



Sporting riding pants and a forest green wool hat, Santa Barbara artist Lori Ann David shows a moment of extreme joy at being on the verge of completing the installation of her mosaic at the new Santa Barbara Airport Terminal

## Airport Art

Phase one of the commissioned art work for the new Santa Barbara Airport terminal is coming to completion this week with a fundraiser grand opening on Friday, June 17.

On a cloudy day last week, I met with two of the three commissioned artists at the still-under-construction new airport terminal. Longtime artists and friends, **Lori Ann David** and **Vidya Gauci** were selected to do the wood-beamed ceilings and the rotunda floor mosaic, respectively, in the new two-story 67,000-sq-ft terminal, emulating Spanish Colonial

Revival architecture.

The wood-beamed ceiling is called "Santa Barbara Star Gazing." Vidya hand-painted each side of the beams while standing for nine hours a day on a 50-foot scaffold using stencil technique. Lori Ann's 20-foot diameter full-scale medallion titled, "Santa Barbara 360" was sponsored by Santa Barbara Beautiful and the Santa Barbara Airport, and took her over eight months of full-time work.

These two artists were not only under design constraints, but the terminal building is registered as a U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, aka LEED. Therefore, their selection

of paints and tiles had to be in compliance with LEED. The LEED compliant paint, for example, came from Frazee Paints.

The artists also had to adjust their designs once they arrived at the actual construction site, because the LEED requirements for the rotunda area and the physical dimensions of the beamed ceilings were changed from their original specs. The duo chatted with us about the commissions.

**Q.** *Lori Ann, tell us about the collaboration with Vidya and some background on your request for proposal to do the artwork.*

**A.** I called Vidya after hearing about the commissions in January 2010 and said "we have to do this!" My idea was that we would come up with the designs together so they would be harmonious yet individual; Vidya could stencil the beams, I could make the

mosaic, and one of my ironwork guys could make the railing details. There is a lot of paperwork involved, and having done public works projects before, I convinced her we should submit a proposal for all three commissions.

*What was your inspiration for the mosaic and for the ceiling? Did you tour Santa Barbara and collect images to emulate as in the Courthouse Mural Room?*

We met at one of Vidya's clients' homes, created in classic Spanish Revival style, to brainstorm and come up with design ideas for a day. We both have a lot of design and fabrication history in the Spanish Colonial Revival motif, so it was a fabulous day of creation.

We knew what we had to work with as far as the new building, interior finishes, tiles, colors and style, and we did rough sketches and layouts. Vidya did the presentation to the Santa Barbara Art Commission Committee headed by **Rita Ferri**. There were multiple reviews by many groups and committees before our final approval, and even after we were chosen for the beam stenciling and the mosaic, there was still "tweaking" to be done.

Vidya: The core of the work is "What is Emotionally Santa Barbara" to us as artists, to its residents and its many visitors, that being, Santa Barbara's extraordinary flora and trees, breathtaking coastal landscape of ocean and mountains, and its beautiful Spanish Revival architecture and Moorish elements.

## Committed to the Commission

Vidya's stencils for the beams took two months to complete. There were layout patterns for the sides and the bottoms of the beams, a total of 50 stencil boards. Once on location, she had to reconstruct them due to the increase in beam size. Each side took her 6 to 12 hours to paint. In addition to the six cross beams, she decided that the 40-ft center beam needed to be gold bordered to make the work coherent.

The beams are made of plywood and she had to convince the site painters to use a full body stain to cover the grain of the plywood so her stencil designs would be seen. "The beams are hand-painted in all five classic Spanish colors with a metallic gold base. It took three weeks to hand paint the lobby, and will take me another four weeks to paint the second floor concourse, which is coming up right after the Gala opening," Vidya said.

Lori Ann spent eight months and approximately 5,000 artist hours from start to installation for her rotunda mosaic. In all, there are over 500,000 pieces of hand-cut tile, most one quarter inch or smaller, with 43 different



Affordable Quality  
Lifetime Warranty  
Locally Owned.

805-450-0599  
SantaBarbaraCabinetCompany.com

Authorized Dealer  
**NORMAN**  
LEADER IN FINE WINDOW FINISHES

## Shutters add value and beauty to your home!

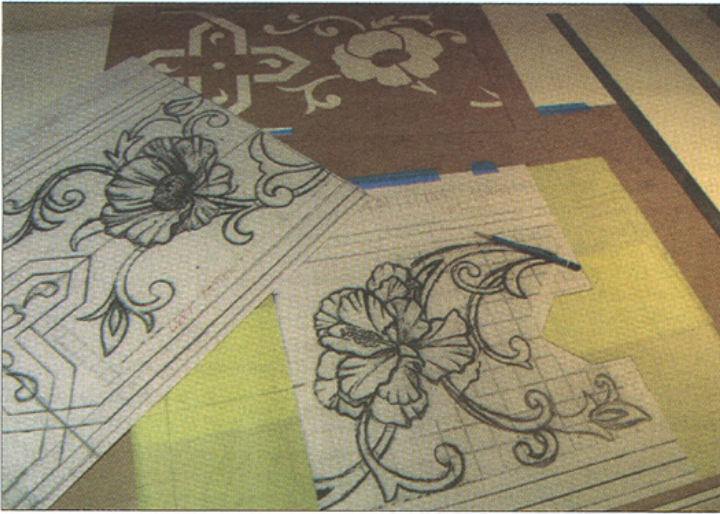
Call today for a complimentary consultation!



## AMERICAN SELF STORAGE

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS  
8% + CASH FLOW, PAID MONTHLY  
PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT  
LONG TERM GROWTH  
25+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

CALL  
DENNIS PETERSON  
MANAGING PARTNER  
805.963.5945  
PETERSON@DAPENTINC.COM



Stencils created by Artist Vidya Gauci

color tiles and three grout colors. The tiles are domestically made, LEED approved, and skid proof. Lori Ann hand sealed the mosaic three times with a sponge.

The mosaic is the Santa Barbara landscape, directionally laid out so that the palm trees face the ocean side and the oak trees face the mountain

side of Santa Barbara. Design innuendos include an airplane trailing an "I love SB" sign (Lori Ann has a pilot's license), and use of the Official City Flower – the hibiscus – and Matilija poppies, which are native to the area.

"The fact that we came up with this together, stayed focused, determined, in joy and grace, despite the difficul-



Artist Vidya Gauci stands on the new balcony with her hand-painted ceiling beams, and the 1940 historic Santa Barbara Courthouse Lantern on permanent loan to the airport

ties, we kept the Buddha mind clear, steady and unattached, because really, nothing is permanent. Do the best you can, do it from love, holding a deep appreciation of genuine beauty, and laugh a lot!" the artists said. For more information, visit [www.vidyagauci.com](http://www.vidyagauci.com) and [www.loriannandavid.com](http://www.loriannandavid.com).

The Grand Opening Gala Event is

on Friday evening, June 17, from 6 pm to 10 pm. It is a fundraiser for the public arts program at the new Santa Barbara Airport Terminal.

The other commission was for decorative wrought-iron railing, which was awarded to artist, Colleen M. Kelly, who created a seaweed kelp motif.

•M/

## 2011 OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY

# SOCIETY



The Santa Barbara Airport held a Grand Opening Gala Friday, June 17 to christen the new \$63 million terminal. Pictured are: 1. Frank and Sandi Hotchkiss; 2. Janet Wolf, Vyda Gauci, Lori Ann David, Patricia Griffin, Helene Schneider, Bill Gilbert, Salud Carbajal, Harwood 'Bendy' White, Randy Rowse, Doreen Farr, Roger Aceves, Backrow: Kirk Martin, John Clark and Fred Sweeney; 3. Lori Ann David and Vyda Gauci; 4. Lois Capps and Fred Sweeney; 5. Clay Lacy; 6. Karen Ramsdell and Phil Bernstein.

PHOTOS BY LYNN HOUSTON



# Architecture and Art Define New Airport Terminal

**A**N ARCHITECTURAL GEM AND LANDMARK, Santa Barbara Airport's new terminal greeted its first visitors June 17th for an "Art of Travel" Gala. It was a luxurious celebration honoring the massive public project's art and Spanish colonial revival architecture. All of the contributing artists were local and on hand to talk about their work and how it is integrated into the terminal.



Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara Mayor; Karen Ramsdell, SB Airport Director; Ginny Brush, Executive Director, SB County Arts Commission; and Patricia Griffin, Honorary Chair

"The moment has finally arrived for this important project to be opened to the public," commented Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director during ceremonies.

City officials, airport managers, commission members, and local dignitaries - more than 600 friends of the airport in all - attended the Gala opening of the new terminal, which was a fundraiser for the new Airline Terminal Public Art Program and was funded solely by ticket sales and sponsorships. Gala highlights included the official 'unveiling' of the new public artworks, a champagne red carpet welcome, live jazz music, international cuisine and wine tastings, photo portraits with a restored 1930's DC3 aircraft, and silent auction travel packages.

"Santa Barbara's new airport terminal exceeds all expectations," commented Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara Mayor. "The airport may be run by the City of Santa Barbara but with so many community members involved in its planning and design, especially as it relates to its architecture and public art pieces, the terminal belongs to the entire community. SBA now not only gets people swiftly in and out of town, it is its own destination for all to enjoy."

The \$63 million project includes a new aircraft parking ramp, a new airline terminal building, relocation and rehabilitation of the 1942 portion of the existing terminal, a new short term parking lot, and roadway. The new 72,000 square foot terminal was designed in the tradition of the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style which defines the City of Santa



Rita A. Ferri, Public Arts Coordinator & Curator of Collections, SB County Arts Commission and Linda J. Gardy, Business Specialist SB Arts Commission



Members of the Media view the mosaic just before the Gala.



Clay Lacy, CEO, Clay Lacy Aviation and Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor of SB County

Barbara's local culture and sense of place.

The new terminal consolidates services and operations which are now housed in outlying buildings such as airline offices, rental car facilities, concession storage space, and the TSA office. Airport Patrol and parking lot operations will be housed in the 1942 terminal when it's refurbished and completed next year.

The building was designed by HNTB Inc., a nationally recognized aviation design firm, in collaboration with Santa Barbara's PMSM Architects. Guiding the design team throughout the process was a special project subcommittee composed of representative members of each of the City's review boards and commissions.

"As an important community gateway, the Airport is committed to providing a venue for public art that enriches the visitors experience and reflects the history and culture of the region," stated Ramsdell during the Gala.

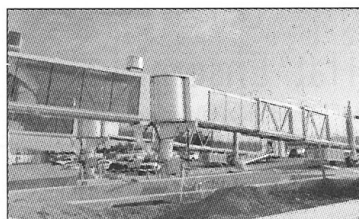
Three local artists were commissioned to design and install art works that have been incorporated into the new terminal interior: *Santa Barbara Sky Gazing* - custom wood beam stenciling hand-designed, hand-cut, and hand-painted in latex and gold by artist Vidya Gauci. *Giant Brown Kelp* - graceful wrought iron railing design elements depicting Santa Barbara's renowned kelp forests by Colleen M. Kelly. *Santa Barbara 360* a 20 foot diameter full-scale mosaic medallion, impressively interpreting the visuals of a continuous local

landscape, directionally oriented inside a graphic-illusion border, all within an overall Moorish entwined arched structure design by Lori Ann David. The medallion was sponsored by Santa Barbara Beautiful and the Santa Barbara Airport.

The historic Santa Barbara Courthouse Lantern was also incorporated on a long term loan basis. Fabricated in the 1940's, it was restored by Halroyd Studios, and now hangs in splendor in the entry pavilion of the



The distinctive new terminal at the Santa Barbara Airport began its role of welcoming guests with a red carpet and towering red banner on June 17th, 2011



Glass walled passenger gates provide expansive views of both mountains and the ocean



Santa Barbara County Dignitaries pose in front of a DC3 aircraft that was on display at the Gala

new terminal. The Lantern is on loan from the County of Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation.

A loan of art by the David Bermant Foundation started an informal public art program at the Airport in 1990. Since that time the Foundation has loaned the Airport two kinetic artworks. Both will be relocated to the new terminal: *Good Time Clock IV* (1984) by George Rhoads. This popular sculpture has been enjoyed at the Airport for 20 years, attracting and engaging people of all ages.

*Albatross V* by Dustin Shuler is a kinetic sculpture with a fiberglass and gold leaf glider mounted on a 13 foot steel pole. It made its debut at the Airport in 1995. The glider rests on the tip of the pole and responds to slight fluctuations in the air currents.



Jim Armstrong, SB City Administrator, Felicia Sutherland, VP, Advertising Mgr Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, and George Leis, President and CEO of SBB&T

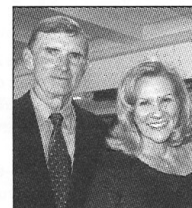
was removed and put into storage. The loan to the Airport by the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission enabled the mural to be refurbished and to be displayed in the new airline terminal prominently on the second floor.

The Gala Celebration opened with a welcome from Patricia Griffin, Honorary Chair of the event, followed by comments by Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider; Airport Director Karen Ramsdell; Special Guest, Clay Lacy, CEO of Clay Lacy Aviation; Ginny Brush, the Executive Director of the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission; and Cheri Peake, Santa Barbara County Arts Commission.



Artists Lori Ann David and Vidya Gauci

One of the more remarkable installations, by virtue of size and fit, *Fiesta*, by renowned artist Channing Peake is a bright and colorful 60 foot mural that was dedicated and displayed in the El Paseo Restaurant's Gold Room in 1984. More than a decade ago the mural



Ed Grubb and Renee Grubb, owner of Village Properties

See more Photos by Priscilla at [santabarbaraseen.com](http://santabarbaraseen.com)  
Contact her at [priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com](mailto:priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com) • (805) 969-3301