

THE FAUX FINISHER

THE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2010
FOR THE DECORATIVE FINISHING PROFESSIONAL

Published by the  Paint & Decorating Retailers Association



...at Faux Assured in Utah!

Live & Learn...

...with Michel Nadaï in France!



...at Faux Retreat in Wisconsin!

Also in this Issue:

- Online Education
- Big Project in the Big Apple
- Concrete Decor Show
- Resource Guide

Plus Much, Much More!

\$4.99 US / \$6.49 Canada



A group photo of the volunteers who worked on the Habitat for Humanity home as part of "The House That Faux Built" project along with Nikki Clark and her daughter, Kyrie.



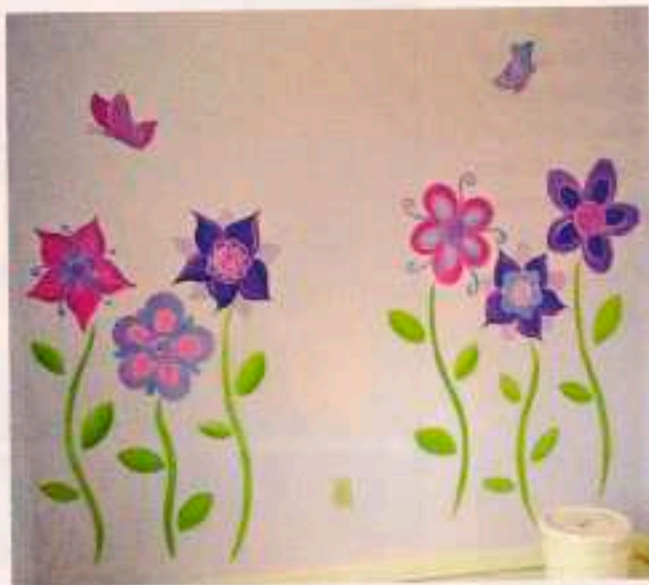
The author painting in Kyrie's room. A finished view at right.

Making a Difference... The House that Faux Built

In 2005, more than 100 of the decorative painting industry's best artisans joined forces and transformed a 1940s home in Maryland into a gallery of extraordinary faux finishing, stenciling and decorative painting. The project was not merely a showcase of talent and technique; it was designed to make a difference.

The house and the resulting book, "The House that Faux Built," was the brainchild of Adrienne van Dooren. The motivation behind the project was to fund a Habitat for Humanity home in New Orleans, post-Katrina.

Fast forward four years to today. The funds to build the home have



been raised, and the building is complete. A mother and her two young children have a home of their own as a result of the efforts of decorative painters with a heart.

If you own a copy of the book, you helped make this happen. The original decorative artisans helped make this happen. The project

founder, Adrienne Van Dooren helped make this happen. And the 13 artisans who saw the project to completion helped make this happen.

The first week in November 2009, a small group of decorative artisans gathered in New Orleans to paint and decorate the Habitat home

The Volunteers:

Lyna Farkas	Krista Vind
Jane Drew	Cindy Evorett
Laine Discepoli	Renee Holder
Pat Travis	Marti Carroll
Karina Astete	Jane Morgan
Colleen Drew	Rebecca E. Parsons
Katie Davine	



A motif of sports balls was created for little Kyrón's room.



Volunteers work on the living room finish.



An overall damask pattern was stenciled in the bathroom.

months of planning and coordination preceded this day. Lyna Farkas, Project Coordinator said, "There were many hours of phone calls, e-mails, meetings and brainstorm sessions," between the three principal planners: Lyna, Laine Discepoli, and Jane Drew.

"The projects were planned as well as each could be without seeing the actual location we were to paint," Lyna continued. Laine, Sponsorship Chair, had the same difficulties attempting to arrange for donation of product "without knowing exactly what we were going to do and how large the spaces were."

Jane, the local coordinator of the event, was the only participant who had seen the house prior to our arrival. She served as logistics coordinator, shipping and storage facility, airport chauffeur, tour guide and hostess throughout the week. We also used social media to give progress reports during the week via our Facebook Fan Page — Artists 4 Others. This was the first docu-post: "Everyone arrived safely today and thanks to JANE!!! Our local New Orleans woman on the street and her

relatively local (Baton Rouge) cohort Pat Travis who treated us to a wonderful Nawlins style meal at her home!!! What fun to see all the goodies in her foyer (all of the supplies for the project)... Ready to work in the am!!!"

Early Tuesday morning with supplies, stencils and buckets of product loaded, we drove to The Degas House where most of the out-of-town participants stayed. Lyna, Laine, Colleen Drew and Katie Davine hopped in the vans, and we headed to the Habitat for Humanity site on Louisa Street in the 9th Ward of New Orleans.

The homeowner, Nikkia Clark, was waiting for us on the steps of the coral-colored house. After introductions, the vans were unloaded, rolls of blue tape were distributed and the work was underway. Everybody sort of picked a room to work in, some in pairs and some alone.

Laine and Lyna concentrated on the dining and kitchen areas, where a highly textured effect was done. Faux Effects Aqua Stone was applied to the walls in a skip-trowel method. When dry, they were glazed with several Faux Crème colors. The insets of the kitchen cabinets were prepped, and a raised stencil fleur de lis was randomly applied. They were overglazed to mute the effect and accent the embossed stencil effect.



Jane Drew, Lyna Farkas and Laine Discepoli in front of the house.



This mural was done for the New Orleans SPCA.

Karina and Katie manned the transformation of the living room with Firenze Marmorino. A skim coat was applied in a light beige tone. An embedded stencil design was done to accent the area over the windows. Trowels were blazing for the second coat. It became an all-hands-on-deck application as almost everyone grabbed a trowel and went to work. Krista Vind and Cindy Everett had arrived by this time and joined hands in the creation.

Jane wanted to decorate the hallway to the bedrooms. She stenciled a random leaf and branch design by Cutting Edge Stencils on the upper walls. The subtle tone-on-tone effect was a beautiful addition to the expanse of builder beige walls.

Colleen and I headed for the children's rooms with artist brushes and Golden Artist Color's Heavy Body acrylics. In the daughter's lavender room we decided to paint giant graphic flowers and butterflies. Kyrie's favorite color is pink, so we based the color scheme on that. The wall where the bed would be became the focal wall. Her name was stenciled above the bed with a custom SayWhat stencil. Butterflies, at Kyrie's request, were painted randomly around the other walls and a flower surrounded her light fixture.

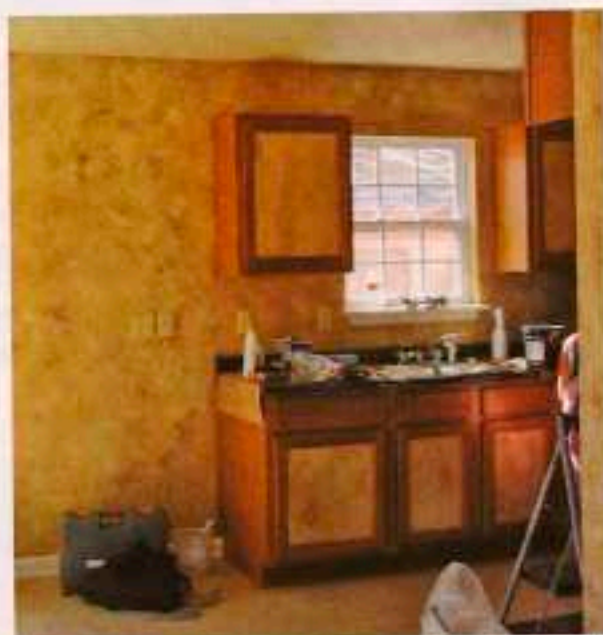
Two-year-old Kyron loves balls,

so we decided to create oversized sports balls on the walls. Colleen and I did the balls with the help of Katie. A giant basketball, football, baseball and tennis ball turned the walls into a room any boy would love. We dubbed it the "ballroom." On the headboard wall, Colleen painted a basketball goal and Kyron got a custom SayWhat name stencil also.

Four members of Sister Hands—Krista Vind, Cindy Everett, Renee Holder and Marti Carroll transformed the master bedroom. They trowelled Proceed Metallic Plaster on the walls to create a subtle shine. The walls dance in the southern sunlight and glow in the evening light.

Several people worked on the bathroom. The walls were stenciled with an overall damask patterned stencil by Wallovers in shades of cream and taupe. The cabinet was painted, plastered and aged to give it some character.

All of this was done in three-and-a-half days because we had another project to do as well. The New Or-



The dining and kitchen areas feature a highly textured effect and raised stencil fleur de lis on the cabinets, followed by an overglaze.

leans SPCA, which benefited from a painted birdhouse auction from the first house project in Maryland, wanted a mural in a waiting room. So Colleen, Jane, Laine and Lyna managed to bring this tiny area to life with Cutting Edge Stencils, butterflies from CasArt and hand-painting with acrylics by Golden.

If this was not enough, the artisans undertook another benefit project for the SPCA: doghouse and birdhouse design and decoration for an auction. Two beautiful doghouses were fashioned by local architect Burke Rafter.



A Gypsy Wagon-themed doghouse was designed, created and painted by Connie and Randy Cotita of Monroe, La.



Several of the artists also painted and decorated these doghouses.

These were painted and decorated by Pat, Jane, Laine, Lyna and me.

A third doghouse was designed, created and painted by Connie and Randy Cotita of Monroe, La. The Gypsy Wagon themed doghouse stole the show with its unique look. It even had windows, hurricane shutters, faux finishes and murals in the interior. It is a dream creation for a very special pet.

The birdhouses raised more than \$1,000 at the auction. The doghouses were so unique that the SPCA decided to have another event in December to raise funds with these. The results were not known at press time.

Joy Ackerman of Joyful Expressions Photography (www.joyfulexpressionsonline.com), and a friend of Laine, volunteered to come and capture all of our hard work (and fun!). She made framed gifts for the homeowner and CDs for each participant. "Joy is an amazingly creative soul, and I know her talents reach far beyond the lens... and we will make use of them!" Laine stated.

Lyna said, "Whew... what a week! Lots of work but lots of fun as well! Thank you so much to all who participated as well as all of our wonderful sponsors."

The Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, Inside Out Section of *The Times-Picayune*

newspaper had a feature article entitled, "Faux Art Makes Real Difference." The artists were interviewed and quoted by editor Karen Taylor Gist. The article begins:

"There's a song stuck in my head, and I know it's kind of a corny one to bring up, but I think you'll understand it in the end.

"The Disney ditty 'It's a Small World' (I warned you: pure corn) popped up this week after I visited a Habitat for Humanity site on Louisa Street where a group of faux artists from across the country is turning a basic home into a very special one.


"The group was another living proof of the lesson we've learned here over the past four years: that each one helping one unleashes a power far more potent than any government or corporation can muster. And when that happens, the world indeed starts to seem like a smaller, more personable place."

It was a very special bonding time for the participants. "We seem to have formed a sisterhood," I thought on my flight home. Lyna wrote on the Facebook page after her return home, "Lots of synchronicities—Amazing time—Great friendships made!" Karina Astete wrote, "We definitely bonded and I want to do something [together] soooooon!"

Colleen Drew wrote, "Thank you Jane for sharing your beautiful city! It was a wonderful week and experience, thank you again for being such a gracious host."

In the weeks after the project, the women have decided that our connection was so strong that we want to repeat this philanthropic work every year. I came up with a name for our tribe—Cre8Tive Sisterhood—and the others agreed this described our feeling perfectly. Laine put it simply, "What happened in New Orleans doesn't have to stay in New Orleans! We can take it wherever! I agree with Rebecca—we're onto something potentially very cool and I want to run with it... I hope you all do, too."

Stay tuned, for the Cre8Tive Sisterhood is excited about partnering with Terry Grahl and Enchanted Makeovers next year to bring beauty to a women's shelter (www.terrysenchantedcottage.com). Lyna Farkas will share the full story in her column "Do-Gooders Heart of Faux," a regular feature of *Artistically Speaking Magazine*.

For more information, visit the Faux House website and see Artists4Others Facebook Fan Page. 

Rebecca Parsons is a regular contributor to The Faux Finisher. See her bio on page 29 of this issue.