

Chicago HOME

Fall/Winter 2004

YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO AREA DESIGN SOURCES

Chicago magazine

DESIGN GUIDE LOCAL RESOURCES

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FALL/WINTER 2004

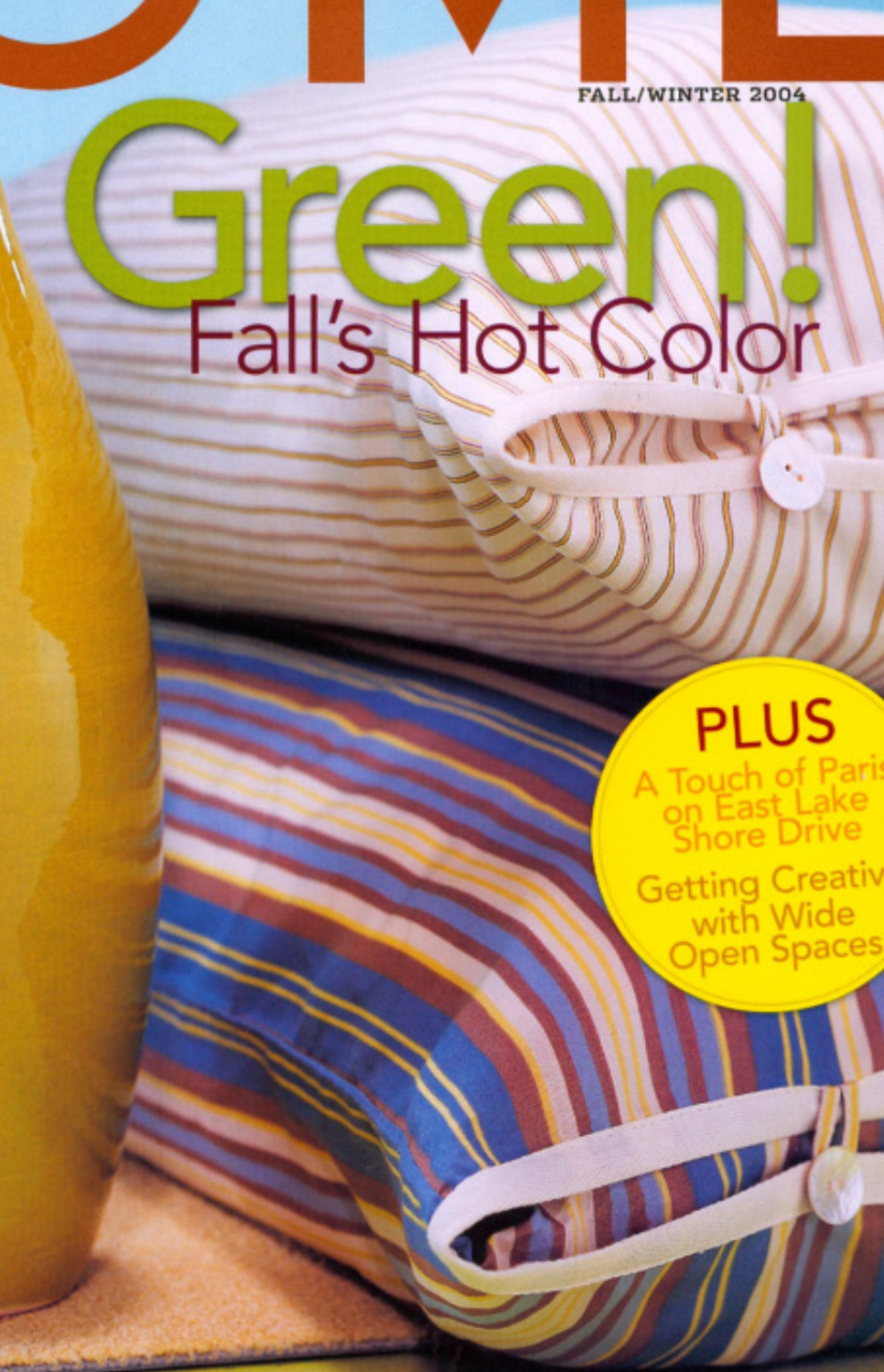
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» Simes Studio created faux tile work for a balcony (left) to resemble antique English tile, and faux Portuguese tile (above) on a retractable screen to hide a television.

Decorative Finishes

Specialty finishes can dramatically change the personality of a room. Some add texture; others imitate wood, stone, fabric, or other materials. Trompe l'oeil painting creates a convincing illusion of three dimensions. The artists listed here were selected for their reputation among their peers and designers, for their emerging talent, or for a particular specialty. For other recommendations, contact the North American School of Decorative Art in Villa Park (630-833-5050; www.nasoda.com).

Artisan Decorative Painting 4420 N. Artesian Ave., Chicago, (773) 588-5284; www.artisandecorativepainting.com. Everyone at this six-person company, including owner Dan Grzeca, has a background in fine arts. As a result, the team is as comfortable with contemporary brushed-metal finishes as it is with more traditional plaster designs. Artisan offers a prep-to-finish package, and Grzeca works on every project to ensure quality. Recently, his team created a raised-plaster finish throughout a home, tinting each room's walls slightly differently to reflect existing decorative elements.

Ascher Brothers 3033 W. Fletcher St., Chicago, (773) 588-0001. This 25-year-old family-

owned business has done many important commercial projects, including a spruce-up of U.S. Cellular Field and a project at Symphony Center. Its specialists also do high-end Venetian plaster (a glossy finish that has the appearance of polished stone or marble), faux finishes, murals, and gilding in residential settings.

Better Homes by Bishop 16756 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park, (708) 532-1617; www.betterhomesbybishop.com. In addition to full-service decorative painting, which includes murals and stenciling, owner Alan Bishop also creates fanciful children's dressers that look like everything from guitars and fish tanks to toolboxes and castles.

BJ Decorating 905 Westgate Rd., Mt. Prospect, (847) 255-7150. Although he works largely with decorators, owner Joe Baltasi also produces wood, marble, metallic, Venetian plaster, and tortoiseshell finishes for private clients. Since 1972, he and his staff have handled everything from simple background glazes to leatherlike finishes with equal precision. Baltasi is also sought out for his ability to hang—rather than upholster—fabric on walls.

Bobbe & Company 4034 N. Tripp Ave., Chicago, (773) 736-0010. With more than 100 years under its belt, this residential, commercial, and industrial painting firm runs the decorating gamut with sponged effects, straight-up painting, and wallcoverings. Additional services include hand-painted hung pieces, faux finishes, and wood finishing. Can't tell the difference between robin's egg and periwinkle? Ask for an expert color consultation.

Bruce Clearfield 1918 N. Dayton St., Chicago, (773) 868-0046. Armed with degrees in both design and painting, this expert uses his knowledge of architectural and historical design to create Asian-inspired, gilded murals, faux-python finishes, trompe l'oeil, and French modern and Viennese decorative work. Color and design consultation and custom stenciling are offered, too.

The Chazen Group 18 Cambridge Ln., Lincolnshire, (847) 940-1800. The Chazen Group offers a palette of more than 100 faux finishes, including wrought-iron, marble, suede, and silk effects. Other specialties include Venetian plaster, texture, and wood graining. Whether your home is 2,800 square feet or 18,000, professionals here complement construction with marble and metallic finishes, silver and gold leafing, and custom murals on canvas; they also offer full-service paint work, from prep and repair to base coat and final finish.

Christiaan Pretorius Studio 1755 N. Kimball Ave., Chicago, (773) 489-9704; www.pretoriusstudio.com. South African-born, fine arts-trained Christiaan Pretorius once designed sets and lighting for opera and ballet productions. Working with several other artists, he now produces magical effects with