

C a r o l e O ' R i o r d a n

PERSONAL BIO

Obtained her Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Design with an emphasis in Architecture from the University of California at Davis, including several courses in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. She went on to pursue a Masters in Interior Design from San Francisco State University, specializing in retail and hospitality design.

Carole began her career at Hornberger Worstel Architects, involved in the architecture and planning of several major hotels, including the Hyatt Regency Beaver Creek. Following this, she worked with Bent Severin and Associates, which at the time was ranked number 2 in hospitality firms, and which had just relocated to San Francisco. Her next move was to HOK to obtain experience in corporate interiors. Then, following a desire to connect with her French roots being first generation French, she took a chance and moved to Paris. The chance paid off. Carole met Virginie while working together at Agence Yves Taralon. There they teamed up on several projects including Café Marly in the Paris Louvre, to hotel projects in both Paris and Japan. They discovered that they made a perfect design team. Together, Carole and Virginie headed to Munich, where Carole was a Design Director for a hospitality design studio with projects throughout Europe.

After 5 years living in Europe, Carole made the hard decision to head back to California. She then went to work for the newly opened San Francisco office of the #1 international hospitality firm of Hirsh Bedner and Associates, designing several projects in Asia. Most notably, Carole was the lead designer for Kota Kasablanka, a large scale master planned development that included a 2,000,000sf mixed-use complex situated on an 8-acre project parcel. A 500 room-key, 5-star hotel, and a 116,000sf conference center emerged from the top of an 800,000sf multi-level shopping center and a 4-level below grade 2,000 space parking structure. The conference center consisted of a 22,000sf ballroom and 20 additional meeting rooms all linked by grand pre-function areas connected via escalators to various lobbies and restaurants. Carole's scope also included the interior design of the public spaces and apartments located in two 300 unit apartment towers located on an adjacent parcel.

After 28 trips to Asia, Carole made a decisive move to travel less, and joined a local architecture firm where she became involved with the design of high-end luxury private residences primarily on the San Francisco Peninsula, Carmel, and Hawaii.

After achieving tremendous experience in such a wide variety of projects ranging from hotels to commercial and residential, Carole is thrilled to join back together with Virginie and fulfill a dream of working together. Carole is also intent on offering the great breadth of resources and cutting edge influences of European design to her clients here in the Bay Area. Carole is also an active member of both the Alliance Francaise and the French-American Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco.
