

# Upgrades

By Leslie A. Westbrook

## GENUINELY GORGEOUS

Local artists use faux finishes and other artsy techniques to bring real style to 805 homes.

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When you have a burning desire to recreate the Sistine Chapel in your foyer, then it's time to bring in the experts—the design experts, that is. There are many talented artists and designers who, through vision and a steady hand, can come to your house and work their magic. From faux finishes to wall murals to elaborate ceilings, if you can dream it up, chances are that one of these artists can make it happen. >>



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## Partners Alexis Baron and Jeff Hausz

**THEIR WORK:** We design surfaces for architecture using transparent films of color, textures, and decorative patterning, creating our clients' visions in color and design.

**ABCS: Alexis:** I worked on a John Saladino project 20 years ago and was inspired by the designer's use of glazing and color, which led me to form my own business. **Jeff:** I started my decorative painting business in 1987 after studying art and art history, drafting, photography, and ceramic glazes.



**FAVORITE PROJECT:** Our two most recent projects were homes in Santa Barbara. The owner of Villa Zefiro is a true patron of the arts and gave us full creative license. We put 23-karat gold leaf on a 15- by 20-foot ceiling in the theater, and are going to work on his castle in Newfoundland this summer. The other is Ca di Sopra. Again, the owner had no fear of color and a very creative vision. The ceiling in the master bedroom was extraordinary to design and execute.

**GOING GREEN:** We are very interested in green products and are experimenting with the new products that are environmentally friendly.

**INSPIRATION:** Daily sightings—the single autumn orange persimmon hanging in a gray wood, a pink camellia turning brown, petroleum spilled on chrome. We admire Jean-Michael Frank, Louis I. Kahn, Cormac McCarthy, Miles Davis, Henri Matisse, and Pierre Bonnard.

**FAVORITE SOURCE FOR SUPPLIES:** Frontier Paint & Wallcovering (in Ojai and Ventura) because Doug the owner is so interested in faux and personal service and carries Mohawk and other faux products, which no other paint store does. We love the artists' colors and artists' brushes at Art Essentials in Santa Barbara.

*For more information about Baron Hausz, Inc. contact Jeff Hausz at 805-895-2988 or Alexis Baron at 805-452-1793, or visit [www.baronhauszinc.com](http://www.baronhauszinc.com).*



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