CARMEL DESIGN COLLECTIVE

ONE-STOP SHOPPING FOR THE HOME





ARMEL DEST

hether you're planning to remodel a room, an enbackyard that can be an invaluable resource. These respected pros share a reputation for the highest standards of design and workmanship, while supplying their clients with the most up-to-date, fine-quality materials and products available in the marketplace. And they all have showrooms within an easy stroll of one another.

Where else can you browse window coverings, storage solutions, doors and windows, stone, tile or wood flooring in the morning, pause for a gourmet lunch and then design your kitchen laboration between like-minded design professionals." and bathroom and home electronics system in the afternoon?

Only on Carmel Rancho Lane—next to the Barnyard at the tire house, or are building your dream home, there mouth of Carmel Valley—will you find such an assortment of is a group of local businesses right in your own allied services. Accents Windows and Walls, California Closets, Carmel Kitchens and Baths, Carmel Stone Imports, Casa Dolores Gallery, David Vincent Design and Ventana Doors and Windows have formed The Carmel Design Collective (CDC). They are a collection of superb, long-established local firms, covering a wide spectrum of home design services. "We share common core values," says Ryan Meyer, who with his wife Christine owns and operates Casa Dolores Gallery. "The CDC is a harmonious col-

"It's more than location that draws the members of the CDC

together," says Accents Windows and Walls' Susan Ashelford. and since most of our business comes from referrals, it's good to "Together, we share a similar business philosophy—and a com- know that we have people in other areas of home design that we mitment to and reputation for the highest level of service

and product." The decision to band together was a natural one. It wasn't that these businesses chose to group themselves within the same block; one day someone looked up and noticed a "design center" had developed organically and spontaneously over time. Several showrooms have even been here for over 15 years.

Vincent Design owner Jim Zoyiopoulos. "We know each other, the best in a wide array of home services.

trust to confidently send our customers to." Eric

Baggiolini of California Closets agrees: "I'm excited to be grouped up with these guys from a customer service standpoint."

The members of the Carmel Design Collective believe that the ultimate winners in their collaboration are the clients themselves.

This truly is "one-stop-shopping," where architects,

"I'm always running into my neighbors on job sites," says David builders, interior designers and homeowners can find the best of

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ACCENTS WINDOWS AND WALLS

usan Ashelford and Heath Onthank, owners of Accents Windows and Walls, know the

Monterey Peninsula and the people who live here. 20 years' experience has taught them that design challenges often come in threes: preserving views, maintaining privacy and protecting from the sun's damaging rays.



"Our business is inspired by the Peninsula itself. It's a special place and the people who live here are always mindful of its stunning beauty," says Heath.

Every window covering Accents sells is custom designed and built. "We specialize in creative solutions," notes Susan, "and we offer a broad range of quality products to solve the design dilemmas we often encounter."

Accents Windows and Walls is good at staying ahead of the curve. When Heath realized that shutters were back in vogue he was quick to incorporate the best available product into the showroom's repertoire. Heath then took shutter design one step further, creating a series of custom moldings to insure optimal fit and look. "I want the shutter to look as though it came with the window – not added later," he says.

With window coverings trending toward motorization,

Heath and Susan moved rapidly to offer the most advanced options for this new technology that combines excellence of design with the burgeoning Green movement. "If it covers a window," says Heath, "we can probably motorize it right here in our workroom."

"Wall coverings were on the back burner for a time," says Susan, "but they are now making a strong comeback." Stunning new materials are now available at Accents that provide a shot of color, pattern or texture for every room in the house.

A smooth project depends on putting together the best team possible. "Our skilled showroom personnel and our three factory-trained installers are the pride of our establishment," say Susan and Heath. "This team makes sure the job is done right, every time."

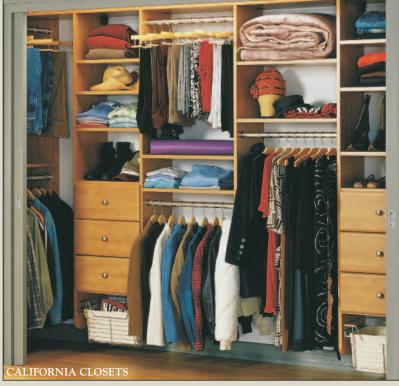
ACCENTS WINDOWS AND WALLS 2632 CARMEL RANCHO LANE (831) 626-9054 WWW.ACCENTSWINDOWS.COM



CALIFORNIA CLOSETS

hen it comes to organizing space, California Closets has the market cornered. Since 1997, Eric Baggiolini

has owned and operated the Carmel store, in addition to a San Jose location, which also houses a manufacturing facility.



"No other closet company has a showroom on the Peninsula," Eric says. That means customers can visit the store to get a first-hand look at the many configurations possible. And it's not just about closets: California Closets has solutions for eliminating clutter in the bedroom, garage, children's room, pantry, utility room and home office.

These are not off-the-shelf components. "We manufacture everything to spec," says Eric. After a visit to the showroom, the process begins with a site visit by one of the store's two expert designers. After defining the client's needs, the designer uses a laptop program to produce a minutely detailed rendering that's ready in less than 20 minutes. Changes in configuration or budget can be entered on the spot, in real time.

Once a design is accepted, it's sent to the manufacturing plant to be fabricated. Then, the California Closets installation team brings it to the site and puts it in place. "Ninety-five percent of our installations are completed in one day," Eric says.

The number of possible storage system configurations is infinite. While drawers are available in a choice of a few sizes, everything else—from hanging spaces to shelving—is totally customizable to fit into any size or shape of space. Eric is excited about Lago, a new Italian-made product line that features a raised wood-grain finish. "There are six color choices that are only available from California Closets," he says.

Perhaps most important for customer peace of mind, all California Closets cabinets come with a lifetime warranty. "If anything ever goes wrong with one of our cabinets, we'll come out and fix it at no charge," Eric says. "No one else in the industry offers that."

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS
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CARMEL KITCHENS AND BATHS

ommitment is what Carmel Kitchens and Baths is all about. "We're dedicated to giving

our clients the design that will best fit with their lifestyle and budget," says Certified Kitchen Designer Julie Young. "We're often the first ones on a project and the last to leave," she adds.

Barry Rowley—also a Certified Kitchen Designer—has owned the business for nearly 20 years. He, Julie and Associate Kitchen and Bath Designer Gary Courtright possess the knowledge and expertise to assure that each and every job is completed to the highest degree of professionalism and customer satisfac-



tion. This is the only kitchen and bath firm on the Monterey Peninsula in which every designer maintains current National Kitchen and Bath Association certification. They place a high priority on staying informed about the latest industry practices and what's new in the marketplace.

Barry, Julie and Gary oversee every aspect of projects that call for custom design and products. "Our experience sets us apart," says Julie. "Between us we have more than 60 years of experience." In addition to kitchen and bath design, Carmel Kitchens and Baths' team is adept at contracting, project management, interior design and custom cabinet manufacturing. And that shows in their care and attention to the details of every project.

The showroom is a treasure trove of ideas, spread over several different full-size showcase rooms. These displays are changed periodically to reflect new features and styles, but available choices are by no means limited to what's on display. Wood-Mode, Brookhaven, Heritage, Dura Supreme and others are represented, ensuring that there's a product that's perfect for any dream kitchen or bath.

For Carmel Kitchens and Baths, there is no job too complex. Whether it's a modest project to modernize a kitchen or a full-scale remodel, "It's our responsibility to see that it's fabulous," Julie says.

CARMEL KITCHENS AND BATHS
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CARMEL STONE IMPORTS DESIGN CENTER

obbie Robinson has come full circle with the opening of his new Carmel Stone Imports Design

Center showroom. The 4,000-square-foot store showcases the products his company brings in from around the globe and, incidentally, was also the site of Robbie's initial foray into the stone business. "I bought a tile business at this location in 1999," he says. A couple of years later, he began importing Jerusalem stone for his customers. Soon, he branched out into wholesale and his Sand City business now supplies more than 250 retail shops nationwide.

The Sand City facility is a 20,000-square-foot commercial warehouse that only recently opened to the public. "We stock more than 500,000 square feet of stone, tile, Spanish pavers, glass tile and moldings," Robbie says. That means that customers can make a selection at either location today and pick up the material immediately. "We have a broad selection, but have made it easy to make a choice through innovative displays and



knowledgeable sales people." In addition to ready availability, the advantage of eliminating the middle man is a substantial price savings.

"We only stock what we sell and import," says Robbie. "What we have in the showroom is exactly what the customer gets." The choices are many: White marble from Carrara, Italy, Egyptian limestone, travertine from Turkey, Argentinean Dolomite and reclaimed stone, the "Timeworn" collection of marble and travertine from Venice and limestone and exot-

ic stone from the Palestinian West Bank are some of the many materials available here. The owner personally visits every country he imports from at least once each year—at press time Robbie was in Carrara—to ensure that only the finest stone is sent to his warehouse.

To help clients visualize how his products will fit in their homes, Carmel Stone Imports offers a comprehensive design service that provides renderings drawn to scale, showing a customer exactly what a given design will look like. This also makes it easy for an installer to visualize the project.

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CASA **DOLORES GALLERY**

t Casa Dolores Gallery, Ryan and Christine Meyer have created a revolutionary

way for customers to shop for hardwood flooring. "We pioneered the gallery format," says Ryan. Their innovative concept presents large sections of hardwood in a variety of species, styles and finishes, hung on the wall as though they were framed pieces of fine art. Large sections of the showroom floor are also covered in



actual products, allowing customers to visualize how they would where. look when installed in a home.

Ryan has discovered a company in Belgium that uses innovative techniques to create perfectly-aged French oak flooring. Casa Dolores directly imports this superior product, making it a very affordable option. Available in 60 colors, when installed, it looks—and wears—just like authentic antique flooring.

Casa Dolores proudly offers the Carlisle line of exquisite, American-made, center-cut hardwood flooring. "This is the highest-quality flooring in America," Ryan says. "Carlisle has the most beautiful and interesting grain structure in the industry." These products are expertly crafted in New Hampshire using old-world techniques and workmanship.

Carlisle also produces an interesting flooring line made from lumber reclaimed from structures throughout the U.S. This product comes with a history of the original building it was part of. A fun example, weathered siding from an old barn, is now on display.

Recently, the Meyers have begun manufacturing their own product. It features a wear layer as thick as that on regular hardwood. "You literally can't tell the difference between this floor and solid hardwood in either appearance or wear," he explains. This "solid engineered" product can be custom-tailored in virtually any color and surface texture.

Ryan has worked in the flooring industry for most of his life; he continues to operate his grandfather's installation, sanding and refinishing business that he took over in 1997. And at Casa Dolores, he and Christine have taken the industry to a new level.

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DAVID VINCENT DESIGN

he home electronics industry is constantly changing—new products are introduced daily, it seems. Keeping up with that technology can be challeng-

ing. "This is a highly dynamic business," says Jim Zoyiopoulos, owner of David Vincent Design, "and we are committed to remaining on the leading edge."

This custom electronics installation business is no longer just about video and audio-although David Vincent Design continues to excel in that arena. "Whole home integration" is what more and more savvy clients are asking for. This technology integrates a home's vital systems such as lighting, heating and air conditioning, security, window coverings, entertainment—even the garage door, bug lamps, fountains or doorbell—into a central control unit. And when accessed through a secure internet connection, a property's systems can be adjusted from any
sephel Design been selling these products for 15 years," says showroom man-

"We've been offering lighting control as part of a whole-house system," Jim says, "and we recently became the only local Lutron dealer certified as both a Lutron Homeworks and a Radio Ra 2 Preferred Systems Provider."



Whether it's working with an architect to design a home integration system from the ground up for new construction or retrofitting an older home, David Vincent Design's proficient staff has a well-earned reputation for getting the job done with courtesy and professionalism. It all comes down to experience and training.

Each year, Iim closes down the business for a time so that his staff (even his office staff) can attend the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association Expo. There, they meet the industry's top manufacturers and learn about the latest installation and design techniques. It's just this kind of commitment to staying current that makes David Vincent Design stand head and shoulders above the competition.

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VENTANA DOORS AND **WINDOWS**

Tentana Doors and Windows may be among the newer businesses to open up shop in

Carmel, but that doesn't mean they're short on experience. "I've

ager Warren Easton. With showrooms also in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, the company has been providing quality doors and windows to architects, builders and homeowners since 2003.

Also that year, company owner Bob Rennick started manufacturing window products under the Bella Vista brand name. Clearly, he knows the window business inside and out, and he knows quality. "I wanted to be able to sell a superior product," he recalls, "so manufacturing our own was an excellent option." After establishing the company's reputation for premier windows, the Bella Vista brand was sold to Loewen, a recognized leader in the high-end window and door industry. Ventana

Doors and Windows is the exclusive Monterey Peninsula dealer for the Loewen Bella Vista Collection.

Ventana is a custom-home-building resource for architects and builders, but that doesn't mean the general public is excluded. "Many times, an architect will send his or her client over so that I can give them what I call 'Windows and Doors 101," says Warren. "We know that a home builder has a thousand decisions to make, and we try to make the selection of doors and windows easier." Together with sales associate Leslie Kadillak, he walks the homeowner through the various options available and demonstrates the materials and features that set their products

apart from those that might be sold at home centers and other dealers. In addition, Ventana has certified technicians on staff, providing customer service that is second to none.

Whether the style of the home is ultracontemporary, a Tuscan villa or somewhere in between, Ventana has windows and doors that are just right for the project.

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