

WHY GO *Faux*?

Faux painting has its roots in antiquity.

Widely used in Pompeii, it spread through Europe during the Renaissance period and two schools of faux painting developed. The Italian school was loose and artistic; the French school formal and realistic.

Angela Camp Dyke, owner of Faux Real Designs in Austin, studied this style of painting in Paris eighteen years ago, beginning a long and prosperous love affair with decorative art. An artist at heart, her degree from Parson's School of Design in New York City gave her the foundation to take her talent to the next level.

Quite simply, faux painting adds interest to a room. It can be dramatic, such as a brick red dining room. Or it can soften a baby's bedroom. It adds contrast, texture and warmth by creating the illusion of depth and dimension, as well as being able to provide a subtle background for furniture, accessories or art.

In kitchens and bathrooms, she uses antiquing and distressing techniques to give plain cabinets a look full of character. "Aged to perfection" can happen in a day, giving you a new look without the fuss of remodeling.

Recently, Angela worked closely with designer Andra Maldovan, of Keaton Interiors on a large scale project. "I chose Angela because her work is excellent," said Maldovan. "She is extremely independent. She understood exactly what needed to happen in this home immediately."

The homeowners had ideas where they wanted the faux finishes and what color palette they wanted to use. Angela came up with a concept board and the owners approved. Maldovan was pleased with the collaboration. "She grasps your needs early on and there is not a lot of back and forth.

One of the other things that stands out about her is her ability. She is not limited to finishes, but she does murals, accents and exteriors as well."

In the entryway Angela used multiple layers of glazes in warm colors to create high interest. She then incorporated details of the light fixtures into hand painted designs to further accentuate the architectural features of the house.

For the giant dome in the foyer, Angela stood on four levels of scaffolding to paint the design that was custom created for the space. She used a luxurious chocolate brown background with gold and silver metallic swirls to create an opulent shimmer and elegant highlights.

The end result was stunning. "She is one of the best and I have worked with faux finishers all over the world," says Maldovan. "I recommend her 100 percent."

Accenting Old World style for almost twenty years has given Angela experience consulting homeowners with high impact home metamorphosis, with or without a designer. She knows how to thoughtfully plan each individual space. "I have a very gratifying career, creating art that people can live in and enjoy. I love seeing the look on their faces when they finally see the transformation of their living spaces. It is priceless." ■

For a custom design consultation, contact Angela Camp Dyke at 512-423-1813 or visit her website at www.fauxreal.info.

