

“Abdul and Ferozan bring an old-fashioned magic to business; by that I mean a hand shake and a look straight in the eye means more than any signed contract ever could. This is the second project I have completed with the Ibrahims and I am proud to have helped with their financing and to see their company grow and prosper as a result.”

JOE LAMPE

*Senior Vice President
Bay Area Development Company*

SILKROUTE INTERNATIONAL – SAN LEANDRO, CA



The personal touch is what makes a house a home, and no one understands that like Abdul and Ferozan Ibrahim, owners of Silkroute International. Silkroute specializes in the retail sale of oriental rugs, ethnic jewelry, furniture and artifacts from India, Pakistan, Africa and other Asian nations. Abdul says the thing he likes most about having his own company is being able to make his own decisions about the business. So, the husband and wife team travels around the world personally choosing and purchasing products, which eliminates the “middle man” and ensures all merchandise at Silkroute International is of the highest quality.

Abdul and Ferozan moved from Afghanistan in 1978 because of the threat of Russian occupation. They left behind a comfortable life and a very successful business, and came to the United States with the dream of beginning a similar business here. They started Silkroute just a year later in a San Francisco warehouse and later purchased a building in Hayward with an SBA loan from Bay Area Development Company. Their San Francisco building was sold in 2004 and they consolidated to the Hayward facility in anticipation of someday purchasing a much larger building. In 2005 they accomplished that goal when they purchased a showroom and warehouse totaling 37,325 square feet on nearly two acres in San Leandro. This space was secured with a second SBA loan through Joe Lampe of Bay Area Development Company, in partnership with Ronald Short of California Bank and Trust.

Silkroute International has since added four more people to its staff and, by utilizing a distribution network of various retail outlets and consignment agreements, now sells their unique, hand-selected products in over 90 stores across the United States. And when Abdul and Ferozan held the grand opening at Silkroute International’s new San Leandro home, it was the celebration of a personal journey spanning many years and many miles.