



Carved ceiling with mahogany wood, 2 tones of stain



Mudejar style ceiling with dark stain and gold leaf.



Paco Luis Martos & Jorge Dalinger

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR SPANISH CEILINGS

By david Block

Spanish Ceilings is a dazzling success story based on a cornucopia of interwoven design facets ranging across Moorish-inspired architecture, Hollywood adaptations, Spanish craftsmanship and 21st century construction technology.

AND NOW **SPANISH CEILINGS** IS CROSSING NEW FRONTIERS BY LAUNCHING ITS UNIQUE CREATIVITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATION IN ABU DHABI. (SEE BELOW) THAT'S PRETTY GOOD GOING FOR A COMPANY BASED ON THE MULTIFARIOUS TALENTS OF JUST TWO PEOPLE: **MASTER CARVER PACO LUIS MARTOS AND DESIGNER JORGE DALINGER**. WITH STUDIOS AND WORKSHOPS IN THE TINY SPANISH VILLAGE OF UBEDA NEAR GRANADA, AND IN LOS ANGELES, USA, THE TWO ARE NOW ESTABLISHED WITH A CALIFORNIAN, FAR EASTERN AND EUROPEAN CLIENT LIST WHOSE ELITE IDENTITIES JORGE AND PACO ARE TOO DISCREET TO REVEAL.



Hand painted ceiling with natural pigments and gold leaf.



ANCIENT SKILLS

Their story began when Martos was working as a carpenter, using skills handed down through generations of his family. "A friend asked me to restore the ceiling of a palace he had just purchased," Martos recalled. "It had been constructed in the complex and sophisticated Mudéjar style whose Moorish and Spanish roots go back to the 13th century.

I found this so inspiring that I decided to adapt a studio to develop my skills in crafting original Mudéjar ceilings to order.

Again, the ceilings were a sensation. They sold to the rich and famous across Europe. Next stop California where Martos targeted its beautiful and richest people.

There he first met one of its most talented: a fellow Spaniard, designer Jorge Dalinger. Not only had Dalinger the perfect skills to complement

those of Martos, but he had an address book packed with precisely the glittering clients that Martos sought. They formed a new enterprise together to build and market "Spanish Ceilings"

HEAVYWEIGHT STYLE

Dalinger himself had sprung to fame after buying a 1939 art deco home in the Hollywood Hills that was originally built for renowned heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey. Jorge redesigned and transformed the house into a Spanish hacienda which became an exemplar of his extraordinary eye for shape, form and color, qualities that were not lost of the celebrities who came to call.

One of Dalinger's recent accomplishments is a spectacular 1926 Mediterranean home in the Hollywood Hills that received the ultimate accolade – a feature in the USA's prestigious Architectural Digest.



Process of hand carving on walnut wood.



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Classic hand carved coffered ceiling on exterior corridor.