



Plasterer's Private Shotgun Home, New Orleans, LA

Plaster Work

The art of the plasterer is encountered most often on interior walls and ceilings and grows out of the partnership that plasterers maintain with lathers. When carpenters frame the walls of a house, they only outline its spaces. Rooms appear only after walls and ceilings bear finished surfaces. A plaster wall cloaks its complexity under a cool veneer of quiet, unassuming smoothness. Concealed are not only several miles of lath, but all the steps and stages of the plasterer's demanding technique. Beyond the satisfactions of a well-finished wall, plasterers also delight in adding decorations to ceilings, mainly cornices and medallions. In many older New Orleans homes one encounters huge lotus blossoms or large sprays of Athenian or acanthus leaves affixed to the ceiling.