

LESLIE SINCLAIR DECORATIVE PAINTER



FINISHING TOUCH

Z I N G I N T E R I O R S W I T H P L A S T E R A N D P A I N T

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With a business degree and a penchant for painting as qualifications, Leslie Sinclair turned a creative avocation into a thriving, full-time business. Her decorative painting and fine plaster finishing company was launched nearly 13 years ago. Today Sinclair oversees 25 full-time staff members and a team of talented artisans. Although not formally trained in art, the busy entrepreneur and mother displayed a tendency toward interior design even as a child. "Like most little girls, I grew up playing with dolls; but, instead of dressing them or doing their hair, I built furniture and decorated their houses," Sinclair recalls. "Obviously, that's still my passion."

While paint and design firms abound throughout Houston, Sinclair has carved a unique niche for herself, personalizing suburban dwellings with paint, plaster and murals. No surface is off-limits; the gifted design guru masterfully wields paints and glazes to transform floors, ceilings, walls and cabinets in spaces large and small. "I wanted to make this accessible for any budget," she says. "Often, I work with a client in phases to create a custom look, room by room." A keen eye for color helps Sinclair envision living spaces that are inviting and visually stimulating, but she also considers the occupant's skin tone prior to picking paint. "I recommend colors that flatter the woman of the house," she explains. "I encourage people to paint their walls in hues they like wearing, because it really adds to the enjoyment they feel while using a room."

A Georgia native, Sinclair moved to Houston in 1975 and says she loves the city's combination of cosmopolitan flair and down-home charm. Born to an entrepreneurial family (her parents were restaurateurs), Sinclair took her turn on the corporate ladder prior to discovering her true career calling. It was the birth of her third child that prompted her to consider painting as a profession, in a quest to create more balance between work and home demands. Becoming her own boss, she says, seemed like the ideal solution. "It's ironic, because I probably put in more hours now than I did in the corporate world. But, I absolutely love what I do, so it never feels like work."