



FLOUR POWER

GREAT GIFT BASKETS

KITCHEN

LAKESHORE Living

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2009

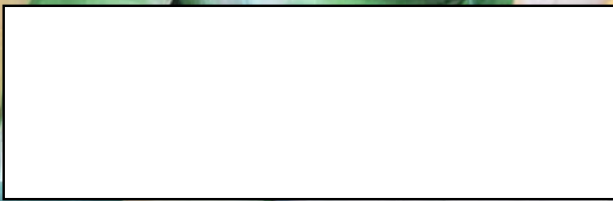
Interior Impressions
 "You-nique Designer Finishes"

- Glazes
- Plasters & Textures
- Marble
- Metallics
- Custom Patterns...

Leanne Swetlik 920-684-5553
 Decorative Artist 920-242-6298

FABULOUS FAUX

Manitowoc artist Leanne Swetlik's talents add warmth and sophistication to area homes and businesses



Embroidery helps personalize holiday gifts
 Winter is the ideal time to visit culture-rich Quebec





ON THE COVER

Using a variety of paints, plasters and glazes, Manitowoc artist Leanne Swetlik adds warmth and sophistication to area homes and businesses. See story on Page 12.

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*Looking for
Unique Holiday Gifts?
Then Bring Your List Here.*

We can help you create a one-of-a-kind gift basket with gourmet foods, bath and body care items, or premium teas and accessories. Or perhaps a trendy accent piece for the home will complete your list. If you are stumped on what to get that hard to shop for person, or if you want a special gift for someone you know well, then we're here to help.

Choose from

Chef's Corner items - linens, containers, salt/pepper mills, bar items, recipe cards and holders, cutting boards, utensils, and more

Gourmet food - mixes for scones and biscuits, salad dressings, seasonings, exotic salts like Hawaiian Black Lava Sea Salt, preserves like orange marmalade with whisky, raspberry curds, lobster and crab spreads

Tea and accessories - premium loose leaf teas, pots and cups, books, cards

Bath and body care items - lotions, scrubs, serums, washes, butters, soaks, lip balms

Jewelry - necklaces, earrings, watches

Accent pieces for the home - candles, wall hangings, word plaques, vases, floral pieces, and so much more

*It will be worth the trip to
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BY SUZANNE WEISS
PHOTOS BY PATHWAYS PHOTOGRAPHY

FABULOUS FAUX FINISHES

Manitowoc artisan Leanne Swetlik's talents add warmth and sophistication to homes and businesses



Artisan Leanne Swetlik of Manitowoc loves it when her work elicits the response, "Wow, what is that?"

With multilayered coats of paints, plasters and glazes, Swetlik can transform walls, floors, pillars, ceilings and other surfaces to resemble marble, sandstone, tile, plaster, reptile skin, wood, cork or hammered bronze.

Those are just some of the faux finishes she creates as part of her business, Interior Impressions. Swetlik hesitates to use the word "faux," which sometimes is misunderstood.

"I don't want people to recognize the application, I'm not a sponge painter," she said. "I want what I do to be sophisticated and impressive. I

wanted to do what I do to stand apart." Swetlik works her magic on residential as well as commercial interiors. Sometimes a room calls for a subtle glazed finish for a hint of sophistication and warmth. Other times a more elaborate finish can become a focal point of the room.

When she was asked to create an accent wall for one of the River Lofts condominiums in Manitowoc, she chose a warm, soft finish to contrast with the existing iron pipes, cement and brick elements. She added depth, dimension and richness to the project with a finish using Venetian and metallic plasters and a shimmering mica powder top coat.

Today's builders are incorporating architectural features such as domes, tray ceilings, pillars and niches into their homes and her expertise can help enhance those features, Swetlik said.

"We personalize the home with colors and finishes that are unique and customized for the client," she said. "Folds and metallics are really big this year."

When Nancy and John Koss of John Koss Builders Inc. of Manitowoc built their home a number of years ago, the rooms were what Nancy laughingly refers to as "builder white."

"Little by little we've had (Leanne) come in and do it room by room. She just does a fantastic job in picking out warm, inviting colors," Nancy said.

Swetlik added sophistication to their dining room with glazed walls, an ornamental ceiling

FAUX CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Artist Leanne Swetlik of Manitowoc and a sampling of her work. Through a broad spectrum of media, Swetlik, owner of Interior Impressions, transforms walls, floors, pillars ceilings and other surfaces to resemble marble, sandstone, tile, plaster, wood, cork, reptile skin or hammered bronze.

FAUX CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12 >>

medallion, a six-foot gold-leafed tree and wood-grained archways to match the home's existing woodwork.

Steven Maass of Sheboygan remodeled his bathroom to feature a vessel sink and Italian tile floor. Swetlik created a sea grass textured wall finish and was delighted when he told her that the walls made the room.

As Kay and Kevin Sonnenburg were restoring their historic Manitowoc home, they found that the wallpaper they were looking for was no longer in stock. They called Swetlik, who was able to customize a wall finish suited to the time period as well as their color and design choices. She also created an aged plaster look, embellished with antique gold trim, for their bathroom.

When a Sheboygan couple was adding a home theater in their basement, a real coffered ceiling wasn't possible because of the ceiling's height. Instead, Swetlik created the look of a three-dimensional coffered ceiling using stains and glazes to create its colors and patterns.

If homeowners have a room feature they like, her work can help draw attention to it. On the other hand, if it's a feature



they're not too fond of, her work can help subdue it, Swetlik said.

When she helps clients achieve the look they want, she studies the project with a keen artist's eye, taking into consideration their tastes, personalities, color scheme, design concepts and scale of the room.

"I find out what they like and dislike," she said. "My designs are very carefully planned."

Tools of her trade include specialty brushes, plasters, trowels, metallic foils, rollers and high-quality paints, glazes, stains, top coats and other materials.

Swetlik, who came from a family involved in construction, has always enjoyed decorating. What motivated her to start the business was her home, which she and her husband, Chris, built 15 years ago for themselves and their two sons.

"I wanted my house to feel happy," she recalled.

Swetlik took classes at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Interior Design and then enrolled in a Designer Walls class at The Finishing School in Atlanta.

"The finishes, the materials and the techniques were amazing. I was excited at the thought that I could duplicate what I was seeing on the walls. That was a huge turning point for me," said Swetlik.

She began by doing painting projects for friends and family. Her business has grown by word of mouth. She has since attended classes all over the country and draws on her broad spectrum of experiences in different geographic locales.

"I will never stop learning. There are always new products, new techniques and new designs. Styles change and I want to stay fresh," she said.

● For more information, visit www.finishesbyleanne.com, call (920) 684-5553 or e-mail swetlik@msn.com.

“I will never stop learning. There are always new products, new techniques and new designs. Styles change and I want to stay fresh.”

— Artist Leanne Swetlik

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