

Mediterranean to Southwest... Old World looks are hot!



Saltile tile from **BuildDirect** (with regular or rounded edges) provides instant, authentic looks to your home. The rich clay hues with sharp glaze warm floors and exterior surfaces in a timeless fashion. Minimum orders of 900 square feet. Call 877-631-2845 or visit builddirect.com.



Antique Spanish-look plaster relief is a centuries-old art form that is gaining favor in more and more wall and ceiling interior design projects. It combines sculpture, design and painting into both classic and contemporary surfaces for the home or commercial environment. Plaster Relief artist Steve Selos of Selos Creative Finishes says, "The process is much the same as that used by plaster craftsmen centuries ago." Call 909-945-3685 or visit SelosCreativeFinishes.com.

Look who's talking

Architectural Traditions (formerly Southwest Door), based in Tucson, Ariz., was founded by a now-retired master builder. One of the largest custom millwork and hardware manufacturers in the country, the automated and handcrafted products are used coast to coast and in foreign countries on a wide variety of architectural styles. When it comes to flair, the company's custom products like Mission-inspired doors, Mediterranean-look arched wood windows and Southwest hand-forged door pulls are very much in demand.

Most of AT's focus is on servicing the custom home market and its discriminating tastes, offering a collection of doors, windows and hardware. The variety of product design, choice of materials and broad spectrum of distresses and finishes allow for the creation of a true expression of individuality, regardless of style, Mediterranean to Tuscan. To do so, the staff keeps up with the latest trends.

"Our doors go into homes in the million-plus range mostly," says Stacy Fobar in marketing. "The actor Will Smith has our doors in his home, as do many other rich and famous people. And about 15 percent of our business is on the commercial side—servicing clubhouses, resorts and hotels."

"A lot of cedar, maple and walnut is selling. Knotty alder used to be a big seller but is low [in sales]," says Fobar. "Architects, builders and high-end homeowners in California, Arizona and Western states are our big markets, but we recently expanded east. We're foreseeing a doubling in our business over the next five years."

Architectural Traditions operates in-house lumber processing, custom door manufacturing, custom finishing and glazing, glass manufacturing, and window manufacturing departments, as well as a foundry for all cast bronze and iron hardware.

As homebuyers pull up to a clay roof, Old World details like under-eave brackets beckon them; they walk a stone or paver-covered walkway, eager to peer into arched—or deeply recessed windows—floating in the exterior stone-accented stucco. Such a home is uniquely welcoming, and they wish to swing open its heavy, wooden door to admire the distinctly Mediterranean house. Or is it Spanish Revival, or an adobe-inspired Santa Fe or Tuscan?

No matter its label, this hybrid Old World home has panache. It's very popular throughout the West, where Spanish-style homes were first built in California though they are typically found throughout the Southwest. However, the look isn't just for warmer climates. With today's products, like improved stucco blends and faux beams and mouldings, the look is welcome in wetter environments, too. And with the growing diversity of homebuyers, Old World looks have never been hotter. *Mi casa es su casa!*

Purist or not, pepper your houseplan with these festive details and an average house becomes an "anything but vanilla" villa. By MISTY HALEY BOUSE



American Clay Natural Earth Plasters bring the appealing finishes of nature to the home, adding healthful beauty to your interior walls and ceilings. Manufactured in and using materials from the United States, American Clay uses natural clays, recycled and reclaimed aggregates, and vibrant natural pigments in each of its three finishes. Call 866-404-1634 or visit americanclay.com.

Architecural Tradition's quality-crafted door, the Speakeasy, features a small lookout door offering villa-perfect charm. Available with or without grilles through hundreds of dealers. The doors are built from many woods like Incense Cedar, Knotty Pine, Alder, Mahogany, Wormy Maple, Walnut, Parota, Spanish Oak and Mesquite, unfinished or Rubbed-Oil. Custom order the door by visiting architecuraltraditions.com.



US Tile's authentic clay roof tile Montoro Tuscan is specially designed for the Western climate, with guaranteed durability and insulation against extreme temperature and weather conditions like repeated freeze-thaw cycles or salt-laden air. In compliance with AS.TM C-1167 standard specification for Grade One roof tiles, Montoro roof tiles also carry a fade-proof guarantee and a Class A fire-resistance rating. Call 800-252-9548 or visit ustile.com.

Coronado Stone's Tuscan Villa Florentine brings a touch of northern Italy to your new construction or remodel, replicating the Old World charm of stone architecture. Coronado Stone Products enhance the interior or exterior project. The stone cuts easily with a circular saw using a masonry blade. Call 800-847-8663 or visit Coronado.com.

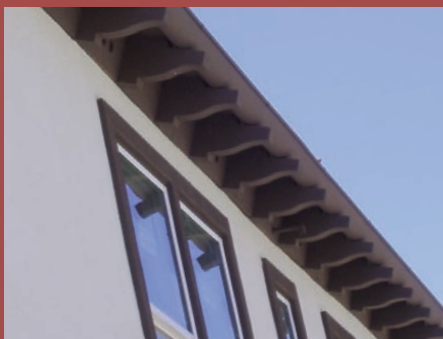


From genuine wood to synthetic, rafter tails are essential to the rugged good looks of Old World homes. Easy installation and attractive styles are offered in all three of these exterior corbels.

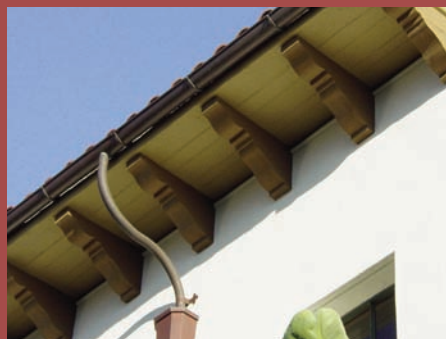
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RafterDetails by Trim Tech are "laminated" all-wood slide-on rafter tails with the appearance of flawlessly handcrafted timber corbels that slip over the top chord of an installed roof truss or outrigger. Preprofiled, primed and cut to exact length in a basic or fancy profile at an economical price, they are made from selected high-quality kiln-dried wood fiber. Call 866-765-8746 or visit raftertails.com.



Barron Designs' FauxWoodBeams simulated rafter tail corbels in polyurethane are a lightweight alternative to traditional wood. The corbels are durable, realistic and easy to install. They resist chemicals, severe weather conditions (including saltwater), and are impervious to insects and rot. They contain no chlorofluorocarbons. Available finished or unfinished. Call 800-651-4223 or visit fauxwoodbeams.com.



Fypon's Southwest Collection includes rafter tail corbels in ogee, cove and bullnose styles. All pieces feature the realistic cedar wood grain texture in a low-maintenance urethane that offers no shrinking, swelling, splintering or rotting. The pieces come factory-primed and ready to be stained or painted. And, since urethane is lightweight, it's easy to install. Call 800-446-3040 or visit fypon.com.