

TRADITIONAL HOME

June/July 2008

Welcome to the Weekend

LIVE IT UP! IDEAS FOR ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE, INDOORS AND OUT

ANTIQUING:
TEXAS HILL
COUNTRY FINDS

DÉCORATE
YOUR OWN
PRIVATE
HIDEAWAY

PLUS, A BRITISH-
INSPIRED
GARDEN
& STUNNING
MASTER BATH

body + soul

BY JENNIFER WILSON PRODUCED BY JENNY BRADLEY

wave of calm

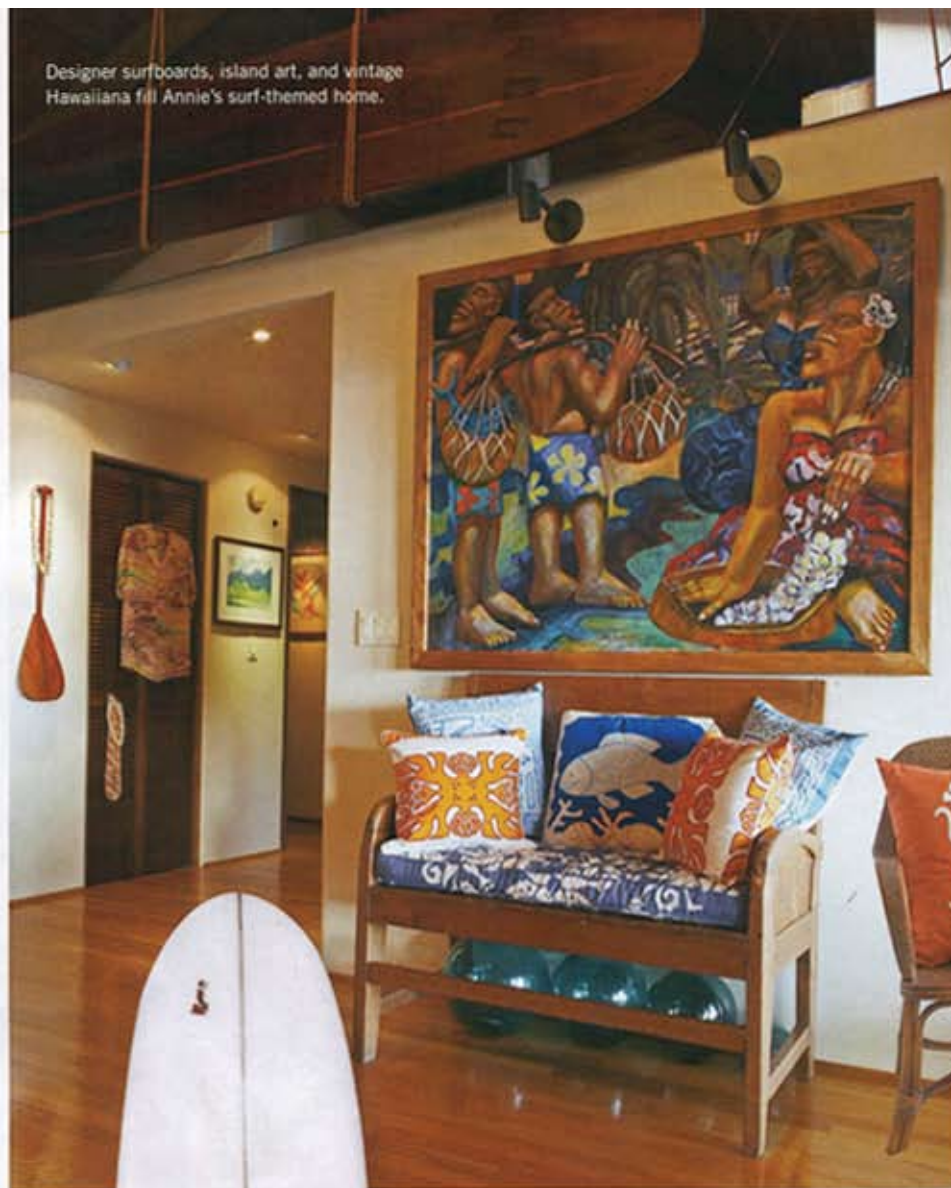
SURF'S UP AT THE HAWAIIAN RETREAT OF ANNIE GIBBONS

In an Indonesian-style pole house tucked into Honolulu's Palolo Valley, Annie Gibbons rises at 4 a.m. to experience her own personal paradise in the early morning hush.

The co-owner of Alora Ambiance home fragrance (her dream business), Annie watches her husband, Dale, stir in his sleep. It's Dale—a lifelong islander and textile manufacturer—who enticed the Minnesota native to ▶

Board at the ready, Annie Gibbons tests the surf near her home in Honolulu.

Designer surfboards, island art, and vintage
Hawaiiana fill Annie's surf-themed home.



island treasures

Above: Alora Ambiance diffusers and soy candle, from \$40 (aloraambiance.com).

Below: Mimic Annie's look with this "Ceylon" settee, \$1,340, by Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams (mgandbw.com) and pillows from \$24, from West Elm (westelm.com).



making a splash

Photographer Dirk Westphal embellishes surfboards with his fab fish art, like this one for \$8,000 (mixedgreens.com).



this former parsley farm above Waikiki Beach. Next Annie checks on their daughter, Ollie—a true islander, even at 5. Ollie isn't much for television but gets excited about picking fresh grapefruit and dancing the hula. She grew up watching her Mom surf.

Meeting Dale 10 years ago while on vacation lured Annie here—that, and the ocean that captivates her Aquarian heart. Annie now works from Hawaii, designing fragrances on an island redolent with them. Her sister (and business partner), Therese, operates the firm's Twin Cities home office near where they grew up.

Since moving here, surfing has become a passion for Annie. "When I'm surfing, I'm surrounded by 6-year-olds >



Annie's daughter Ollie sparkles in full hula regalia.



light it up Annie's dining room fixture is from Tucker Robbins. For a similar look, try Tucker's votive shades, \$360 each (tuckerrobins.com).



surf schools

Ready to ride the waves? These surf schools can help get you started.

Nancy Emerson School of Surfing

This international surfing champ has held clinics on Maui since 1961 (808/244-7873; maui surfclinics.com).

Surf Diva Based in LaJolla, California, and Costa Rica, it features hourly, weekend, and weeklong packages (858/454-8273; surfdiva.com).

Las Olas Safaris for Women offers surf safaris in Mexico that include accommodations, lessons, yoga, and more (831/625-5748; surfilasolas.com).

SwellWomen Weeklong all-inclusive surf-and-yoga packages on Maui (808/579-8211; swellwomen.com).

Pura Vida Adventures Surfing adventures in Costa Rica (415/465-2162; puravidadventures.com).

NOTHING I'VE EVER DONE COMPARES TO SURFING.

—ANNIE GIBBONS

and 60-year-olds, tiny women and 200-pound Hawaiian men, all dancing like ballerinas on surfboards," says Annie in her warm voice. "If you can learn to surf, you're a lucky person."

Going about her soothing routine, she surveys family treasures—bright textiles echo the beauty of nearby mountains and gardens. Island art by Avi Kiriaty, John Kelly, and Yvonne Cheng adorns the walls. Koa wood bowls grace tables. Eight surfboards hang throughout the house, some created by legendary designers, others much-loved antiques.

Annie wanders to the telescope on the front lanai to watch the humpback whales. The large mammals love this place so much that they stay for months,

living off their blubber, because the plankton that makes up their diet doesn't thrive here. The blue water surrounding this paradise is apparently worth the hunger pangs.

Annie is as enthralled with Hawaii as the humpbacks—there is little about this island that she doesn't love. "I'm so attached to the ocean. Mountains are beautiful, but running to the ocean to take a dip can take away a crazy day."

Morning continues to unfold. Mynahs and java sparrows chatter. Soon, Annie will rouse Ollie for school. Then maybe she'll grab her assistant, also a surfer, and head out the door.

Surf's up. Annie Gibbons has a wave to catch. ▶





Hawaiian hot spots

When Annie's not on the water, she finds plenty of other things to do. Here are a few of her favorite island activities:

Whale-watching "The windward side of the island is great for whale-watching in the winter months," says Annie. Visit alhhawaiiitours.com for specific tours.

Hiking "Makapu'u Point has awesome views. We abandon the path at the top and hike down to tide pools along the ocean. It's an incredibly beautiful spot. The hiking on Oahu is wonderful in general. Almost every ridge has a great user-friendly hike." Check out hawaiiweb.com for more places to hike.

Pampering "Umji Spa in Honolulu is a fun indulgence," says Annie. "It's a Korean day spa. I try to go to with girlfriends once or twice a month. It's the absolute best!" Call 808/949-2022.

beach bag

"Clover Poppy Basket Tote," \$145; Hable Construction (hableconstruction.com).



garden fresh fabrics

You can almost smell the flowers!

From top: Jane Churchill's "Arcadia," "Samara," and "Chester" from Cowtan & Tout (212/647-6900), trade only.



seaside swag

"Cabin Deck Chair," \$1,202; JANUS et Cie (janusetcie.com), "Lots of Dots" swimsuit, \$44, and "Wave Stripe" beach towel, \$24; Garnet Hill (garnethill.com). ■

