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 If bringing a new artistic tent to the Lobero is something you are passionate about, contact Jim Dougherty at 805.679.6005 today to find out more.

# what you should know about **Architect Jeff Shelton**

*Jeff Shelton has been called “Santa Barbara’s Architectural Wizard,” conjuring up whimsical buildings that evoke Spain’s famous Gaudi, and bring a fun artistic sensibility to downtown. He’s also the man who designed the Lobero’s Moorish style tent that has been providing shelter for many a pre- or post-show gathering. This summer, the Lobero Theatre Foundation has begun work with Mr. Shelton on a new summer tent intended to provide shade for the space when the sun is blazing.\**

## **Do you work with any other performing arts groups or venues in Santa Barbara?**

The Lobero is the only one. I don’t have a lot of time to get into too many more things. Designing buildings, tiles, fabric, graphics and furnishings takes most of my time. I have of course always loved the Lobero building, so I am happy to work with the organization. I like to support good architecture.

## **How did your partnership with the Lobero begin?**

I think that I got a call from David Asbell. I’m sure he did his homework and knew that I couldn’t pass up working on a great building like the Lobero.

## **How was it for you to create something new to work with a historic building?**

The Historic Landmarks Committee wanted to make sure the tent had a “Historic” reference, and in addition, they did not want the tent to be attached to the physical building. The tent is based on a North African/Southern Spain Moorish tent; also, we had to make the tent in a way that not only can it be removed, but also when it is, you shouldn’t find any trace of where it was. Dan Upton, the contractor, devised some clever detailing to make this happen.

## **Are you approaching this new “summer” tent in the same way?**

The original tent is based on the Moorish tent. This tent is to provide protection from wind and water. The new “summer” tent is going in a different direction, because the function for the summer is entirely different—only to provide shade. We have a couple of different directions that we are entertaining. One is a formal and symmetrical design that is more like layered clouds, and another direction includes many smaller sails that would create more of a forest canopy. We have models of both, and are currently debating the pros & cons of each idea.

**Marianne Clark has said that you took a key role in getting the tent permitted and approved by the Historic Landmarks committee. “If it weren’t for Jeff overseeing the [Lobero] tent project through the process, I’m not sure we would have it today.”**

Funny. Other architects could have done it, but that is very nice of her to say that. I respect the building.