

The image shows a modern interior space, likely a living and dining area, with a large window overlooking the ocean and mountains. The room features a mix of furniture, including a white coffee table, a brown leather ottoman, and several chairs. A large, cylindrical pendant light hangs from the ceiling. The view outside the window is a scenic landscape with a blue ocean and distant mountains under a cloudy sky. The interior design is contemporary and minimalist, with a focus on clean lines and neutral colors.

Mathew Leverone describes his clients, "they travel a great deal but decided that Maui is where they wanted to escape the cold winter months of northern Canada." The magnificent Polo Beach view can be seen from the covered lanai as well as from the open living and dining room. For exterior seating Leverone chose Michael Taylor Designs over scaled teak lounge chairs from their Bay Collection covered in Perennials Fabrics outdoor textiles. In the interior dining corner he selected a Knowlton Brothers ceruse oak table base with A. Rudin Upholstered Dining chairs.



# A Maui Getaway

San Francisco Designer  
Matthew Leverone  
Reinvents a 1980s Style  
Condo On The Valley Isle

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON

## *Interior Design legend Angelo*

Donghia once described the start of his day: "The morning is an important part of my life. I like to open my eyes and know that whatever I do is going to be made easier by an attractive beginning...Stop to think. What will make you as comfortable as possible? Everything should be arranged, available, attractive." These thoughts are echoed in the Maui pied-à-terre created by Matthew Leverone for a Canadian couple to escape the cold of winter.

Leverone's San Francisco firm Leverone Design executes interiors of modern elegance that never sacrifice ease or function whether for a client or the imagined inhabitants of the annual San Francisco Decorator Showcase. This aesthetic proved to be a challenge when he began work on the 1,600 square foot condo located on Maui's Polo Beach. Leverone and the well traveled homeowners decided that the entire unit





ABOVE Presiding over the entry is an alluring pigment and photo based work on canvas by Deborah Oropallo. Black Mountain vessels from ceramicist Erin McGuiness are displayed on a custom console from San Francisco's Custom Furniture Design. RIGHT Leverone gutted the living room along with the rest of the condo: "My clients insisted 'everything must go.' They wanted a modern but warm and comfortable home. Comfort was the key without sacrificing the design," he says.

needed to be gutted to eliminate its dated appearance and enhance the top floor western view. The project was completed last March and reflects the colors of the land and ocean using a palette of white sand, earthen brown, aquatic blues and greens with touches of volcanic black and coral orange.

Setting the tone in the living room are two of David Duncan Livingston's photographic abstractions from his Hawaii Seas collection. One shows Hamo Beach as a brooding lava and coral seashore; the other titled Waimea Naval is a bright midday scene of sky and sea merging. The relaxed room features comfortable upholstery in textured neutrals offset by the angular form of a Michael Berman Cubist chair and the voluptuous silhouette of Therien Studio Workshops' white Cumulus Taboret. Lesley Anton's porcelain cone lamp references

Maui's volcanic origins while Rosemary Hallgarten's custom alpaca pillows are marine colored.

Continuing the ocean theme are the moody blue grey glass backsplash tiles in the kitchen area that contrast with the warm dark walnut floors, bleached white oak rift cut wood cabinets and bronze drawer pulls. Originally the kitchen was divided from the living room creating a small closed off feeling. Leverone's open well lit kitchen is a place for gathering where guests can perch on linen and faux leather upholstered A. Rudin bar stools while their hosts entertain them. It is an easy transition to the dining area that is centered by the futuristic Gear ceiling fixture of corrugated copper and opal glass from McEwen Lighting Studio.

The two bedrooms also required structural changes as they had built-in beds.



“Stop to think. What will make you as comfortable as possible? Everything should be arranged, available, attractive.”

—*Angelo Donghia*









LEFT In the kitchen Leverone utilized "A simple blend of uncomplicated materials, every detail was considered including storage spaces since it was such a premium in this small unit." Caesar Stone Quartz Countertops provide durable work surfaces while task lighting is achieved with Cecillie Manz's Caravaggio Pendant Lamps. ABOVE Colorful artwork by Beth Weingard welcomes visiting friends and family to the guest room.

dressers and desks. "Very '80s," Leverone says. Now they are each tranquil escapes. The designer chose "colorful pillows with uncomplicated details to accent the neutral palette of the bedding that doesn't distract from the wonderful views. One feels as though they could be on the deck of an ocean liner crossing the Pacific, spotting whales in the not too far distance."

The guest bedroom is fitted with a custom parson's desk, Donghia's Anziano chair, a contemporary take on the ancient Klismos chair and a vintage nickel-plated table lamp. It is a perfect retreat for the couple's visiting adult children. The master bedroom is ethereal with pewter and ceramic bedside lamps from sculptress Marie Christophe and Laura Reid's reflective glass/mirror/sparkle pieces art-

work series. Sleek side commodes of walnut casing and white lacquered fronts accomplish storage.

For the spa like master dressing room and shower area Leverone selected luminous white Thassos marble from Greece. Opposing this are floor to ceiling walnut louvered doors. Contemporary polished chrome fittings are from Waterworks while a Presidio sconce designed by Barbara Barry focuses light in the room. As a quirky element a German architect's wooden stool from Emerson Troop in Los Angeles is used for a vanity seat. This room would have suited Angelo Donghia; he declared over thirty years ago, "We are indebted to our bathrooms every morning. We need a good mirror, a good light. From here we go on to present ourselves to the world." <sup>64</sup>