). Monstercat: Uncaged.