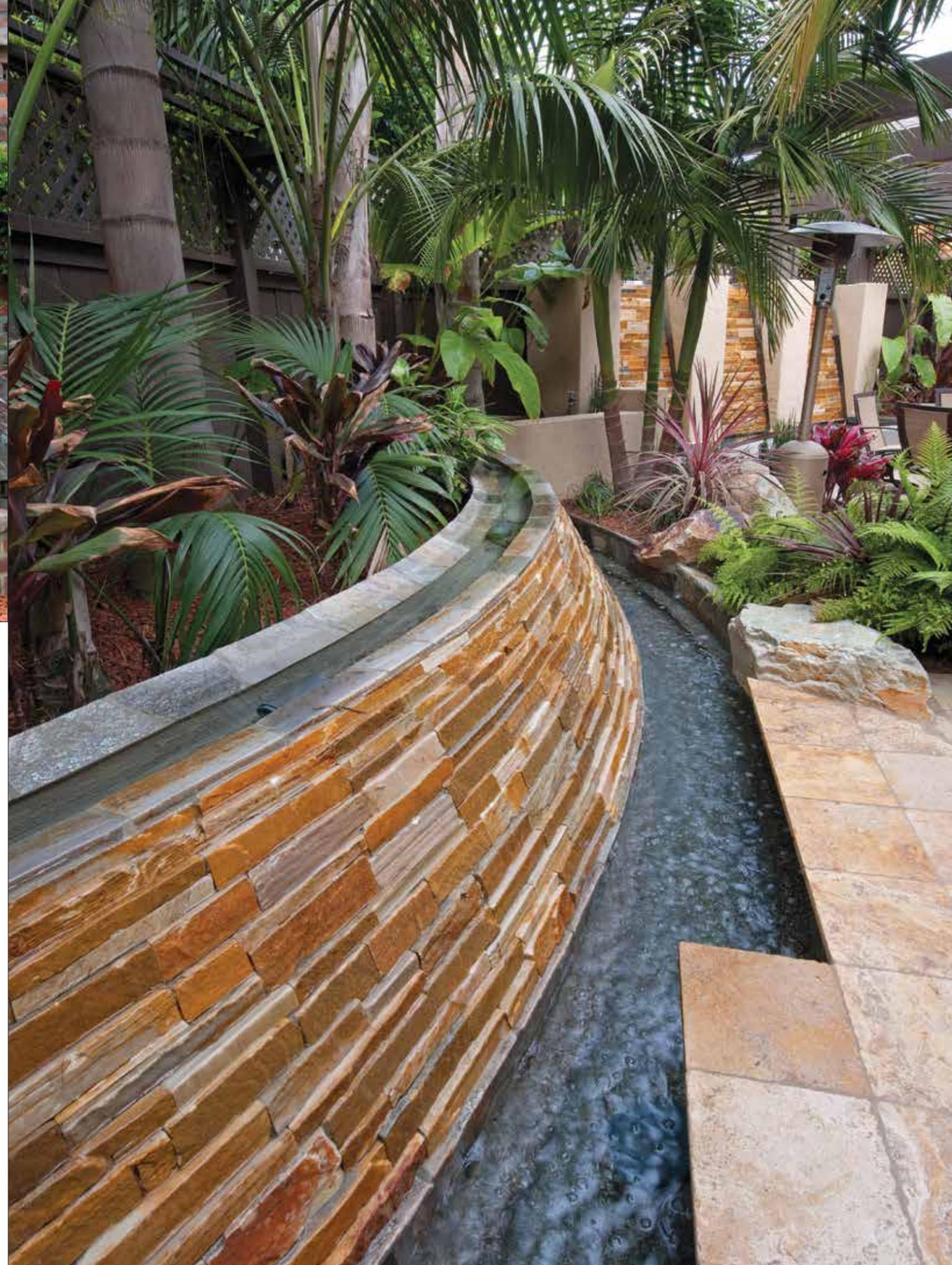




# PUPUS, ANYONE?

A HAWAIIAN GETAWAY, WITHOUT LEAVING HOME



BY MARY JAMES | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB WIGAND

**I**n 1998, when he purchased it, Bob Campbell's Coronado home was stuck in the decade it was built. Low ceilings, cramped rooms, a conversation pit and a party-size spa tub shouted 1970s.

Over nine years, interior remodels turned the three-story home into an open, light-filled "California" residence for Campbell, who moved here from Philadelphia, and his wife, Becci Rocco, an Ohio native. Then the couple turned to the exterior, determined to have "the outside reflect the inside, to have the 'wow' factor there, too," says Campbell.

Impressed by a neighbor's tropical landscape, Campbell and Rocco hired the same landscape designer, Ciro Delgadillo of Ciro's Landscaping Inc. of Escondido, to transform the entry garden, then a flat patch of grass dwarfed by a con-

crete driveway, and side patio with its nondescript fireplace and dated lap pool.

Fifteen months later, five garden rooms circled the home, accented by stylish fountains, a conversation-starting fireplace and lush plantings that remind the owners of Hawaiian getaways. Last year, the renovation was honored with two first-place awards in the California Landscape Contractors Association statewide contest.

Mahogany doors in a historic brick wall, built decades ago to enclose nearby Crown Manor, swing open to reveal the new multi-level entry garden. Ribbons of travertine tile, acid-aged concrete and terra-cotta pavers turned the bland driveway "into a work of art," Campbell says.

An urn dressed in stacked tumbled marble burbles water near sunken seating and planters with king and lady palms that shade hibiscus, bamboo, birds of paradise and orange-flowered *Fuchsia* 'Gar-

tenmeister Bonstedt'. An arbor is twined with two kinds of jasmine that waft perfume into the sea-cooled air.

Just steps inside the front door, a formal dining room overlooks a second water feature, a dozen bubbling

**Above:** Mahogany gates open to reveal a multi-level entry garden at the Coronado residence of Bob Campbell and Becci Rocco. Palms and tropical plants add a lush backdrop for a water feature, one of four in the award-winning remodeled landscape surrounding the home.

**Opposite:** Two water features in the refurbished back yard contain the same stacked ledgerstone. The one in the foreground brings the music of falling water to the couple's adjacent home gym.

**Previous pages:** Ferns, palm trees, hibiscus and other plants with year-round interest create the tropical atmosphere and seclusion the owners desired.



columns backed by a river pebble-clad water wall and fronted by a mini-patio of *Autumn Gold* flagstone. The angled roof of an arbor catches falling blossoms of a blood-red trumpet vine (*Distictis buccinatoria*) while stands of lady palms (*Rhapis excelsa*) continue the island vibe.

“We love the look and feel,” says Rocco, as the gentle sound of falling water filled the room.

When they entertain, Campbell,

**Opposite:** A dramatic fireplace designed with island flair by *Ciro Delgadillo* of *Ciro’s Landscaping Inc.*, opens onto two patios – one for dining and the other for entertaining.

**Above:** A new garden room outside the formal dining room is home to a fountain shaded by an arbor. Water burbles from a dozen columns and down a wall dressed with river pebbles.

Rocco and their guests generally congregate outside in the deftly divided three garden rooms. Standing between two of them is the new conical gas fireplace designed by *Delgadillo* with “South Pacific flavor.”

One hearth warms a cozy outdoor dining area just outside the kitchen, while the other heats a sunken space, edged by a tall, stacked-ledgestone water wall that is perfect for “pupu happy hours,” Rocco says.

The height of the fireplace, water wall and exposed-beam “ceiling” help balance and visually expand the space once dwarfed by the height of the house. “This area now looks twice as big as it did originally,” Campbell says.

The third room, a retreat outside of the home gym, is soothed by the sound of water cascading over a curved wall of stacked ledgestone and chromatherapy

of rainbow-hued lighting. The L-shaped planter behind it is home to a privacy screen of five queen palms planted by Campbell more than a decade ago and now 30 feet tall.

Throughout this area is the four-season color the couple craved. Yellow-flowered ‘Hula Girl’ hibiscus, hot-orange ‘Tropicanna’ cannas, burgundy-bladed cordyline, lacy mother ferns and other tropicals and perennials add to the Shangri-La feel.

With the exterior remodel complete, Campbell and Rocco savored “wows” from friends and neighbors at a recent block party on the back patio. They also are delighted when beachgoers pause to snap pictures of the new front yard. “It’s a success — just what we wanted,” Campbell says with a smile. ∞

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