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ESTATES OF DISTINCTION

Showcasing the finest available luxury listings on the market today. All properties in this collection have a minimum price of \$5 million and are represented by some of the industry's most prominent Realtors.

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Cover Story: Elegant Hawaiian Oasis

By Camilla McLaughlin

It takes more than ultra finishes and deluxe amenities to make a property worthy of a Unique Homes cover. Rather, these outstanding homes present a perfect symmetry of singular location, remarkable accouterments and, most importantly, inspired design. Located on famed Diamond Head in Honolulu, Hawaii, surrounded by parkland and overlooking the Pacific, this month's cover home, listed for \$10,000,000, is no exception. In this recently constructed residence, East and West, 21st century and Old World, traditional Hawaiian style and European aesthetics are balanced as delicately and perfectly as yin and yang.

From the street, one enters the property through an antique Indonesian gate and is immediately enfolded in an entry courtyard lush with tropical gardens and a carp pond. Old stones lead the visitor to a stucco home reminiscent of villas that surround Lake Como. Unique, rounded tiles, akin to the Honolulu Academy of Arts, give the roof an artistic finish. The lot, which at almost a half acre, expansive by island standards, is a play of contrasts, with Diamond Head as a backdrop on one side and the ocean on the other. Terraced gardens with waterfalls and a stream fan out toward the panorama of the Pacific, while a lava-edged, black-bottomed infinity pool and spa seemingly tumble into the warm waters.

Inside, European and Hawaiian influences, bolstered by 21st-century technology, translate into a serene and quietly elegant lifestyle. Italian-honed marble flooring with antique edging, Italian wrought-iron balconies, 18th-century chandeliers, stone window and door ledges and custom moldings lend an Old World grace to the residence, as do the Tuscan-styled plaster walls. Throughout, a sense of calmness and integrity of design pervades. Many rooms overlook the ocean, gardens and pool. Outside and inside spaces flow seamlessly, thanks to pocket doors and windows, a feature that is uniquely Hawaiian. Patricia Choi, owner of Choi International, the company that is listing the home, explains: "In Hawaii, we live outside as much as inside, if not more. This property is geared to opening the house and letting the trade winds in."

The 4,457-square-foot main residence includes three bedroom suites and three and a half baths, as well as an exercise/media room, a family room, an office, and a chef's kitchen with butler's pantry. A separate studio apartment with kitchen and laundry facilities accommodates staff. A hidden gem on this estate is an award-winning, one-bedroom cottage with kitchen, living room and dining area that promises to pamper guests.

Add to this an ultra-private location within walking distance of Waikiki. While other islands might beckon golfers and tourists, this part of Hawaii is a "melting pot of the international elite," who typically own multiple homes, Choi says. They come to Honolulu and Diamond Head in particular because of the vibrant cultural life of the city, as well as for its excellent medical facilities, shopping and overall, an exceedingly pleasant, secure way of life. A lifestyle that will only be enhanced by this month's idyllic cover home.



For more on this property, please see the following two pages.

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

Tropical Paradise



REMINISCENT OF A GRAND EUROPEAN VILLA, this private estate is nothing short of stunning. Located in Hawaii's most prestigious neighborhood, this home is graced with world-famous Diamond Head as its backdrop and faces the crystalline ocean. Newly built using timeless architectural concepts, this estate offers a four-bedroom, three- and one-half-bath main residence, a caretaker's studio apartment and a separate one-bedroom, one-bath guest cottage.



Enter the home through an antique Indonesian gate leading over stone steps and a carp pond. Discover an exquisite formal living room and separate dining room, both with pocket windows and doors. Open the front side of the house to panoramic ocean views and sunsets. Additionally, there is a family room, office/den, chef's kitchen and two covered lanais. Old World ambiance is evident in three 18th-century chandeliers, European molding, Tuscan-style plastered walls and Italian wrought-iron railing. Details include honu marble flooring, custom cherry cabinetry, automated speakers, lighting and security systems, a built-in vacuum, and central air-conditioning, which is individually zoned. Enjoy the privacy of a second-floor master suite with dual closets and adjoining laundry facilities. The master suite has ocean, pool and garden views. Pampered guests will enjoy an award-winning, separate guest cottage with a private kitchen and dedicated living area. Enjoy Hawaiian-style outdoor entertaining amidst designer landscaping with the romance of gas torchlights and gorgeous sunset views of the blue Pacific. \$10,000,000.



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