

SEPTEMBER 21, 2003

DESIGNING WOMAN

Shannon Scott and her colleague, Kip Glover, help make Santa Barbara beautiful



Kip Glover and Shannon Scott display sample boards of design ideas. Shannon Scott Design is “getting busier and busier,” Mr. Glover says.

Bringing sense of style to home and business

By FRANK NELSON / NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Shannon Scott remembers how, as a little girl, she would reorganize everything in her bedroom about every three weeks. By the time she was eight, she knew she wanted to be an interior designer. “Not many people are really sure what they want to do at that age,” she said, laughing. But Ms. Scott stuck with her ambition and has been on that artistic and creative track ever since.

Today she makes her living organizing other people’s rooms – and a lot of other living and business spaces – through her company, Shannon Scott Design.

Ms. Scott gained professional certification at UCSB, spent a dozen years in the field of antiques and fine furnishings and then began working with Santa Barbara interior design firm Sue Firestone Associates.

She has lived in the Santa Ynez Valley for 14 years and started her business in Santa Ynez in 1999 before moving about two years ago to a new location in her hometown of Los Olivos.

This summer, the growing business took over the office next door, creating a total of about 1,000 square feet, which is occupied by Ms. Scott, her fellow principal, Kip Glover, and their assistant, Erin Humfrey.

During a 25-year career in the hospitality industry, Mr. Glover, who earned a certificate in marketing at UCSB, has lent his talents to the development and design of everything from Hard Rock cafes to fine dining establishments such as Stringfellows in Beverly Hills.

Shannon Scott Design employs one draftsman on a contract basis, but Mr. Glover says extra people will soon be needed. "We're getting busier and busier and are looking for more staff," he said, estimating that the number could grow to six by the end of 2004 and to 10 in two years' time. The company works mostly within Santa Barbara County and focuses equally on the hospitality industry – hotels and conference centers, spas, wineries, clubs and restaurants – and upscale residential projects.

The two are not that different, according to Ms. Scott. "Hospitality is very much like residential. We approach it from a residential standpoint rather than a commercial one, which gives us the opportunity to become more creative." It's all about comfort, she says, which is why people often walk into one of the hotels, clubs or other projects and say, "Wow. This is beautiful. I could live here!"

The company is also committed to

"Hospitality is very much like residential. We approach it from a residential standpoint rather than a commercial one, which gives us the opportunity to become more creative."

Shannon Scott,

whose design company focuses on the hospitality industry and upscale residential projects

Shannon Scott and Kip Glover show the new carpeting they chose while redesigning some areas of the University Club.



'Wow! This is beautiful. I could live here!'

recycling and using environmentally sensitive and sustainable products wherever possible. "It's something we both believe in strongly," said Ms. Scott, who quotes a long list of natural materials and fabrics they prefer to work with.

Among the facilities benefiting from a Shannon Scott makeover are the landmark Four Seasons Biltmore, the Montecito Inn, the Epiph-



Shannon Scott Design recently revamped some areas of the University Club, including the dining room, above. At left, the design company gave a Spanish flair to wall signs for room entrances.



any Cellars tasting room in Los Olivos and the University Club in Santa Barbara. Ms. Scott says she loves working with historic properties such as the University Club, where the completion of the first phase of upgrading has aligned a 1940s extension with the rest of the 128-year-old building. This project included the complete renovation of the main dining room – literally from floor to ceiling – with such character details as chandeliers, wall sconces, a picture rail and tiger oak flooring replacing old-fashioned parquet.

False ceilings and a fireplace were added, lights were changed, the dance floor replaced. "We were trying to bring it back to the original era of 1875," explained Catherine Dishion, the club's immediate past president and co-chair of the house committee.

The first phase of the project, completed in April, also included work in the adjacent bar, the grill and games room, upgrading the men's room and laying new custom-made carpet, the colors and patterns designed by Ms. Scott, in the main lounge and other downstairs rooms.

Ms. Dishion, who put the cost of the work at around \$170,000, said Shannon Scott Design gave presentations to members, some of whom were not easily persuaded by all the bold design concepts put forward.

"People are warming up to it and most of the club members are very pleased with the results," she said. "Shannon was excellent, very open-minded and ready to consider changes. She has a wonderful sense of style."

There is more to do at the University Club, especially upstairs,