



# Kari Whitman

INTERIORS



Melanie Griffith's  
New York  
Apartment



“ I love Kari's passion,  
she truly has good taste.”  
- Jessica Alba



Whitman's  
Colorado  
Mountain Home

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**C**elebrity Interior Designer **Kari Whitman** founded Kari Whitman Interiors (KWI) in Los Angeles in 1994. The firm has offices in Los Angeles, New York City, and Aspen/Boulder. KWI has done projects all over the world. Kari is one of Hollywood's most sought-after interior designers. Famous clients include Jessica Alba, Kristen Bell, Melanie Griffith, Antonio Banderas, Don Johnson and Don Henley. Kari is known for her eclectic design style and knowledge of eco-friendly and pet friendly interior design. Her expertise includes commercial interior design and projects ranging from condos to estate homes, boutique hotels to large-scale residential developments. Kari is a member of the American Society for Interior Design.

Regardless of a project's size, Kari assists her clients in all

phases of home design including selecting and purchasing furnishings, fabrics, and surfaces. She oversees the entire process from the initial concept to contracting, project management, complete furnishing and final installation.

Kari fashions spaces for her clients that reflect their personality, affinities and needs. Her work has graced 14 magazine covers and over 100 articles worldwide. She was chosen as one of the top ten designers in the world for 2018. Kari also holds the honor of having been selected as the interior designer for Park La Brea, a large development in the historic Miracle Mile district in Los Angeles. From athletes, actors, royal families, luxury high rise apartments, or even a modest juice bar, no job is too big or too small when Kari Whitman Interior's passion is behind the force.

# Kari Whitman

Interior Designer  
**Kari Whitman Interiors**

*Interior design is a true talent. When did you know it was your calling?*

I've always had an affinity for design, art and space. When I was about seven my parents took me to Hawaii on a vacation. I remember them saying, "Hey, we're going down to the pool." And I said, "Okay- I'm going to stay up here for a few hours." I reconfigured the entire hotel room. In high school they had a drafting program and from that point I was hooked. My stepfather was an artist, so I was always surrounded by a lot of art. Then I got side-tracked and was a model and actress for a while until I realized that it was absolutely not my calling. So, I just started my own firm. Emilio Estevez was my first client.

*How did you get a reputation as a "celebrity designer?"*

Luckily, I had done a movie with Emilio Estevez and Charlie Sheen. While I was doing that movie, they came over to my little studio apartment in Hollywood when I was a broke actress. They were like, "Oh my God- this is amazing!" They both

asked me to work on their houses and hired me, and that started my celebrity designing world. It began with my simply working with them in movies and getting to know that kind of celebrity scene.

*Dogs are near and dear to your heart. Tell us about Greener Pup.*

I have a nonprofit dog rescue foundation called Ace of Hearts, which I started in 2001 in memory of my beloved dog Ace who I rescued

from a high kill shelter in Santa Monica. In honor of Ace, I've saved over 7,000 dogs to date. I started a dog bed company called Greener Pup. Everything is recycled but the zippers. The inside of the bed is made of recycled plastic bottles that would have gone to landfills. We use anywhere from 100 to 170 bottles per bed. We've just started doing a blue jean denim line for dog beds also. 100% of the profits go right back to Ace of Hearts.

*What advice would you give to women who want to break into the interior design field?*

If you want to start your own business as an interior designer, you have to know you're not going to have time for anything else. Doing some stuff for free in the beginning to get some press and get your name out there is extremely important. You need to get to know the right vendors and people so you can have an "in" with them and get a great deal if you get a client. You need to stand out.

[www.greenerpup.com](http://www.greenerpup.com)  
[kariwhitmaninteriors.com](http://kariwhitmaninteriors.com)

