

SHOPTALK

BY THOMAS SNESS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN MANN

KERN & COMPANY



OWNER: Susan Spath, left

DESIGN TEAM: Susan Spath, principal designer, with designers Genny Chale, Carol Poff and Cinthia Felix. Kern & Company also is the interior design coordinator for North County-based Greg Agee Construction as well as several other local builders.

HISTORY: Upon purchasing Kern & Company in 1994 Spath relocated it to Cedros Avenue in Solana Beach — a move that helped make the Cedros Design District what it is today. Spath specializes in large-home, full-scale interior design. Her work has been published in design media numerous times.

PHILOSOPHY: Spath says, "I love great style. I have always had a very European eye to my design. I love light and the warmth it brings. A home is for peace and tranquility. It is our constant goal to maintain the highest levels of professionalism and customer care through every step."

ON STYLE: Trendy styles never last but classic looks — like the perfect black dress — are always in.

WHAT'S NEW: "New or in is never important to me," says Spath. "Great style is always in. I love the Andalusian influence so you will always see a little in my work. I love a few great indulgent pieces as in the Jay Strongwater collection. They sparkle and add such flair to a room."

QUOTE: "Some worry that a designer will be too expensive but a good designer will save you money in the end."
— Susan Spath, owner

CONTACT: 9:30-5:30 Mon-Fri., 10-5 Sat., 11-5 Sun. 130 S. Cedros Ave., #100, Solana Beach. 858/259-7722. www.kerncodesigns.com

Kern & Company carries an extensive collection of fine furniture and accessories from around the world.

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