

The background of the image is a grayscale photograph of a wall with peeling plaster. The plaster is cracked and flaking, revealing a rough, uneven surface. The texture is highly detailed, with various shades of gray and white. The overall effect is one of decay and age.

THE ART OF VENETIAN PLASTER

by Alex

WHAT IS VENETIAN PLASTER?

Venetian Plaster is a finishing technique applied to walls and ceilings to create a smooth surface with the illusion of depth and texture. Venetian Plaster is not painted on like a faux finish (faux meaning in French — fake). It is used in both traditional and contemporary architecture.

HOW IS IT DONE?

Venetian Plaster is applied in multiple layers with a trowel. It can be enhanced to a high sheen by compressing the material used as it dries and then burnished. The more compression, the higher the sheen. Venetian Plaster can also be finished to a rustic matte or a satin sheen.

MATERIALS USED

- Crushed Marble
- Limestone
- Natural Pigments

WHY USE VENETIAN PLASTER?

- Venetian Plaster is the alternate to the ordinary.
- It enhances the walls and ceilings.
- It creates a unique look and adds a touch of prestige.
- It is less prone to cracking than other plaster materials.
- Materials used are truly green and natural products.
- It can be used in bathrooms and showers.

VENETIAN PLASTER HISTORY

The origins of Venetian Plaster lie hundreds of years ago, relatively hidden in the past with some sources claiming that its ancient predecessor was developed 9000 years ago in Mesopotamia — now Syria, Iraq and Iran. Certainly, a form of plastering was in use there, crude and rough though it was. Other countries and other ages used similar and more and more developed plastering techniques: tombs in Egypt were covered with a lime and gypsum plaster; entire cities in India were plastered. From the Middle East to India, from Egypt to China, to Greece and to the Roman Empire, plaster of some kind was used almost everywhere in the ancient world. It was made popular in the Italian Renaissance of the 14th century and lasted until the 16th century.

The beginning of the 17th century, a highly polished technique of Venetian plastering found prominence in the palaces of Venice. It became quite a fashion in Tuscany during the 17th and 18th centuries and was considered an effective substitute to marble inlays. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Venetian Plaster was found in Traditional to Contemporary Architectures like Chateaus and Villas.

Artists and architects embraced it as both an old and new technique. It became a highly desired finish for ceilings and walls, both for interiors and exteriors. Today Venetian Plaster can be found all over the world. Even Las Vegas is using this technique.

THE ART OF VENETIAN PLASTER BY ALEX



To enhance the back wall, raised ceilings and columns

Requirement to achieve a clean high polished look with slight embedded movements of the plaster

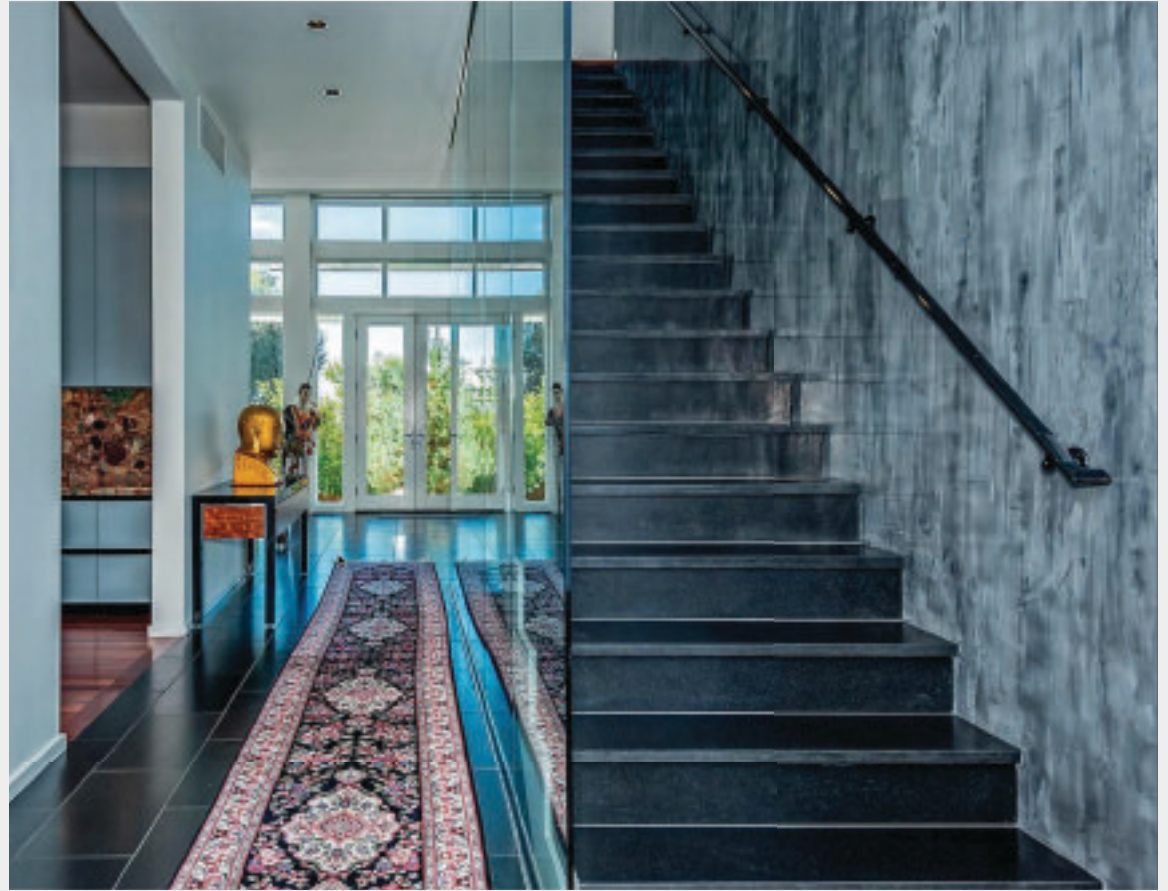
*This was accomplished
by the Venetian Plaster
process*

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To enhance a staircase wall

Requirement to create a unique
vertical look

*This was accomplished by the
Venetian Plaster process*



To create a highly polished accent
curved wall to reflect the light
movement into the adjoining room

*This was accomplished by the
Venetian Plaster process*

THE ART OF VENETIAN PLASTER BY ALEX



To create an illusion of a higher ceiling and brighter room in a basement low ceiling room

This was accomplished by the Venetian Plaster process

To enhance lights under a drop ceiling in a modern loft

This was accomplished by the Venetian Plaster process



THE ART OF VENETIAN PLASTER BY ALEX



To enhance walls in a master
bathroom

Requirement to create a unique
concrete effect

*This was accomplished by the
Venetian Plaster process*

To create a ceiling that brightens the
room in daylight and reflects the city
light at night from below

*This was accomplished by the
Venetian Plaster process*



ABOUT THE ARTIST



Alex Baun grew up in the construction industry in Germany where he ran his family business specializing in Stucco application. He was introduced to Venetian Plaster through his Stucco activities. In 2004 he moved to the United States and started his own company working with many finishing techniques.

He decided after working with the many finishing techniques to specialize in Venetian Plaster. Venetian Plaster gave him the opportunity to use his artistic creativity with the trowel.

After 16 years of working with Venetian Plaster his passion grows with each project.

His projects have consisted of:

- Interiors of custom contemporary and traditional homes
- Interiors of restaurants
- Interiors of high-end retail establishments

His work has been featured in *Colorado Home Magazine* and *Luxe*.

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