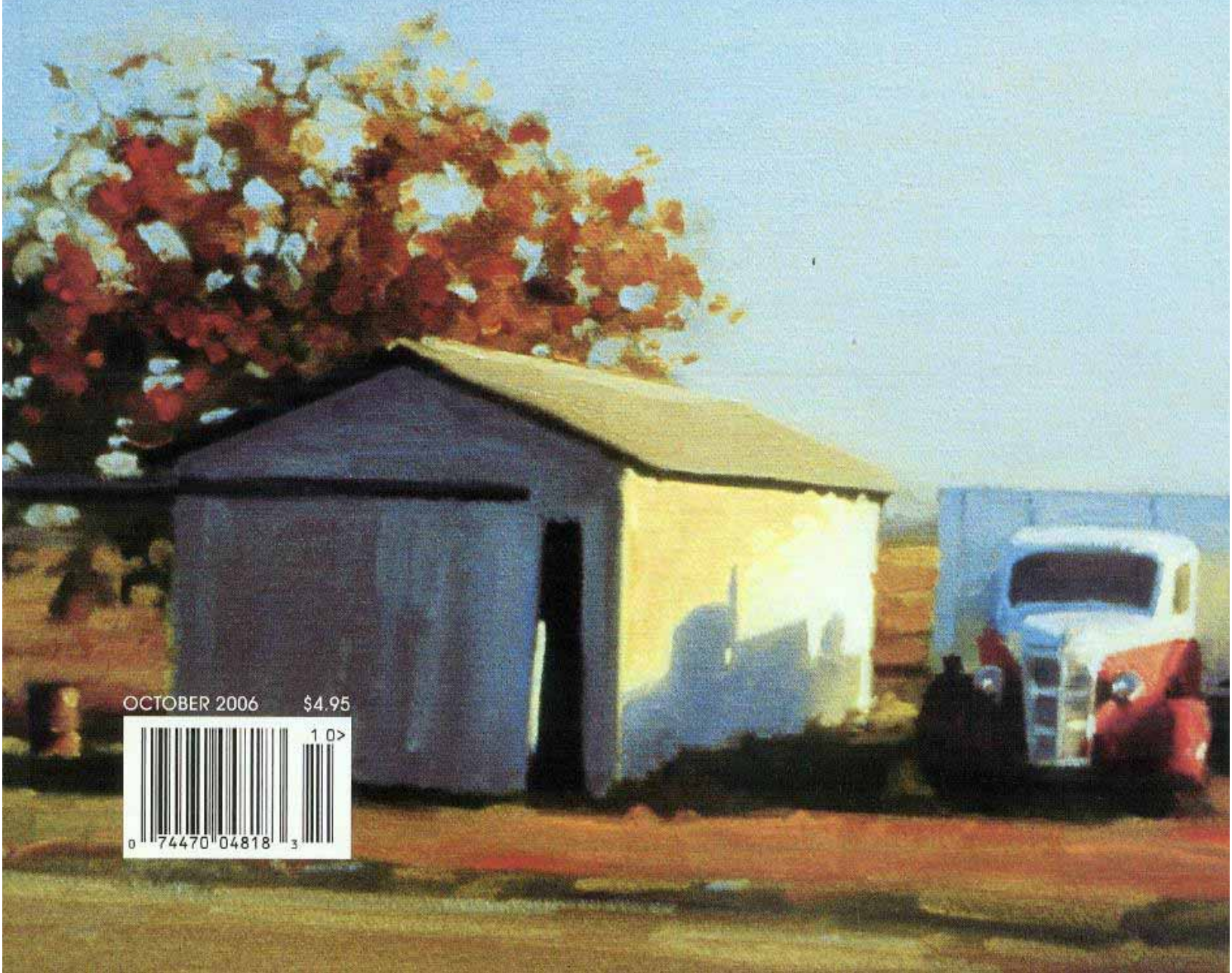


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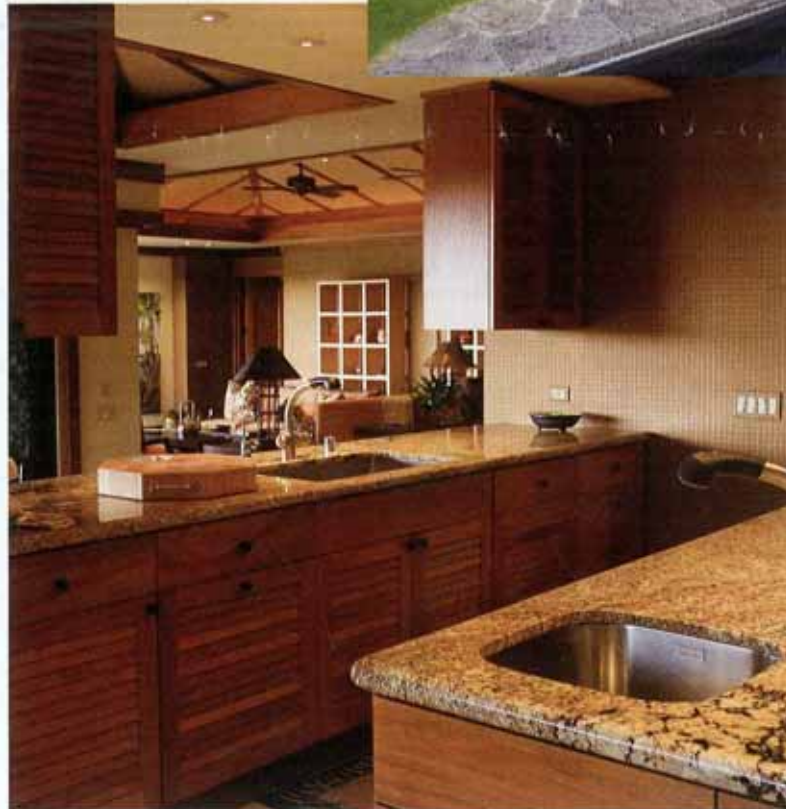
Tiburón family catches the aloha spirit

STORY P. J. BREMIER PHOTOS BARBARA RIES





Hawaii home opens to outdoor living from most rooms. Interior designer Peggy Chestnut chose a palette of greens, oranges and earthy browns to keep the look true to its Hawaiian roots.



To most observers, Tiburon residents Marc Cabi, a private equity investor, and his wife, Lisa, a former lawyer turned chef, live in paradise. Two years ago they moved from San Francisco to a Ring Mountain hillside home, and the area has everything they'd wanted—proximity to the city's cultural and social life, fabulous weather, great views, immediate access to outdoor activities and a nurturing environment for raising their two young daughters.

When they hear the alluring call of aloha drifting toward them on Pacific trade winds, though, they answer eagerly, hopping a flight to Kona, where they are soon ensconced in another paradise, their other home on the South Kohala Coast.

"We were hooked," Lisa Cabi says of their first visit to the islands. "We would vacation in Maui and I kept hearing about the Four Seasons' Hualalai on the Big Island." Six years ago, when they decided to see it for themselves, they "landed on a lava field in Kona and Marc loved the stark beauty and energy of the lava," she recalls. "He started looking at real estate and that was the end of that." What drew him, Marc adds, was the "natural beauty of the island combined with the hedonistic amenities of the Hualalai Resort."

The Cabis built their second home on a golf course at Hualalai three years ago, and they now enjoy full use of the resort's facilities, including a private golf course reserved for residents. Large sliding doors that open the rear of their house to the outdoors also frame dramatic views of the course, with its lush greens, black lava and dazzling blue ocean beyond.

The private garden holds its own enticements. An infinity pool, a hot tub, a pair of outdoor Hawaiian beds, a natural pond with tropical plants and fish, and outdoor showers surrounded by fragrant pikake plants are irresistibly seductive. It's where the Cabi family loves to swim, dine, nap outside and feel the Hawaiian breezes.

The couple chose a local designer, Peggy Chesnut, to give the home an authentic island flavor. "She has a fabulous sense of color and style," Lisa says. "I wanted it to be light and colorful and traditional."

With a palette of vibrant greens and oranges and earthy browns, the home is true to its Hawaiian roots. Art by local artists, several koa wood furnishings by a local craftsman, and upholstery in fun patterns all work together to achieve the regional sensibility the Cabis desired.





The girls' rooms are where the Hawaiian motif really takes off, with magenta and lime-green hues and bedskirts made of the type of grasses hula dancers wear. "They have really funky hula girl rooms," Lisa acknowledges with a laugh. "They're very bright and very fun."

Outside, a small guest house with its own kitchen also has a tropical flavor, with vintage Hawaiian posters on the wall.

"The island is like home to us," says Lisa. "It's environmentally diverse, [with everything] from snow to rain forests to volcanoes, and we've explored most of it. It remains very old Hawaii."

Visiting their island home during school vacations and for at least half the summer, the Cabis integrate their daughters into Hawaiian culture through courses offered by the resort's on-site cultural center. "They are definitely teeny wahinis," Lisa says. "The hotel has an amazing kids' program, so they take part in crafts, eagle ray feedings and hula lessons."

There is also no shortage of outdoor activities. "We take long walks along the water, exercise and golf, paddle in outrigger canoes and spend lots of time in the pool," Lisa says. Marc, who has competed in the Keauhou race, a half-Ironman competition, enjoys biking the Ironman Hawaii route. "I like to take long rides of two to three hours," he says. "The beauty of the volcano mauka (toward the mountains) and the ocean makai (toward the sea) makes the ride very enjoyable."

Despite the geographic distance, life in Kona has a strong Marin connection.

"There are quite a few Marinites with homes there," Marc says. "We have made new friends here in Marin as a result of meeting them in Hawaii first. We share a bond with them and our children are growing up with friends that they get to see each summer and on holidays."

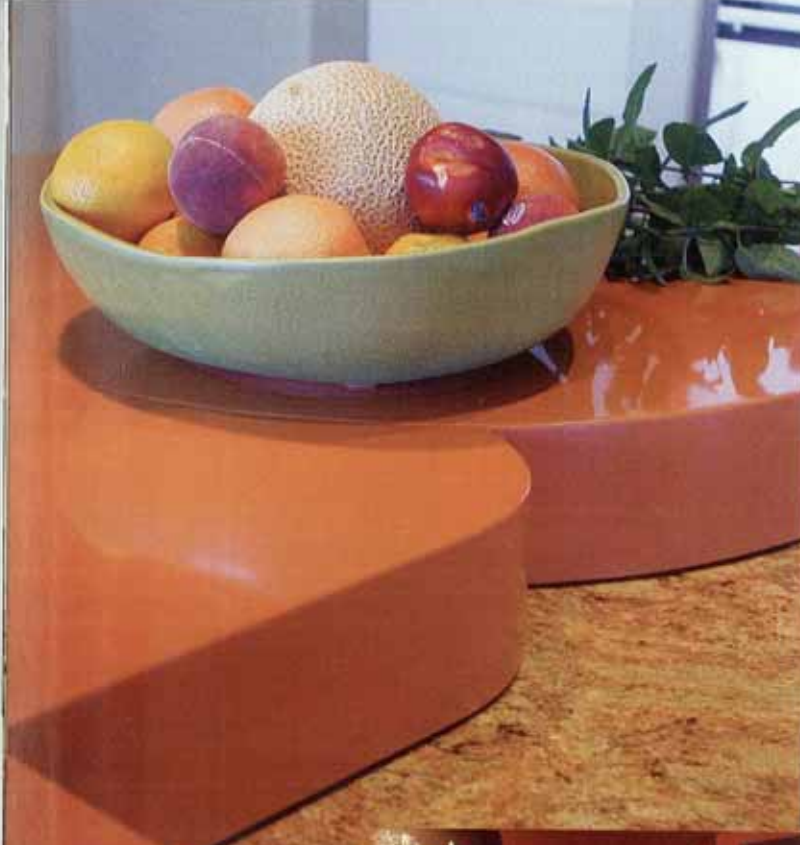
Back in Marin, the Cabis have their routines. Marc drops the girls off at a private school in the city on his way to work; Lisa tests recipes in her home kitchen, working on food product development for Marc's newly acquired bakery and preserving fruits and vegetables that she's harvested from her extensive garden.

Like the Cabis' home in Kona, their French Mediterranean-style home in Tiburon takes advantage of the natural landscape through extensive use of windows, providing vistas of San Francisco, the East Bay, Angel and Belvedere islands and the grassy Tiburon hillside. "The views feel very Mediterranean, so we decorated in a contemporary South of France villa style," Lisa says. "The house is very colorful and, at times, playful."



Tiburon home is decorated in a contemporary South of France villa style. Interior designer Steven Miller carefully selected furniture, colors and objects to work together in harmony with all rooms. Below: Cabi family.





“The kitchen called for stronger colors of orange, yellow and green. There’s a liveliness to it. It feels like a family kitchen but it’s suitable for entertaining as well.” —STEVEN MILLER

They achieved this effect with the skillful help of their favorite Bay Area designer, Steven Miller of Steven Miller Design Group in San Francisco. He had plenty to work with, including a gym, library and media room, a dining room and living room, kitchen, pantry, laundry room, family office, guest suite, master suite and bedrooms for each daughter. A swimming pool, orchard, and lawn make up the outdoor living area.

With Lisa Cabi being a chef, the kitchen is an important room and place to gather. Stronger colors were used to create a lively family atmosphere and also be conducive to entertaining guests.



The blue and white of the living room were chosen to suggest the colors of the Côte d’Azur. Rust and teal add drama to the library; off-white and rust-orange enliven the dining room. The kitchen called for stronger colors of orange, yellow and green, Miller says. “There’s a liveliness to it. It feels like a family kitchen but it’s suitable for entertaining as well.”

Miller sought “to create an instant history for the house,” he explains. “I wanted to make it feel collected and assembled over time rather than look like a newly built house with new furniture.”



He deliberately retained harmony among all rooms that opened up and were visible to each other by carefully select-

ing the furniture, objects and colors. “We wanted each room to look good and to look good with one another.” He also designed several of the home’s furnishings, including the ottomans and the rug in the living room, the headboard in the master bedroom, the kitchen island and hood, case-work for the media center and the girls’ desks in the media room, as well as their bedroom furniture.

All of it was integral to his elaborate design narrative. “In my mind, this was a house that belonged to a French-Mediterranean family who travels a lot, with relatives in Turkey and children from Asia,” he says. “So there would be a layered collection, with castoffs from a house in Paris, some fine European and Asian antiques, some stylish upholstery, and art that was either modern or had a historical context.”

Nowhere in their Tiburon home, however, is there a nod to the Pacific Islands. That’s because “we like Hawaii to be our special family getaway,” says Marc. Keeping their private island retreat a world apart is how they make sure it stays that way.



