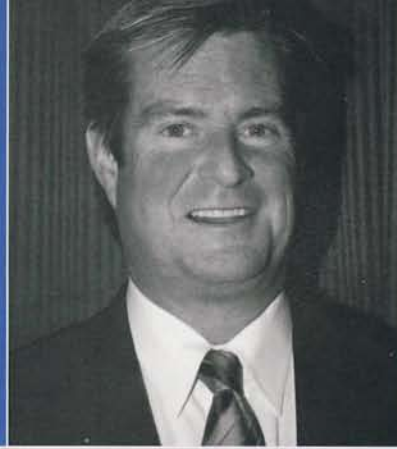


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Gordon Hattersley
HOTELIER/ENTREPRENEUR



En route to Hawaii 18 years ago, Gordon Hattersley stopped to visit a friend in San Diego, where he discovered and fell in love with an old Queen Anne-style Victorian house. Thirteen years later, Hattersley's love for the home was alive and well, and when the place came on the market, a friend called to let him know. "Once I set foot in it, I saw the potential," Hattersley says. He purchased the house and spent two years carefully restoring and creating what is now the award-winning Britt Scripps Inn.

The getaway's newly refined spirit isn't simply a result of happenstance. Hattersley is no stranger to the hotel industry, having successfully undertaken several other hospitality projects, including his first property—Colorado's Steamboat Bed and Breakfast. "My motto is 'do it right.' That's what counts," he says. "People are being more discerning towards where they're staying. They're looking for attention to detail."

The \$6 million renovation kicked off with extensive research. Hattersley worked with a historical consultant to probe the home's old paint to discover the original—and considerably bright—exterior colors. (A charming garden on the side of the house lets people enjoy the exterior detailing as well as the agreeable So Cal climate.) He also hired teams of skilled craftsmen and antiques specialists to re-construct interior details according to Victorian style. "It was a challenge," he says. "I didn't want it to look and smell like Grandma's house."

Though the renovation was costly and slow-going (two high-rise structures were erected nearby during the 24 months it took to complete the inn), Hattersley asserts it was all worth it. "So many people cut corners and do things less than 100 percent," he says. "I want people to know that I spared no expense, time or money to restore this place."

The result of such deliberate work is an authentic Victorian hotel with present-day luxuries, or "an old lady in a new dress" as Hattersley's been heard to call it. The inn's nine guest rooms feature private baths, antique furniture and rugs and flat-screen TVs. The intimate parlor lends perfectly to late-afternoon wine and cheese tastings, and the overall homey setting furthers the staff's (already) personal attention to visitors. "We don't have a front desk here," Hattersley notes. "Guests are greeted at the front door."

In addition to maintaining the inn, Hattersley is currently hatching plans for a hotel/condominium property and plans to pursue additional hospitality ventures for which he will, without a doubt, spare no expense to do properly.