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THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE
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63>



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Enchanted by Plaster

Hyde Park Mouldings Work Their Magic

BY KENDRA BOUTELL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRIK ARGAST

FOR ADRIAN TAYLOR, principal of Hyde Park Mouldings, architectural and ornamental plaster is a passion. He describes working with plaster as a magical and seductive process, “Once enchanted, it becomes an all-consuming obsession.” he observed. Taylor’s obsession began twenty years ago.



TOP LEFT Hyde Park Mouldings installed a quatrefoil tracery ceiling for a recent residential project in Northern California. Taylor said of the design process, "One of the thrills of this work is participating in the creation of carefully considered period ornament. For instance when a new home is designed with Tudor exterior features, it is great to be able to continue the story on the inside." **TOP RIGHT** The double rose and foliate motif of the crown moulding demonstrates plaster's capacity for expressing fine details. Taylor explained, "Because plaster begins in a liquid state, it can fill even the tiniest interstices, creating fine sculptural relief or miniscule changes". **RIGHT** Adrian Taylor pictured on the right, reviews plans. While many of Hyde Park Mouldings' projects are traditional some can appear quite modern, "There are numerous designers working today who employ classical proportions without the traditional sculptural elements. This results in rooms reading very contemporary," he observed.

Raised in a creative household near Seattle during the seventies, he felt at home when he entered New York's Hyde Park Mouldings workshop. The small artisanal business started in the London of the sixties. In 1986 an American purchased the company relocating it to the States. Today, with Taylor at the helm the company maintains a staff of one hundred to implement the design, fabrication, and installation of projects both period and contemporary.

Collaborating with premier interior designers and architects, Hyde Park Mouldings portfolio includes an impressive collection of private and public





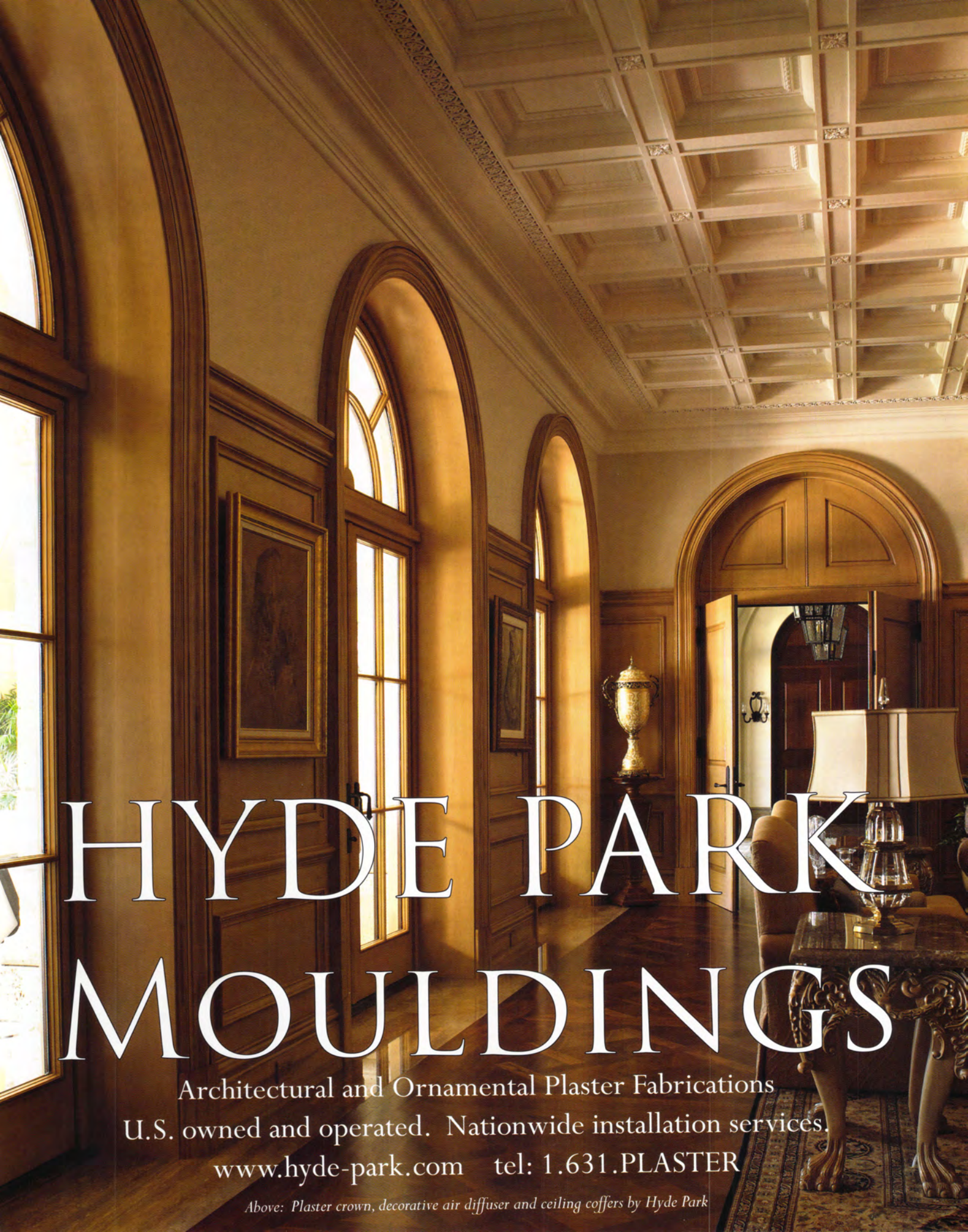
“ONCE ENCHANTED, IT BECOMES AN ALL-CONSUMING OBSESSION.”

- ADRIAN TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL OF HYDE PARK

commissions. The team of sculptors, model and mould makers, plaster casters, carpenters, finishers, and installers practice their craft throughout the US. One of their many New York jobs included the restoration of the historic interior plasterwork of the Landmark Bowery Savings Bank building. Designed by McKim Mead & White and constructed in 1893, the structure suffered from neglect and decay. Hyde Park Mouldings replicated, re-worked, and re-installed elements of the damaged Romanesque plasterwork.

On the West coast, Taylor and his team practiced their magic on the Salon Doré at the Legion of Honor. Under the direction of Andrew Skurman Architects and conservators for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, they recreated its decorative rosace and architectural casing restoring the room to its French Neoclassical grandeur. [CH](#)

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Above: Plaster crown, decorative air diffuser and ceiling coffers by Hyde Park