

Gail Claridge

**Claridge House
Interiors**

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GAIL CLARIDGE,
SUCCESSFUL 'DESIGNING WOMAN,'
RE-OPENS STUDIO/RETAIL STORE IN WESTLAKE VILLAGE

**HIT HARD BY '94 NORTHRIDGE QUAKE, CLARIDGE HOUSE
RE-OPENS IN NEW, LARGER HEADQUARTERS**

Westlake Village, CA -- Successful developer, interior designer, building contractor and restoration expert Gail Claridge is back in business.

Hit hard by the 1994 Northridge earthquake that caused extensive damage to her Northridge showroom, Claridge has rebounded to open the Claridge House interior design studios and retail establishment in Westlake Village, California. Next year, Claridge will celebrate her 20th anniversary in the design industry.

"It's exciting to be back in business and in just a few weeks we've landed several major contracts," said an exuberant Claridge. "We are very pleased to be in Westlake Village, which is one of the most beautiful locations anywhere. This gives us access to a wide range of developments, clients and projects locally, nationally and internationally."

Claridge House design studio and store features numerous period designs, authentic furnishings and accessories. There's also a distinctive array of antiques, collectibles and a potpourri of charming hand-picked European style gift items displayed in many delightful settings.

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Over the phone, Gail Claridge is a soft-spoken, no-nonsense businesswoman, cutting through financial jargon to the straight facts of a project. In person, the petite redhead is lovely and gracious—the ultimate in feminine charm. It's an appearance that belies a gutsy entrepreneurial spirit that has given her the ability to become one of the outstanding designer/developers in the world.

During the past 20 years, Claridge has built a highly successful interior design business and expanded into building development becoming one of the few female licensed contractors in the United States.

She has achieved national recognition for the restoration and building of landmarks such as the 50-year-old Bel Air mansion "Sturdywood", in which she invested more than \$1 million.

Even Claridge's own exquisite lakeside estate in Chatsworth, California, is a work of art. The 7,000 sq. ft. 17th Century English mansion is a creative laboratory for all of Claridge's innovative ideas and has been the set location for numerous feature films, television movies, TV commercials and photo sessions. The home has been featured on ABC's "The Home Show" and "The Home Restoration and Remodeling Show."

Another special project for Claridge was the restoration and remodeling of the John Huston Estate in Tarzana situated on a four-acre site. Authenticity, charm and loving attention were given to creating a "genuine Connecticut Mill House." She also designed a 14-foot fully-working water wheel near the front walkway.

Attention to detail is a Claridge trademark. Designing decorative crown mouldings, flower boxes, use of old stone, flower gardens, antique streetlamps and turn-of-the-century roofing are all features in the Houston houses.

Other prestigious Claridge projects over the years include "Cranberry Knoll," the ISID Design House 1988; and the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City.

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With clients spanning the worlds of business and entertainment, Gail Claridge beams about son-in-law -- actor Hulk Hogan -- who is also a client. One of her latest projects is building an 18,000 sq. ft. authentic 17th Century French farmhouse in Florida for daughter Linda and the Hulkster. "We've also hired my son Joey as the builder, so it is truly a family project," Gail adds.

Daughter Christie Claridge-Foster has also become a designer and works along side her mother at the Claridge House headquarters. Christie is a former "Miss California" (1982) and "Miss International" (1983).

Gail and husband Joseph have been happily married for 36 years. Gail is in constant demand as a featured speaker on renovation and property development to both professional groups and the public. She discusses what drive, determination and old-fashioned hard work can accomplish as well as the challenges of being a woman in the construction industry.

Claridge's commitment to excellence and leadership skills go beyond her achievements as she is a member of both the American Society of Interior Designers and International Society of Interior Designers. She helped launch the San Fernando Valley chapter of I.S.I.D. and has served as a member of the I.S.I.D. Board of Directors. For five years, she served on the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for The California State University at Northridge.

Gail also writes a guest column on designing for Valley Magazine and Westlake Magazine.

She is a member of the American Institute of Architects, Professional Affiliate, and holds a general contractors license for the State of California.

Whatever the design scope, Gail Claridge is the 'designing woman' who turns dreams into reality with astonishing believability.