

Plaster lends a 3-D look

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have traditional molds, we also mold pieces according to current decorating trends."

The architectural accessories at Bartolini, at 3054 Dundas St. W., come straight from his Etobicoke factory. All are white, but Bartolini will custom-finish pieces for customers in whatever color they want.

Add approximately 30 per cent to the retail price of the object to get the re-finishing charge. Customers often appear with a swatch of fabric or wallpaper and want a finish that will co-ordinate with their decor. If you decide to finish the plaster casting yourself, Bartolini recommends you use latex paint.

In Bartolini's factory, many of the castings are custom work for interior and stage designers. "Whatever you want — Ionic, Corinthian, Doric columns, we make them all," he says.

Iconoplast Designs

It seems to be routine that people in the plaster-casting business have been at it for at least three generations.

The grandfather of Francois Furieri, owner of Iconoplast Designs (961 Eglinton Ave. E.), ran plaster-casting operations in Italy, Cannes and North Africa.

Francois Furieri, who met his Canadian wife in France, came to Canada where he worked for The Balmer Studios, which have been around since 1835. (Balmer at 9 Codeco Crescent, Don Mills is now into its sixth or so generation of Balmers at the helm. They have an extensive showroom of pre-cast architectural ornaments made in several materials and strengths.)

Besides residential work, Furieri has done many commercial

jobs that require custom fabrication. These include a Toronto mosque and the restoration of the elaborate plaster work of the Pantages Theatre in Toronto.

At the workshop at Iconoplast, skilled craftsmen use the same methods as used in plaster casting 100 years ago. Molds are made in silicon from original pieces and filled with plaster that dries in the shape of the mold.

Pieces such as moldings and ceiling centres are cast in old-fashioned plaster, while columns, door trim and decorative items for exterior use are cast in gypsum plaster, which is much sturdier.

As well, Iconoplast casts a line of decorative sconces, brackets, mantels, niches and plaques in iconstone, which is a chemical mixture that results in a faux stone finish complete with natural looking air holes. Colored dyes are mixed in so that the color is right through the casting.

For the average homeowner, at Iconoplast there's an endless stock of mouldings, cornices, ceiling centres, brackets and frames in any style you care to mention. By the way, decorative moulding down low is moulding or trim and around the ceiling it's a cornice.

"A customer came in and wanted an Art Deco molding," Furieri says. "We just dug around in our stock of moldings and found an original one from my father's time and cast it."

Moldings at Iconoplast are \$5 to \$30 a linear foot, depending on width, complexity of design and amount of order. Their hottest item, plaster ceiling centres, range from \$50 to \$200.

Furieri points out that once cornices, moldings and ceiling

centres are glued on they are permanent.

"Any average handyman can install these things himself," he says. "We will give all the help and instruction a customer needs."

Cast table bases, mantels, wall brackets and sconces are screwed on and can be moved.

One of Furieri's original castings, a picture frame which is an exact copy of the frame around the *Mona Lisa*, was ingeniously copied (by him) from a foggy photograph taken in The Louvre through the glass that protects the painting.

The 2-foot, 6-inch by 2-foot, 10-inch frame retails for \$1,100.

Many resources

Ron Faulkner of Yonge Corridor Developments, builder of monster houses with all the trimmings, has scoured southern Ontario for items of decorative interest to perk up the interiors of his lavish houses.

Faulkner turns out to be a walking resource of where to get the best deal and best quality of everything from cornices to doors.

Faulkner's over-sized houses, with their 13-foot-high ceilings, need lots of decorative features to minimize the temple-like atmosphere and to give the rooms human dimensions.

According to Faulkner, all his ornaments are new but are repros and copies of antique features.

In one of his houses, 11-foot pine columns at the entrance to a sitting room are from Humber-side Woodwork in Georgetown.

Faulkner found a retired businessman in Erin, Ontario who runs a small company called Gotham Inc. who makes handsome wooden spindle and spool pieces. These, Faulkner likes to hang from the top of high doorways.

Throughout his houses, Faulkner uses moldings as cornices, around doors, as dados and to create one-of-kind fireplace mantels.

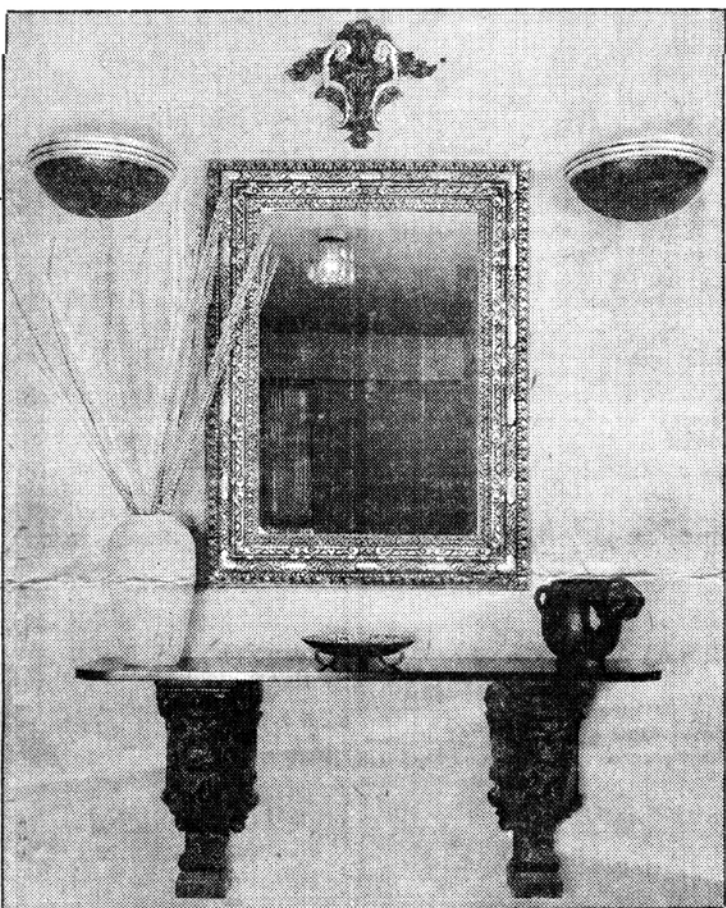
Foot-high baseboards and dramatic cornices are often made by combining two commercial trims. Faulkner gets his oak trim from Fairbank Lumber in Thornhill and many of the moldings he installs are from Multi-Classic Interiors in Toronto.

Faulkner is fond of using all kinds of glass in his interiors. He goes to the Linden group in Scarborough for sculptured (etched) glass, and to Royal Doors in Concord for french doors with bevelled glass.

A big resource for Faulkner is Steptoe and Wife (322 Geary Ave.) who supply embossed friezes by the foot and old-fashioned lincrusta and anaglypta, which are pressed pulp products in wallpaper form.

These products have dynamic Victorian, Edwardian, Art Nouveau and geometric patterns in relief and make wonderful wainscoting. The raised pattern can be painted like a picture. For bathrooms, anaglypta can be waterproofed with shellac before painting.

Anaglypta ranges from 99 cents to \$4.50 a square foot.



KEITH BEATY/TORONTO STAR

MONA LISA: Gypsum plaster *Mona Lisa* picture frame, \$1,100, sconces \$140 each, keystone above mirror, \$95, lion brackets \$230 each; all from Iconoplast.