AN UNTouched LANDSCAPE INSPIRES A MODERN, MINIMALISTIC HOME.
Perched atop the cliffs of Kahakuloa, Robert and Drazena Stoj's home seems to emerge organically from its rugged setting.
Top: Made of weathered ipe wood, the sprawling roof blends with the colors and textures of Kahakuloa's cliffs. It's designed far use beyond mere shelter; here, no one ever says, "Get off the roof!"
Bottom: Glass, wood and naturally pigmented stucco create a handsome entrance that welcomes guests into the home's "village square."
Right: The kitchen is commercial grade, with a Comstock-Castle cooktop, Moffat baker’s oven, Sub-Zero refrigerator and freezer, Bosch dishwasher and easy-to-clean, stainless steel countertops.

Bottom: For the living/dining area, the Strojs chose understated pieces that complement the home’s modern aesthetic. Nähe and Aloša designed the steel dining table at a shop in Pu‘unēnē. A projector, screen, and oversized beanbag poufs bring new meaning to family movie night.

Wow.”

That’s a word Robert and Drazena Stroj hear often—from just about everyone who visits their Kahakuloa property. “Yes, we hear that a lot,” Drazena laughs. “We’re getting used to it.”

Robert, a windsurf-sail designer, and Drazena, a ceramist, moved to Maui fifteen years ago. They settled in Kula (the rolling green hills reminded them of their native Slovenia, Robert explains), but after a few years, they were ready for a change of scenery.

“We wanted to build a house, but we weren’t sure where,” Robert recalls. “So we started looking at different parts of the island.”

One afternoon, they found themselves on the narrow, winding road leading to the high cliffs of Kahakuloa—one of West Maui’s most remote spots. “We drove around for a while and realized it was where we wanted to be,” Drazena says. Apart from its scenic beauty, the Strojs were drawn to Kahakuloa’s promise of solitude. So, when they discovered a steep driveway descending to a flat expanse of green overlooking the ocean, Robert and Drazena vowed they would live there someday.

In 2004, after convincing the owner of the property to sell them the nearly three-acre parcel, the Strojs started planning their dream home. Robert sketched out a rudimentary design, and, heeding the advice of his best friend, Žiga, sought the expertise of Slovenia-based architect Tina Gregorić (Žiga’s sister), and her partner, Aloša Dekleva.

After a flurry of phone calls, Tina and Aloša flew to Maui, and in
the weeks that followed, divided their time between the Kahakuloa property—where they would sit and study the landscape throughout the day—and the Strojs’ guest bedroom. There, the architects worked covertly. “They would be in the room for hours, drawing,” Dazena recalls. “They would occasionally come out and ask us questions, but we weren’t allowed to see anything until they were finished.”

Finally, the Strojs were summoned to their kitchen table, where Tina and Ajoša unveiled their concept: a single-story, 2,200-square-foot home conceived as a small village under one roof. Robert and Dazena took one look at the design and knew they’d found the home of their dreams.

Four self-contained, U-shaped “mini houses” face the ocean, three of them bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, the fourth Robert’s office. A fifth

Clockwise from top: Robert designed the living area’s horizontal wall cabinet and the speakers suspended from the ceiling. (A friend hand-carried the horns to Maui from Poland.) Dazena works in the kitchen under a trio of bamboo plywood lights, a gift from New Zealand artist and family friend David Trubridge. The expanse of windows in the master bedroom captures views of the ocean. Son Jaka plays on the roof with the family dog, Kea.
unit, the garage, faces the hillside. The five units surround an open space—a “village square”—containing the kitchen, dining and living areas. Floor-to-ceiling windows frame the ocean views, and to Robert’s delight, there are no parallel walls, a carryover from his initial design. (Beyond their aesthetic appeal, Robert, an audiophile, wanted the walls to help break up reflected sound.)

Arguably the home’s most striking feature (rivalled only by its sweeping ocean views) is the angular, zigzag wood roof that emulates the rugged coastline. Tina and Aljoša connected the roof to the ground so it would be a natural extension of the surrounding hillside. It also creates a visual

Top left: The view from the master bath’s sunken tub makes every soak luxurious. Bathroom elements, from an Italian distributor, include a Catalano raised-trough sink and Geberit concealed-tank toilet. Top right: Custom bamboo plywood door and vanity contrast with slate flooring. Left: The home’s side entrance takes its shape from the pitch of the roof.

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