

## VALLEY BUSINESS PROFILE

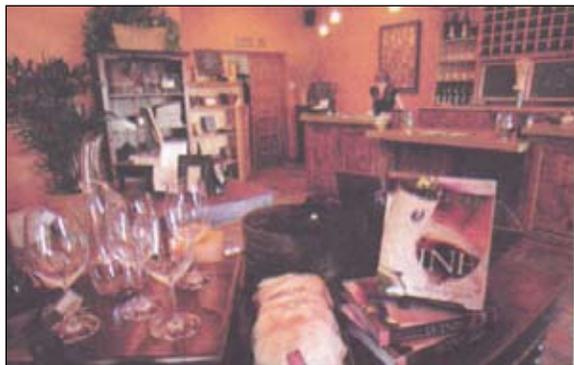
# SACRED SPACES BY SHANNON



Los Olivos designer's work seen in hotels, tasting rooms



Shannon Scott's office in Los Olivos is her home base for projects that reach from Santa Barbara to Arizona and all the way to Newfoundland. Below, one often-complimented design job is the Consilience tasting room, which is right downstairs.



By **LEAH ETLING**

NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Shannon Scott sees her interior design creations as more than creating livable, aesthetically pleasing rooms.

She and her staff at Shannon Scott Design in Los Olivos create sacred spaces, places close to the heart.

Even Ms. Scott's office in Los Olivos is like that. Upstairs above

the Consilience tasting room — a project she designed — the spacious showroom and workspace is not just a place for her to work.

It's also a space where her 5-year-old son, Caden, can shoot a plastic bow and arrow without fear of breaking anything.

And it's a place where Ms. Scott, 33, can help clients envision a radical new look for their home or business.

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## DESIGNING WOMAN

## LOS OLIVOS INTERIOR DECORATOR PUTS HER HEART INTO HER CRAFT

With projects like the University Club in Santa Barbara in her back pocket, Ms. Scott is moving onto new things in residential and commercial design.

She's working on 18 rooms at the Birnam Wood Golf Club, a project that will stretch over several years.

And her company will go out of the U.S. for the first time for a private client's home in Newfoundland starting this fall.

Ninety percent of her work is within Santa Barbara County, although she's also establishing a client base in Sedona, Ariz.

Locally, Ms. Scott has earned the task of redesigning the public spaces at the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott in Buellton, a job she's excited about.

She has lived in the valley for 16 years and completed jobs at Fess Parker's Wine Country Inn while in her previous position at Sue Firestone and Associates.

At the Marriott, the task will be to incorporate the feeling of the Santa Barbara wine country, which has inspired so much energy in the valley recently.

"We want to make you feel like that's where you are, really bring out the essence of it," said Ms. Scott, who believes that hotel guests don't want to stay in their rooms.

Instead, she envisions comfortable community space, ideal for socializing, reading or working. A coffee bar may be added to the lobby.

Current Santa Ynez style is about function, comfort and eclecticism, said Ms. Scott, with colors and textures that are natural.

But no grapes: That's too clichéd. "You want to touch the furniture you have, and it has a casual elegance," she said.

Some pieces are big and chunky, statement pieces. Woods are distressed so scratching and wear is not an issue.

Environmental design is increasingly a focus of the firm.

A good example of that philosophy is inside the Consilience tasting room, a project that started when a friend of one of the winemakers found her way to Ms. Scott's showroom on a weekend.

She noticed a recycled wood bookcase in the office, Ms. Scott made a recommendation and things developed from there.



**Caden Scott Fallon is the company's CEO — it even says so on his mom's Web site. At left, color is key in all of Shannon Scott's interior design work.**

Eventually, Ms. Scott created a rustic yet sophisticated environment with slate floors, a custom wine bar, bamboo and seagrass shades, recycled wood bookcases and modern track lighting.

The effect is wine-country modern.

Things made of bamboo, natural fibers and recycled woods are hot in the design world right now, Ms. Scott said.

She recently put bamboo flooring in her own home, in part because its durability will stand up to her large dogs.

She started her business when she was one month pregnant with Caden, and he's come along to many a design show. In fact, he's listed on the company's website as the CEO, with a full biography. When he's not at the office, he studies at the Family School. Caden likes helping his mother pick colors for carpets and furniture, but sometimes she has to rein him in a bit.

"I'm not a pink girl," she said when he suggested a bubblegum shade.

Ms. Scott's design sense is rooted in history. She's excited to be returning to a project she worked on several years ago at the University Club in Santa Barbara.

Repeat customers, she says, tell of a business's true success.

"The biggest compliment is when they call you again," she said.