

Deck the Walls

today's paints, wallcoverings, faux and decorative finishes offer homeowners plenty of options



by Peter Barber
President
Two Dudes Painting Company
Lancaster

Interior finishes for the home have seen a tremendous transformation over the last few years. No longer are we satisfied with the broad open spaces that antique white and bone china used to provide us, but now we are searching for stronger, richer more refined colors and patterns that represent the spaces we've created in our homes. Color palettes have expanded tremendously and the options available for other types of unique finishes have given rise to a whole new level of expect-

tation when it comes to decorating the walls and ceilings.

Paints

Paint technology has leaped miles forward and advances in acrylic resins and pigments has allowed for the production of an unprecedented variety of colors. No longer bound to the color charts of old, computer color matching has the paint stores producing custom color matches to the tiles in the bathroom, the ruffles in the curtains and even the

shirts off our backs. Just about any color our eyes can capture can now be reproduced and rolled onto the walls.

"We're bombarded with more images in a day than our ancestors saw in a lifetime," says Jill Morton, CEO of Colorcom, an international consulting firm of color experts. "Visually, we require



All photos courtesy of Two Dudes Painting Company.

Historically accurate colors complement the woodwork of this New Holland homestead.

more stimulation.” The home is a natural place to get that stimulation. Rich, dark hues are filling the family rooms, bright cheery colors give added life into the kitchen, shimmery jewel tones sparkle in the master bath; all the while contributing a vivid visual backdrop to our lives.

Wallcoverings

If you think of wallpaper simply as some flowered pattern on a neutral backdrop you are missing out on a whole world of possibilities. Wallcoverings is the term needed to describe the multitude of rolled goods that can be applied to the walls. Sure you can go to the store and pick up that red gingham pattern just like grandma used to have in the kitchen, but now that comes in dozens of different colors, pattern sizes and finish materials.

While the digital revolution has made the mass reproduction of just about any pattern or design possible (yes, you can even design your own wallpaper!), it has also given rise to an appreciation of hand crafted pieces. Hand blocked and printed wallpaper, long cherished for its rich beauty, now carries the unique cachet of not being perfect. Heavily embossed papers, anaglypta and lincrusta add texture and style to flat surfaces. Gold leaf, thin wood veneers, grass-cloth and bamboo are all raw materials translated into rolled paper goods that are utilized for the decorative needs of the home.

There are even specialty papers that can do things like act as whiteboards, acoustical barriers, magnetic walls and even deodorizers. The practical application of these products sometimes contributes even more value than their aesthetic.

Faux and decorative finishes

The centuries old art of faux finishing has seen a tremendous resurgence in the last decade. Specialty products are constantly being developed to help people execute those wonderful finishes they have seen, but no product or



TWODUDES
PAINTING COMPANY

since
1987

750 poplar street
lanaster pa 17603
717.396.1207

At Two Dudes Painting Company we have developed an extensive staff of more than twenty trained craftsmen to provide the labor necessary to execute all of these decorative needs. Skilled and experienced painters combined with highly trained artists and paperhangers provide a single source for all the finishes in your home. We understand the demands and expectations of today's discerning homeowner and we have the talent and the vision to help them realize their dreams. We are not content to sit back and idly watch as trends come and go, but we are always searching and experimenting with new ways we can bring products and techniques to our clients.

www.twodudes.com



A hand painted checkerboard detail completes the design of the stairway.

(Right) Custom murals are created with input and feedback from the homeowner.

(Below) Elegant furnishing require an elegant faux finish.



TWODUDES
PAINTING COMPANY



PAINTING • PAPERHANGING • DECORATIVE FINISHES
750 poplar street lancaster pa 17603 717.396.1207 www.twodudes.com



(Clockwise from top) Faux mahogany grained doors and windows provide a distinct trim around the custom designed wall finishes. Highly detailed trim work highlights the bold use of color. Textured and glazed walls give an old world feel to a newly built home. Light plays against the metallic gold and matte stripes.

applicator tool will ever take the place of a finely trained and talented artist.

Walls come alive with motion and energy when translucent glazes layer overtop of other colors. "Marble" surfaces are now a possibility under the trained hand of a master craftsman. Trompe l'Oeill effects alter the reality

of the space in which they are painted. Custom murals and paintings capture unique emotions and experiences. These and unlimited other possibilities represent the beauty and creativity that can be expressed with simple materials when manipulated with talented hands. Today's Master faux artisan can accurately recreate marbles, rare stone,

fine woods, textiles, old world European plasters and textured wall finishes, along with a host of natural aging and distressing techniques. This broad range of techniques opens a whole other world of decorative elements to the home.

R&A