

# HOME

Fertilize grass  
the new way/E6

**FOR CLASSIFIED  
SEE PAGES E7-E23**

SECTION E — PAGES E1 - E24



*Sconces, capitals  
and cornices are just  
some of the ways  
people are getting  
their homes plastered*

## Doo-dads

by Donna Jean MacKinnon, Star Home writer

In the '80s, our thirst for the trappings of the good life showed up in the trend towards opulent interiors. This has resulted in a revival of dramatic interior architectural detailing.

In Toronto there are numerous suppliers and makers of classic plaster cast ornamentation.

Today, the installation of reasonably priced plaster ceiling centres, ornate brackets, fancy moldings, cornices, and mantels can add a lavish, three-dimensional element to modest boxy rooms.

From Egyptian to Art Nouveau to Art Deco — name your favorite period and you can get the architectural pieces.

Larry Bartolini's family has been casting decorative objects in plaster for three generations. The business started in Italy with his grandfather and came to Canada with the family in 1954. His father brought some of the prototypes of the molds that are still in the Bartolini stock.

According to Bartolini, it takes up to 30 coats of latex rubber to

make a mold from an original piece. Each coat must dry thoroughly. As a result it can take two weeks to a month to make a mold.

"We can make a mold from almost anything," Bartolini says. "Once the mold is made we cast our pieces in a material called hydrocal or hydro stone. Both are more durable than plaster."

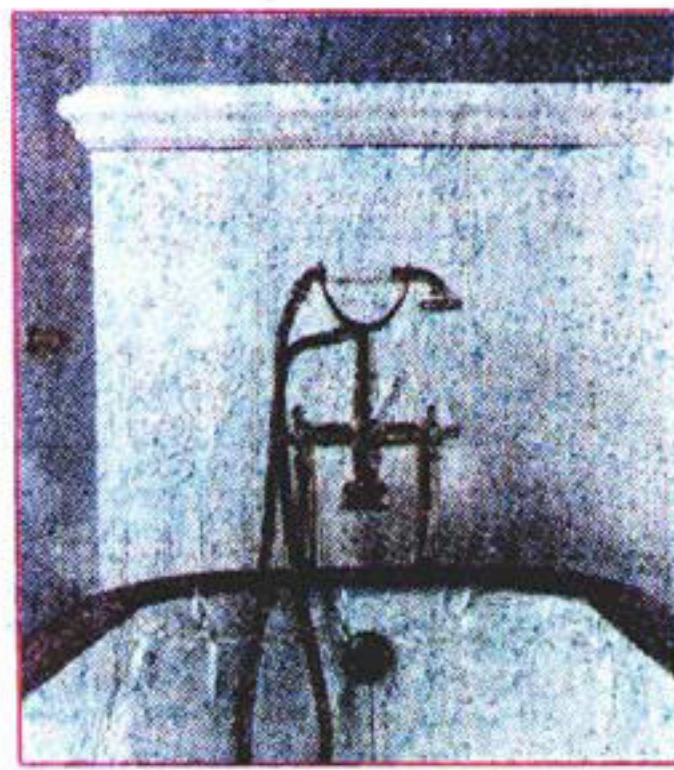
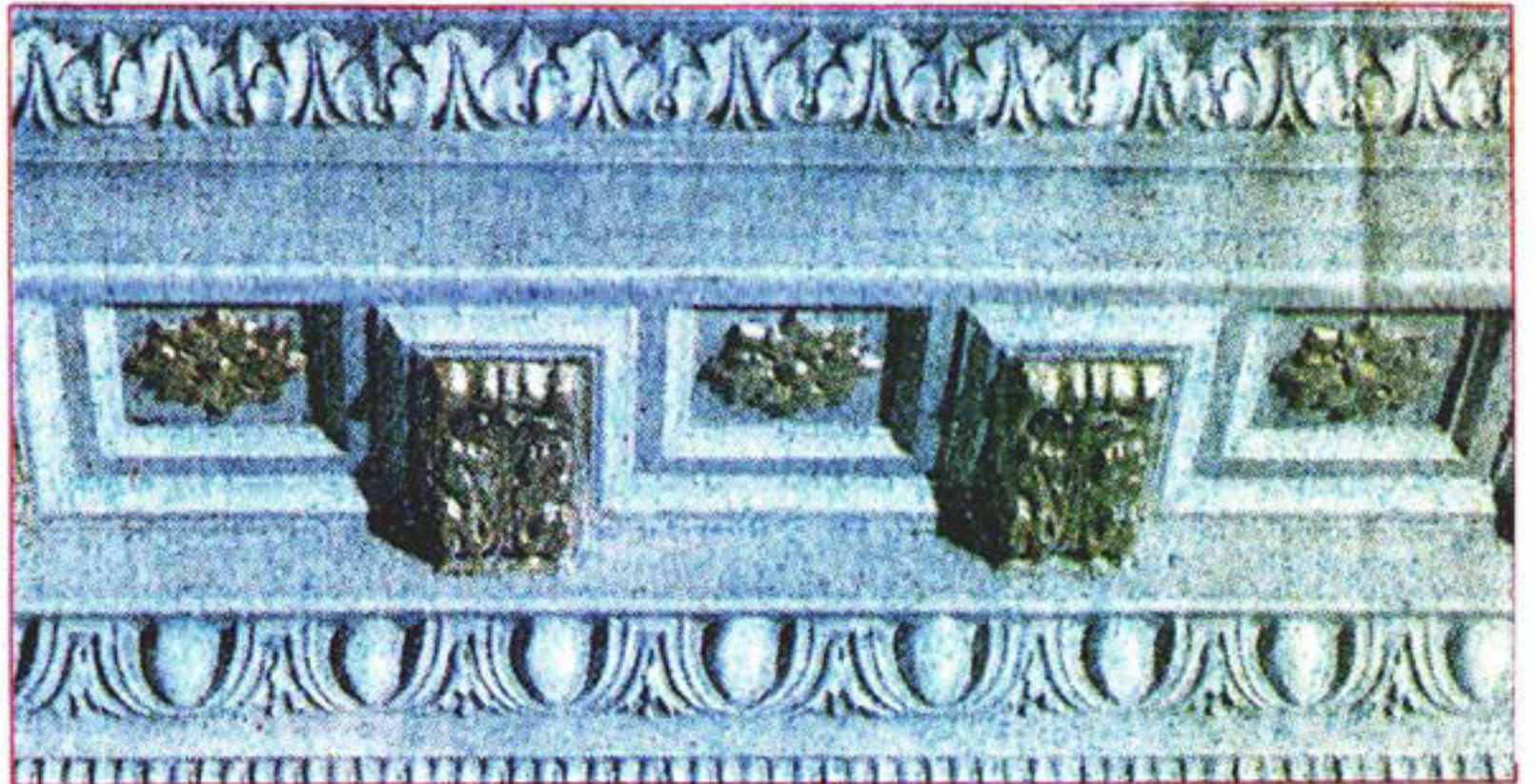
At this point, Bartolini drops a wee hydrocal angel on the carpeted floor and the thing more or less bounces.

"Although there's been plaster castings for centuries, it's now called the California look," laughs Bartolini.

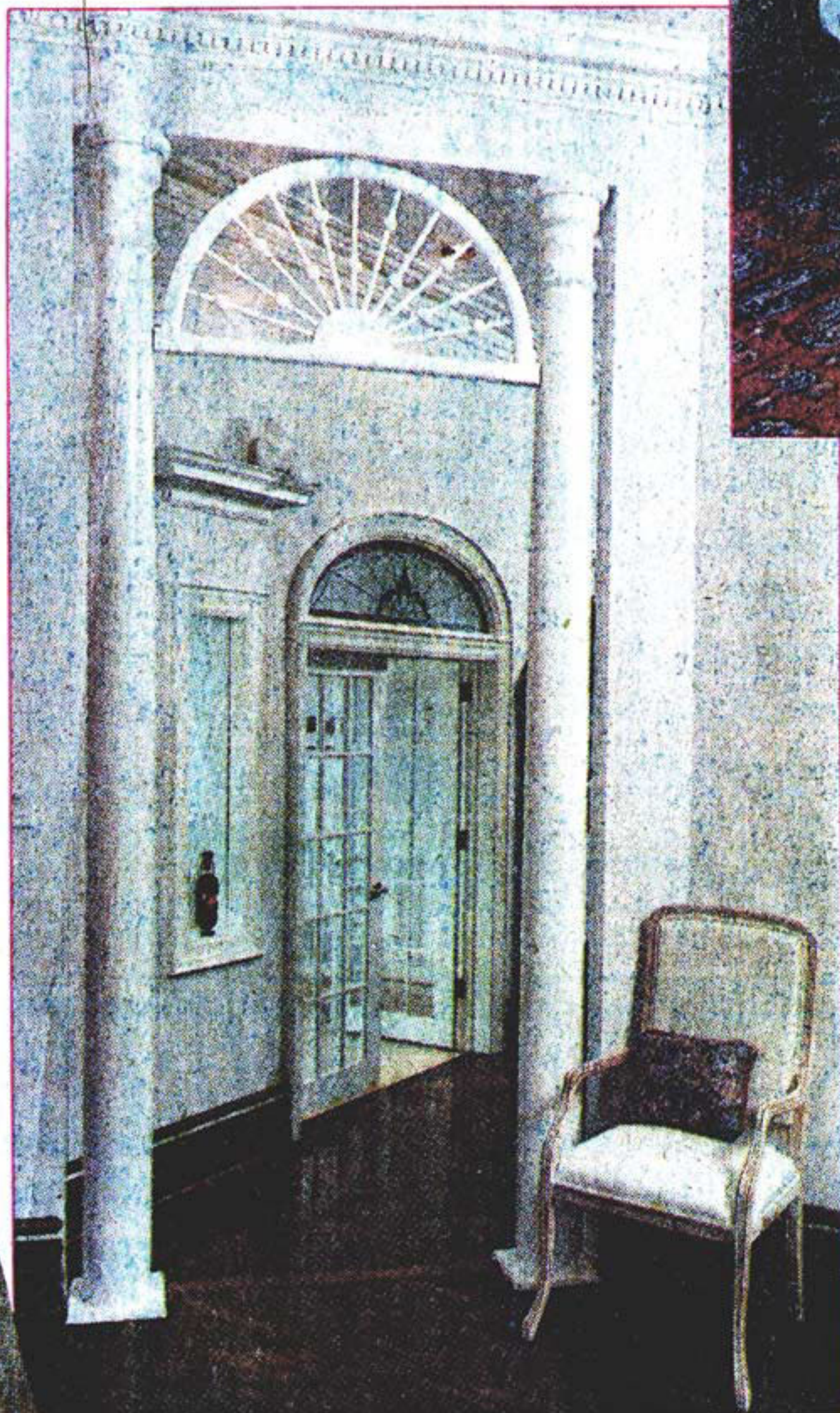
Plaster cast planters, animal sculptures, candle holders, decorative plaques, cupids and large vases in antique styles are now popular accessories.

"We sell angels like you wouldn't believe," Bartolini says. "We even make angel-head pull-backs for curtains and knobs for doors (\$5 each). The curved wings act as a pull. Although we

Please see PLASTER/page E3



Iconoplast's gypsum plaster cast Ionic table base is \$550 and mantel, \$900 unfinished.



Builder Ron Faulkner of Yonge Corridor Developments uses many architectural ornaments, including pine columns, bevelled glass, stained glass, spool and spindle work, mouldings, cornices and baseboard. Left, plaster putti wall plaques are a popular item at Bartolini, \$58 unfinished.

Top, mouldings at Iconoplast, 961 Eglinton Ave. E, are priced from \$5 to \$30 a linear foot. Above left, anaglypta wainscoting from Steptoe & Wife, 322 Geary Ave., is 99 cents a square foot. Above, "capital" table base is \$680 (unfinished), Caesar is \$98, planter, \$18, frame, \$35, column, \$95, candleholder, \$38, apple, \$24, brackets about \$65; all from Bartolini, 3054 Dundas St. W.

