

## Lisa Albert and Mark Holmes

This husband-and-wife team has built a nationally known business of applying decorative painting techniques that marry interiors with architecture

By Phyllis Van Doren



## The Art of Seduction

LISA ALBERT AND MARK HOLMES are a very modern couple, really not living in the past, though they can replicate stencil and fresco and trompe l'oeil techniques and motifs used centuries ago. Through the resources of their decorative art, design and fine art studio, Albert & Holmes, they are weaving the past into the modern home, borrowing from the past and making it current.

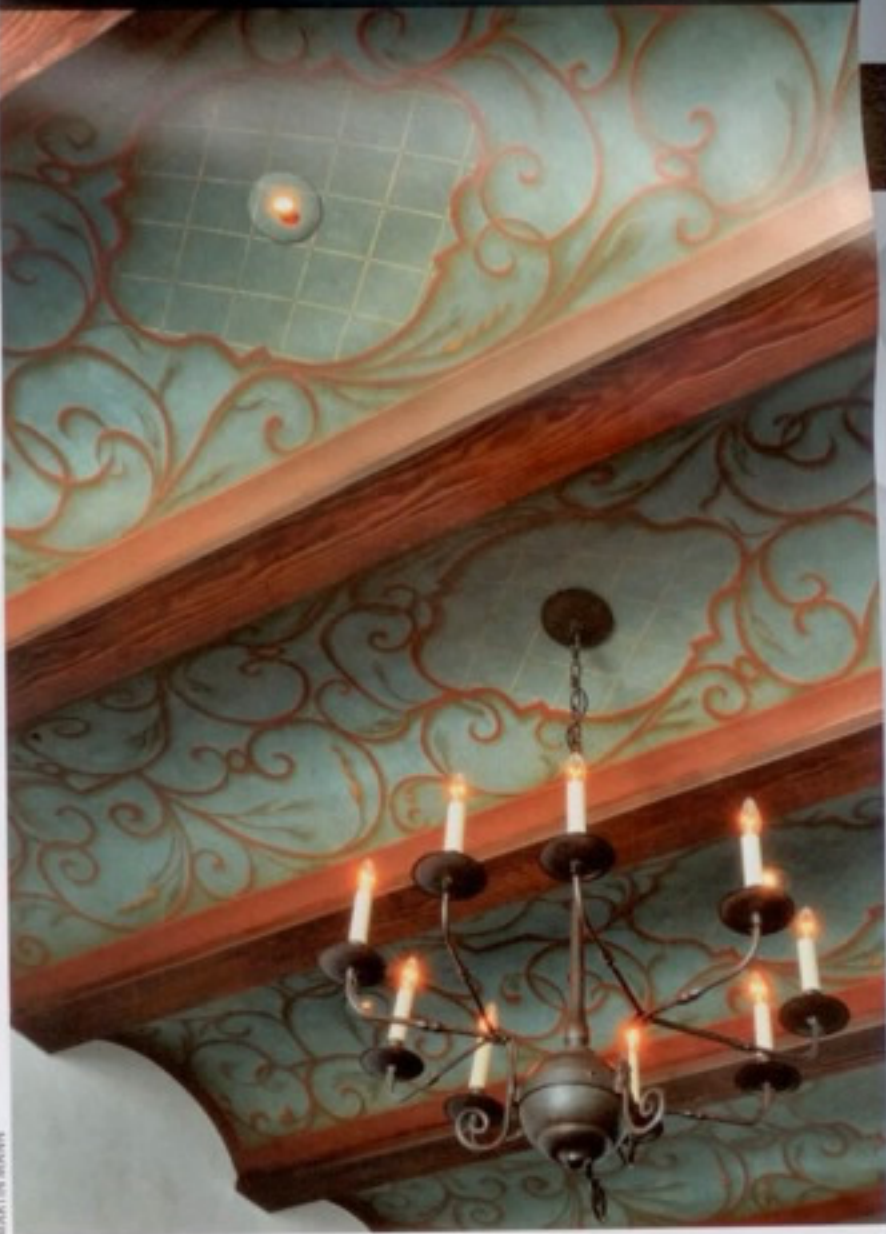
Albert and Holmes bring unique, complementary and individual skills into their La Jolla studio, where they have lived and worked for 21 years. From color consulting to a special finish for a piece of furniture, to murals and frescoes and landscapes, they can bring out the best in the architecture of a home, pulling it together with the interiors through color and painting.

"I love color, texture and pattern. My two favorite things are interiors and architecture," says Albert. "The work I do is the element that marries the two. I studied the latter, and art, and art history. So I just love my work."

Albert has been nationally recognized for her hand-painted ornamental design and hand-painted pieces of furniture that grace homes across the country. She recently added couture pillows made of exceptional textiles to her repertoire.

The residential projects Albert and Holmes take on, start to finish, usually last at least six months to a year. When you have several such projects underway, obviously it takes a team under the guidance of Albert and Holmes to bring the vision to completion. Their lead artist, Joshua Benz, who has been working with them for 14 years and is like a son to Albert, is a valued member of the team.

Holmes brings a background of management, scenic design and plein air painting to their business. "Though probably we are most known for working in a decorative style considered Old



World European, we could be doing a Scandinavian-inspired ceiling one week, painting an Australian landscape in a dining room the next, with an Italian frieze on a simultaneous project thrown in for good measure," says Holmes. "Sometimes it is European-inspired design adapted for a modern environment. Variety is what makes what we do never boring."

Holmes paints almost exclusively in oils when doing his landscapes of scenes throughout San Diego. When they are doing murals for clients, they usually work in acrylic. Albert's two favorite painters are the contemporary South African artist William Kentridge and John Singer Sargent. Holmes favors the artists of the Hudson River School, and Edgar Payne, Maurice Braun and George Inness, Corot, Pissarro and Sargent.

Albert and Holmes do their history homework, bringing the past to terms with today. After all, finishes in a room ultimately are the art of seduction.

**Above:** Detail of a greenish-blue coved ceiling, designed by Lisa Albert and painted in oils, in a La Jolla dining room.

**Below left:** Mural landscape by Mark Holmes.



## Points Of Light

- LISA ALBERT founded Mise en Scene Art Studio in Dallas.
- Albert's work has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Veranda* and *Traditional Home*, and on three *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles*' covers.
- Her work has been featured on Bravo's *Million Dollar Decorators*.
- MARK HOLMES is a member of the American Impressionist Society, California Art Club and others.
- Holmes was the lead artist and managing artist for Peter Wolf Concepts and TW Designs.
- He has worked on Broadway productions of *The King and I*, *The Wiz*, *Mame* and others.



MARTIN MAINN



MARTIN MAINN



MARTIN MAINN

**Clockwise from top:** Sky painted in a dome ceiling for a client in La Jolla; powder bath in La Jolla with secco fresco finish on walls and ceiling with hand-painted ornament and panels; cabinet in same powder bath painted by Albert and Joshua Benz, with a multi-layered finish and inlaid gold leaf; a master-bedroom ceiling in Rancho Santa Fe with hand-painted medallion ornament design by Albert.