

THE FASCINATING STORY OF ALOHASHELLS HAWAII®

A delightfully unique hand-crafted gift accessory...made from actual tropical Capiz shells! Delicate and beautiful as a "suncatcher" on windows & glass sliders...sensational as well as a decor accent on mirrors...Averaging 2" in size and abundant in the waters surrounding the island of Capiz (See History below), Capiz shells are famed for their tasty meat and are a food by-product.

The Capiz shell does not contribute to reef formation as it is harvested from the ocean floor. Once the Alohashell family completes a new design, a metal pattern is crafted so each piece of shell can be hand cut. Remarkably durable, the shell is cut with tin snips and rarely chips or splits when done by an experienced artisan. Brass sheets are trimmed into strips on an old-fashioned paper cutter. With a blunt knife, the strips are formed into edge binders. After the forms are assembled and the shells gently mounted, hand painting is done by "air-brush" and brush stroke.

The brass plated frame is lacquered to assure a long lasting gleam.

Alohashells are handmade for you with double the "Aloha"...

DESIGNED ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI...HANDMADE ON THE ISLAND OF CAPIZ

visit us at www.alohashells.com

THE HISTORY OF CAPIZ SHELLS

The history of the Capiz shells can really be said to reach back to the year Magellan discovered the Capiz Island in 1521. Sailing under the patronage of King Philip of Spain, Magellan and his men were enchanted by the exotic tropical lushness of this Island, which is one of many in that region of the South Seas. Combined with 7,166 of others like itself, the islands project a total coastline larger than that of the United States, with crystal clear waters abounding with marine life and unique shells. It follows that the Capiz shell was first found on the Island named after it. It was inevitable that before long the Spanish would introduce Christianity to the islands and consequently a massive program of church building followed. Having to use local materials, the architects of the period became fascinated with the possibilities of using the translucent round shells that sometimes were washed ashore after a heavy storm. Utilizing the unique way that capiz shells diffused the strong tropical sunlight, craftsmen cut and fashioned them into glorious church windows--many of which still survive to this day. Using colored dyes, it was possible to get the same effect as stained glass from

Europe. Rich merchants quickly exploited the idea to adorn their own homes with this "magnificent new glass". Over the centuries, the skills used by these early Spanish craftsmen have been handed down from generation to generation until the present day. For the last decade our entire ALOHASHHELLS family has created Capiz designs inspired by our island home, MAUI.

Our suncatchers purposely reflect the contemporary scenes of our exquisite Islands of Hawaii, capturing lasting memories loved by visitors and locals alike. From vivid tropical flowers to graceful Wyland® dolphins, you can now have the best of the old and the new...

from TWO South Sea Tropical Paradises...all backed by 300 years of craftsmanship that derives from the Island of Capiz...as always, by native artisans...