

# Kari Whitman

Todd Selleck



**Kari Whitman** is one of Hollywood's most sought-after interior designers. She has created stunning homes for residential clients such as Kristen Bell, Jessica Alba, Antonio Banderas, and Nikki Sixx. The key word there is "residential." but, Kari also designs for commercial projects that range from condominiums to boutique hotels and large-scale developments.

Each project is embraced and is treated with introspection and interpretation. Much like an artist that uses a canvas to paint, Kari applies her skill to create works of art that people live and work in. This is evidenced by being named one of the top Ten Designers in Upscale Living Magazine, along with being featured in countless magazines

such as, Architectural Digest, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and Vogue. (That's a *very* short list of her accolades.)

Kari is an eclectic person and is accomplished in many areas which includes being a Playboy Playmate, acting in Television shows and movies such as: Married with Children, Miami Vice, Baywatch, Beverly Hills Cop II, Men at Work, Murder She Wrote and having her own series on the WE: Designer to the Stars.

There is one more, especially important item to add to that list; Kari Whitman whole heartedly supports animal rights and is the founder of [Ace of Hearts](#) dog rescue.

First, Thank You very much for taking time from your schedule to answer a few questions.

**TS:** What was your inspiration to become an interior designer? (Was there a time in your life that you can look back on and say that is when you knew what you wanted to be?)

**KW:** I think I've always wanted to be an interior designer - even when I was a child I remember on vacation with my family, I would rearrange the hotel rooms we stayed in. For a while in my 20's I got sidetracked with modeling and acting, but my passion has always been for art and design.

**TS:** What you do is obviously something you love because it not only shows in the artistry you create, and it is apparent with the amount of respect and admiration your clients have for you. Does that aspect give you confidence going into a project, or does it give a sense of "what if?"- (What if they are not pleased with the result.) Interior design is not for the weak of heart, right?

**KW:** No, interior design is a tough field for sure- very competitive. But I never worry about whether my clients will love the result of our work- I involve my clients every step of the way to ensure that they are getting exactly what they want. I feel very confident in my designs in general, but knowing that my clients are happy and love my work is a great feeling- I've worked very hard for many years to accomplish that, so it is amazing! I always make each project about the client - how could they not like it? ;)



Kari's ability and experience encompasses a wide range within the interior design business and includes design/build projects that showcase her trademark style, but integrates her clients unique tastes and their own appeal as well. That is one reason why so many people choose Kari over other interior designers.

Kari isn't self-centered when it comes to interior design, she is client centered.

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**TS:** All of your projects are unique, but still have that Kari Whitman signature look. What elements do you use to make it a Kari Whitman Design?

**KW:** Art and nature are the two things that are most important to me in my designs, and what inspire me to create. I love to use recycled and upcycled materials, and it's also important to me that my designs are eco-friendly and pet friendly. I often mix old and new- taking old or traditional pieces and giving them new life, or incorporating a bit of history into a modern project. I also think it's important not to follow trends, but rather be a trendsetter, and create something nobody has seen before instead of copying what everyone else is already doing.

**TS:** You are a very motivated and creative person, but being an interior designer is not the only thing you do or have done. You have been in television shows and movies. Do you have any favorite memories from those moments in your life?

**KW:** When I booked the job to play Emilio Estevez's surfer girlfriend in Men at Work, it was such an exciting time. Emilio ended up being my first client when I switched careers into interior design! I also enjoyed being on Baywatch, even though I was freezing in a bathing suit in the Pacific Ocean; it was an iconic thing to be a part of.

**TS:** When you design someone's home, does their personality contribute to your development in giving them what they expect?

**KW:** Yes! All my clients' personalities and tastes are incorporated into each project. Of course I help guide them to the right choices, make suggestions, and present ideas to them, but at the end of the day it is their home or business, and their decision. I think what makes my designs appealing is that they are all different, customized, fun, and artistic.

**TS:** You have a charity called Ace of Hearts. What is that, and what was/is your inspiration behind developing it?

**KW:** Ace of Hearts is a Dog Rescue that I founded, and named after my first dog, Ace. My passion is animals, and I work as hard as I do so I can save as many dogs as possible! We save dogs in the LA area who are elderly, sick, or difficult to adopt and find them loving homes. It's hard work, but there is nothing more rewarding than knowing there are thousands of dogs alive today because of the work we do.

**TS:** W.O.W is an understatement for Kari Whitman. Again, Thank You Kari. I appreciate your time and encourage everyone to learn more about Kari by visiting her website at: [www.kariwhitmaninteriors.com](http://www.kariwhitmaninteriors.com), and to see the magnificent work that charity is doing for dog rescue by visiting her foundation at: [www.acesangels.org](http://www.acesangels.org)

