

# Meet Gail Curtis

## Uniquely Inspired Interior Designer



by Sharleen Nelson

She may seem composed on the outside, but on the inside, she's joyfully bursting with artistic creativity and a profusion of dazzling design ideas. Meet Gail Curtis, one of Marathon Coach's talented interior design experts. Since starting with Marathon in 2006, Gail has designed more than 40 coaches that mirror her individuality.

According to Gail, one of the best things about working at Marathon is that she is given quite a bit of creative autonomy. "Marathon encourages its designers to try new things," she said. "One day you feel like doing something that's super traditional, and the next day something that's a little more contemporary." And because many of the coaches Marathon produces are "Designer's Choice" (designed exclusively by one of the interior designers), Gail has ample opportunity to use her imagination, explore new materials, and put her personal stamp on almost every coach she designs. For instance, the coach's interior space may be in a tradition-

al style, but if you take a closer look you might notice a certain subtle playfulness—an ordinary lamp but with a splash of orange streaking across one side—that happily proclaims, "Gail was here." "I do like mixing things up a little bit," she said.

Born and raised in the land of citrus trees and swimming pools in sunny southern California's celebrated Orange County, Gail has fond childhood memories of frolicking in her father's orange grove in San Juan Capistrano, and as a teenager living the casual beach life in Newport Beach. Gail gets noticed without screaming, just like her favorite color, orange—a fun, endless-summer kind of color that frequently shows up in her designs. "I don't know if it's because of the orange groves or Orange County, but orange is a color that just makes me happy," she said.

Following a successful career in business, Gail began her second career in the transportation design industry after graduating with a degree in residential design from the Art Institute of Seattle. She was employed for a time with an interior design firm specializing in yachts, and later started her own yacht interior design business in Seattle. Yachts and luxury coaches—similar in their clientele, use of luxury materials, space limitations, and designing for movement—provided excellent training for her current work at Marathon.

When Gail was offered the interior design position at Marathon a couple of years ago, she was thrilled. "My husband was able to transfer his job to this area, and everything just fell into place," she said. Gail and Rick love Oregon, and recently bought a new townhouse where they reside with their two Bengal cats, Abbie and Buji-Zen. "I've been doing the final touches to the interiors and am ready to start a container garden on my patio."

Gail finds design inspiration wherever she goes. "Sometimes I'll see a shape in a roof or a window and all of a sudden I'm thinking about how that can be turned into something for a coach," she said. Inspired by her travels to the West Indies, Gail recently designed a coach with a Caribbean theme, complete with white-



washed shutters and a ceiling fan to complete the sensation of a bygone plantation-style home.

Because every Marathon coach is unique, each presents a new design challenge, yet Gail takes pleasure in the exhilaration of juggling a variety of projects simultaneously. When she was designing yacht interiors, one project could take an entire year. "I like being able to see a project completed in less than a year. It's exciting to have it all come together," Gail said. "I love what I do. It's fun and it's constantly changing. I look forward to going to work each day—sometimes it's hard to go home."

Gail's enthusiasm for her job also extends to her co-workers. "People are nice here. It's really sort of a family atmosphere, and to be able to design and envision something on paper and have Marathon's craftspeople translate it perfectly, that's huge." A good deal of Gail's job satisfaction, however, comes from pleasing her clients. "Marathon's clientele is great. It's wonderful to walk clients through the design process and help them create an environment they'll feel comfortable in and be as happy and excited about as I am," she said.

"My goal is to make sure that it happens every single time." •

Congratulations!

*Danica Patrick  
Makes Racing  
History!*



Congratulations to coach owner Danica Patrick for becoming the first woman ever to win an Indy car race. Danica's landmark victory happened April 20 when she won the Japan 300 Indy Racing League race in Motegi, Japan. Danica, who is 26 years old, started from the third row in her #7 Motorola Andretti Green Racing car and seized the lead with three laps to go. She finished 5.8594 seconds ahead of pole sitter Helio Castroneves on the 1.5-mile oval. Danica also made history as the first woman to lead a lap at the 2006 Indy 500. Great job, Danica! •