



shores of Boca Raton, Florida. He successfully completed several signature Faux Effects® courses including specialty workshops instructed by internationally renowned artisan Mike McNeil. Always seeking the best possible products for his burgeoning business, Florian was delighted to discover Faux Effects International and its extensive line of decorative finishing products. Now, as a highly respected and sought after finisher, Florian continues to expand his repertoire.

One of Florian's most recent projects came to him by way of a New Jersey designer after discovering his website. This large "Monte Cristo" style niche finish is situated high above the grand entryway of a beautiful Fort Lauderdale residence. It incorporates several different faux finishing techniques, including the art of faux-bois (wood graining), polished Venetian plaster, and Trompe L'oeil (fool the eye) embellishments. This elegant finish began with a base of SetCoat® in a custom pale yellow color. A wood graining technique was then applied using a mixture of FauxCreme® Clear and Stain & Seal™ Antique Mahogany and American Walnut. The first layer of a self adhesive, one-time use stencil was strategically applied to block the following plaster applications to reveal the underlying "wood grain" in the final effect.

Three coats of StucoLux™ Metallic Rich Gold plaster were applied by trowel over and around the blocked pattern creating a warm, glowing effect. At this point, Florian removed the "Monte Cristo" stencil and adhered the final layer. Another custom color of SetCoat® in a pale green was rolled on and allowed to dry before the final complimentary shade of Sea Spray StucoLux™. This not only gave the finish visual contrast, but once polished, also gave the plaster a mirror like shine. The stencil was then removed and the final touches were added by using diluted FauxCrème Colors™ and Trompe L'oeil techniques that gave the finish tremendous depth and realism.

Florian Spahui of Ancient Modern Finishes Inc. travels locally and abroad creating custom works of art for his prestigious clientele.

*For more information, contact  
Florian Spahui  
of Ancient Modern Finishes, Inc.  
Bonita Springs, Florida  
239 398 2176  
[www.ancientmodernfinishes.com](http://www.ancientmodernfinishes.com)*

