

After



Living Room

From 40's to Fabulous

The living room should be the heart of the home, but this room seemed cold and dated. The brick fireplace, red ceramic hearth and old fashioned front door screamed 1940's. Poor color choices added to the problem. The harsh contrast between the white ceiling and trim, yellow walls and cool toned gray carpet made the room seem stark and small.

Barth White of Las Vegas was selected to transform this space. While best known for his work in grand casinos such the Belagio, he tackled this tiny space with equal flair.

The primary objectives for the room were to: add warmth, use eco-friendly materials, update the space and to make the room appear larger.

Barth and his team first prepared and primed the fireplace, then glazed the brick in a soft trio of metallic glazes. The red ceramic-tile hearth was updated by troweling on 4 thin layers of Quartzstone™ leaving a bit of texture. The plaster is made with real quartz, stable at high temperatures and dries to be very hard and durable. Once glazed, the hearth looks and feels like a real stone slab. Now, this cozy living room invites you to sit and relax by the fire.



The FP seemed tall for the room & sconces were lost on the wall



Wood parquet was stained and water damaged

What we did:

- Painted over red brick fireplace
- Troweled Quartzstone™ over hearth
- Added over-mantel
- Glazed ceiling
- Troweled lime marmorino on walls
- Removed carpet to expose wood floor
- Sanded and bleached damaged parquet
- Painted/distressed doors, trim & mantel
- Stained floor to look like inlay wood



Same fireplace with paint, plaster & MDF board overmantle



Wood parquet was stained and water damaged-now it's stunning!

Walls, Trim & Ceiling



Custom stencil with lime paint



Resin Trim Piece

The palette of golden earth tones was custom mixed to complement the warm wood tones of the floor. The walls were plastered with a natural lime based marmorino by Rivedil™. While labor intensive, marmorino imparts an aged Italian feel to the room, providing a warmth impossible to mimic with paint.



White door was painted, crackled and distressed

Barth and his team painted the door, mantle and trim dark brown, then applied Adicolor Crackle Medium in certain areas, followed by a lighter overcoat of paint and antiquing glaze. Once dry, Barth used sandpaper to uncover areas of dark brown in raised areas for a naturally aged appearance. His trim color is only slightly darker than the walls, thus unifying the room.



Barth White in front of finished fireplace



In Progress

At this stage the walls and brick FP have been primed and wood/trim added above the mantle



Spraying the ceiling

To further soften the room and make the ceiling appear higher, Barth matched a paint and glaze mixture to the wall color and applied it to the white ceiling with a HVLP sprayer. He used his signature Faux Tool to blend the glaze quickly and efficiently.

Before



View from Living Room Toward Side Porch & Kitchen

This before shot of the living room wall (opposite the fireplace) illustrates the power of paint and plaster to completely transform a space from cold and boring to warm and wow! The new color choices tie together the living room, hall and kitchen and create a harmonious flow to this open floor plan.

The living room makeover proves that the right color scheme can make a small room look larger and challenges the common myth that white ceilings make a room look taller. See our tips to making the most of small spaces in the last chapter.

After





Piecing together the Modello®



Melanie Royals applying stain

After



Before

Parquet floor was stained and water damaged



Before

Ann & Carl Bayer sanding floor



After

Parquet now looks like expensive inlay

Saving the Damaged Parquet Floor

The living room floor was covered with gray-blue carpet. While worn, the carpet was in better shape than the wood floor beneath. Over the years of multiple rentals, the floor had suffered from water damage, grime, pet stains and dripped paint. It was in such bad shape that a professional floor finishing company deemed it beyond repair and stated the only alternative was to replace it.

Unwilling to rip out the original parquet if there was any hope, Ann Bayer and husband Carl decided to tackle it. By sanding and then applying wood bleach, they were able to lessen the contrast between the dark pet stains and lighter woods. They then applied wood putty to fill the cracks. This was followed by more sanding, a sealer and light stain.

Melanie Royals, artist, author and founder of Modello Designs[®] flew from San Diego and taught a group of volunteers how to apply a 6' x 8' Modello Decorative Masking Pattern[®]. The one-time-use, adhesive vinyl stencil was custom sized to fit the room. Modello[®] have revolutionized the faux world by allowing intricate patterns to be produced less expensively and on a large scale. Further, the self adhesive prevents against the bleed under that can be problematic when using mylar stencils.

Once the pattern was applied to the floor, Melanie and her team of volunteers used water-based gel Stain and Seal[®] to stencil the various colors through the elaborate pattern.

Was it worth it? While a huge amount of work, the reward was an eco-friendly and truly unique patterned floor plus a huge sense of accomplishment.



After

Console stained to match floor

Artists & Sponsors



Artists:

*Barth White - walls, door, mantle, ceiling and trim
Melanie Royals - faux inlay floor and Modello class
Anne Bayer - Room Captain, hearth and table
Stuart Kershner - overmantle, grates and moldings
Carl Bayer - floor preparation
Debbie Thompson - picture framing
Team Members - Sandi Anderson, Melissa Clements,
Tania Seabock, Rosalie Myers, Rebecca Hotop, Sandra
Davis, Mitch Eanes, and Pauline Siple.*

Designers:

Nancy AtLee and Mau-Don Nuyen

Sponsors:

*Arlington Paint & Decorating Center - painting supplies
Barth White - the Faux Tool[™]
Beaux-Artes - decorative vents, moldings and FP topper
Color Wheel - Benjamin Moore, Adicolor, and Lime Seal
Decorator's Supply Warehouse - composite molding piece
Dominion Floors - final sealing of floors
Faux and Fleur Designs - hand painted table
Faux Effects International - Stain & Seal[™],
Quartzstone[™], FX Thinner[™] and sealers
Hanging Treasures - frames
Mann Brothers - Casein
Micol[™] - tints
Modello Designs[®] - floor decorative masking pattern
The Faux School - Rivedil[™], Amaze-a-Glaze[™] wall
and ceiling products
Voss Creative - custom stencil
Westover Florist - fresh flowers*



Before



Interior: same angle as opposite page

Before



Interior: view from door

Old Shed Becomes Home Office

*Elegant yet whimsical,
this room tells a story...*

Before



Exterior was an eyesore



Volunteers primed shed



Needs decorative accents

The Faux House was too small to include a home office, a near necessity in today's world. The only other space available was an old storage shed. Room Captain Mary Steingesser decided to convert the exterior shed into an office with a botanical artist's theme.



It appears this mischievous pig broke through the opposite wall & is now wrapped in wallpaper



Photo by Omar Salinas

What we did:

- Painted exterior/added decorative accents
- Added insulation, drywall and small heater
- Attached canvas murals
- Faux painted walls and ceiling
- Added window treatments
- Applied Skimstone over gray cement floor
- Stenciled floor design with tinted cement
- Created custom molds for ceiling design
- Revived old furniture found in shed



Painted window visually opens the room

◀ Even non-artists can create these whimsical animals. Both the donkey left and the pig on the facing page were painted using stencils by The Mad Stencilist™. They were then hand embellished with details and added shadows. The window illusion was made even more convincing by adding real molding and curtains for a third dimension.



Floral painting by Mary Steingesser
She painted six acrylic on gold botanicals to further illustrate the room's theme

▶ Sheri Hoeger painted a trompe l'oeil "paneled" door with hanging overalls. She used an airbrush to shade the overalls which are paint-spattered in keeping with the artist's studio theme. Sheri completed the canvas in California and shipped it to Virginia where volunteers used wallpaper adhesive to attach it to the existing flat wooden door. The before photo (right) shows how this simple change adds tons of character to the room.

Don't Ignore doors, floors & Ceilings

*They do for your room
what accessories do for your clothing*



Painted door molding & Overalls on flat door



Flat wood door



Custom molded ceiling design

Ceiling: The ceiling was fauxed along with the walls, then Mary created this one-of-a-kind ceiling medallion made of hand-cast plaster. The design complements the floor design and adds elegance to the room



The Floor: Skimstone™ is a cement overlay product that can be easily applied by the DIYer using a how to DVD. Volunteers mixed a pale green shade and troweled it over the existing gray cement floor. To make the design, they used a Modello® stencil and darker varied colors of Skimstone.™



Skimstone was troweled over gray cement floor



This metal cabinet was found in the shed and given new life

Remarkable Furniture Make-overs



Old Army desk updated with paint & plaster



Applying Wood Icing™ to furniture is a fun and easy process



Raised stenciled design in Venetian plaster

After



Painted shutters, window boxes & other details change the shed from eyesore to cozy cottage



Painted "Shutters"



Ashley Spencer added butterflies to symbolize the rebirth of her home town, New Orleans



birdhouses

Before



Photo by Omar Salinas



Artists:

- Mary Steingesser - Room Captain
- Linda O'Neill - Room Lieutenant
- Sheri Hoeger - painted overalls door panel
- Rose Wilde - Wood Icing™ cabinet makeover
- Francesca Springolo - donkey in window
- Anne Bayer - Army desk makeover
- Ceil Glembocki - window treatments, dog pillow and flowers
- Ashley Spencer - trompe l'oeil shutters and butterflies
- Denise Malueg - pig in torn paper
- Debbie Thompson - matting and framing
- Gary Arvanitopoulos - concrete step with dog prints
- Chris Jackson - flowers in window boxes
- Celeste Stewart - exterior woodwork
- Stuart Kershner - decorative moldings
- Sally Skene - landscape for large mural
- Team Members - Lee Hickman, Ryoko Kanke, Kathy Keel, Linda Manning, Carol Rohrbaugh, Jacky Shaw, Sally Skene, Jenny Vanier-Walker, Eric of Paintin the town Faux, Carl Bayer, Rachel Steingesser, Tracie Wier, Barb Tise, Marc Steingesser, Jennifer Skene, Tania Seabock, Ann Cook, Eric Carleton, Susan Guarino, and Patrick O'Neill

Sponsors:

- Andreae Stencils™ - stencils
- ArtStuf - molding supplies
- Beaux-Artes - door escutcheon and hinge straps
- Calico Corners - fabric for window treatments
- Color Wheel - Skimstone™
- Faux Effects International - paints and glazes for walls
- Golden Artists Colors, Inc. - paints for animals and exterior details
- Hanging Treasures - custom picture frames
- Keepmypet.com™ - preserved dog
- Mad Stencilist - donkey pig and floral stencils
- Modello Designs® - decorative masking floor pattern
- Roc-lon® - canvas for murals
- SALI - Capital Area Decorative Painters-volunteers
- Skimstone™ - cement floor products
- Stencil Planet - stencils
- Wood Icing™ - rejuvenated cabinet