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Hide the fire in a deep
concrete box to add
glow without the flame

My Frank Lloyd Wright House
by T.C. Boyle

OCTOBER 2009

\$4.99US \$6.50CAN



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HOW TO

Fake a Roman shade

KISHANI PERERA :: interior designer, LOS ANGELES

In rooms where privacy isn't important, Kishani Perera (kishaniperera.com) likes to install short faux Roman shades. Because they aren't full-length (and can't be raised and lowered), these tricksters require far less fabric than the real McCoy and can often be made from inexpensive remnants. For the kitchen window shades shown at left, Perera splurged on decorator fabric, and the project still cost her only \$125. First, she hemmed the fabric edges and stitched folds into place. Then, rather than buying expensive mounting hardware, she attached the fabric with double-stick mounting tape to balsa wood and nailed that to the wall (right). "The hardest part was keeping the stripes straight as I folded," Perera says.

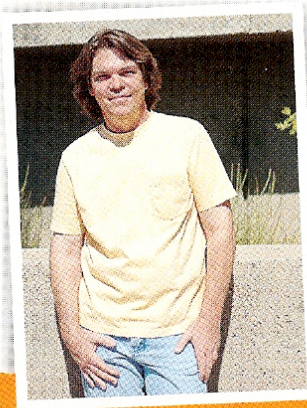


STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS: sunset.com/faux-shade

HOW TO Paint old walls like a pro

JUSTIN ANTHONY :: restoration consultant, PHOENIX

Let's face it, the fun part of painting is the painting. As for prep ...not so much. But since few projects start with pristine walls, we turned for tips to Justin Anthony (his online gallery: materialicious.com). Over the last 25 years, he has painted more than 2,000 rooms—including some in New York City's historic Dakota building. After his "prep talk," we're even starting to dig spackling and sanding (so worth it!). As for priming, it's almost as much fun as painting.



IN ANTHONY'S TOOLBOX:

BRUSHES :: Purdy XL and Nylox 2.5- or 3-in. (straight-trim bristles for walls and ceiling; angled for woodwork) and 1.5-in. for windows and French doors.
ROLLER SLEEVES :: Purdy 1/2-in.-nap for holding a lot of paint (good for ceilings and walls) and Shurline foam for an absolutely smooth texture.
INFO Brushes from \$10, sleeves from \$3.27; for stores, purdycorp.com and shurline.com

Be patient and flexible—older walls take a lot of prep. Tackle only one or two rooms in a weekend, and be prepared to continue the project at a later date if needed

Ensure coverage To keep white primer from showing through the paint, tint it the same color as the topcoat. Anthony recommends tint pastes (available at some

hardware and paint stores). Or, ask the paint retailer for help. **Make it smooth** We all know to spackle and sand cracks and holes before applying primer. The expert tip:

Don't skip on this step. Do it as many times as needed until there are no visible defects after the prep coat dries. Spot-prime over final patches and let dry completely

before painting. **Work in order** First paint the ceiling, then the walls, and finally the trim. **Stand back** To reduce brush and roller marks, paint from the

shoulder in a continuous motion. "Keep your arm steady and stand far enough away from the surface that you don't need to flex your wrist," says Anthony. ■



10 WAYS TO REINVENT WITH PAINT: sunset.com/paint