

Creating Colorful Concrete Carpets



The finished Chavall Carpet, new from Modello Designs.



SkimStone is an ideal decorative concrete product for decorative painters.

Combine precut Modello Designs Decorative Masking Patterns with SkimStone—an easy to use concrete overlayment—to create one-of-a-kind floor treatments.

Concrete Carpet Concept

Modello Designs has just introduced a whole new line of patterns and products for the fast-growing decorative concrete market. There is even a new Web site, www.modelloconcrete.com, that focuses solely on ideas, techniques and designs for floors including medal-

lions, tiles, borders and something completely new and unique: Concrete Carpet patterns.

Currently, 14 different Concrete Carpet patterns are available in traditional, Mediterranean and Eastern design styles. The carpet patterns are available in standard sizes ranging from 4-by-5-feet up to 8-by-10-feet.

The smaller ones are cut all from one piece of material, while the larger carpets are easily layered and pieced together. Besides concrete, they can be used with paint, stain or textural mediums on existing floors or for floorcloths (concrete, wood, linoleum, canvas) and can also be used for ceiling and panel treatments.

New Catalog



Modello Design has a new color catalog that includes all of our standard sized patterns for floors—or anywhere you want to put them!

The Creative Floor Collection's 32 pages feature medallions, tiles, borders, corner, and our exclusive Concrete Carpet series. It can be ordered through our online store at www.modelloconcrete.com.

Advanced workshops in Modellos/SkimStone with Melanie Royals and Kari Caldwell are currently scheduled. Please visit the Web site for dates and details.

Additional patterns and options are still available through our sister site at www.modello designs.com.

The SkimStone Advantage

SkimStone, a hybridized Portland cement product, is an ideal material for decorative painters looking to easily bridge into decorative concrete. It can be mixed easily in small quantities (all that is usually needed) and troweled on in micro-thin layers, much like Venetian plaster. It works fabulously with the Modellos and can be used to create intricate, colorful and textural patterns and designs.

Like Venetian plaster, the color in SkimStone is integral to the material and the industrial-quality acrylic tints that are used come in a range of beautiful colors that can be used alone or intermixed. SkimStone will NOT accept acid stains; however, it

can be toned and glazed with water-based mediums such as the new Modello Dye Stains.

The SkimStone Web site at www.skimstone.com features an extensive array of photos and product information. Most useful is the online calculator. There you can enter in your job parameters, and it will calculate exactly how much product you will need and how to mix your colors for the desired tint strength. You'll also find a listing of local distributors and faux studios that offer two-day advanced classes for decorative painting professionals.

Creating a Concrete Carpet

This project was done with the help of artist Kari Caldwell. She actually had no choice in the matter as it was done in her house! The house was new construction, and the chosen room was left with the concrete slab unfinished. SkimStone does need to be done on a clean, porous concrete surface. More information and tech support on prepping floors for SkimStone can be found on the Web site.



Two carpet designs were chosen, **Chavall** for the main rug and **Istanbul** for the room's entry. Color mockups were created for the designs on the computer by coloring in the various design elements with Pantone colors picked to match the SkimStone color range. After some

experimentation, this colorway was picked. The color mockup is an additional service that Modello Designs offers, and it proved very valuable as a color key to refer to and follow throughout the process.



Two thin layers of Florentine Clay were first applied as a base for the center panel of the Chavall carpet. SkimStone is ideally mixed to a thin, almost paint-like, consistency. Simply pour out about a cup at a time and trowel using a Venetian trowel. The material needs to be pulled very tight and thin, so keep the angle of the trowel up and use a good amount of pressure.



Next the border area is taped off and troweled with two layers of Rainy Day Blue. Use the low tack blue tape (3M orange core) designed for faux painting when taping off edges and areas. Wide paper tape was added to protect the surrounding areas.



This detail of the two base colors shows the subtle gradation of values

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in the blue and orange colors—very similar to burnishing plasters that are used on walls.



The Concrete Carpet patterns are easily laid out, as they are designed to fit together like puzzle pieces. It's best to have two sets of hands when working with larger patterns, but simply read and follow the enclosed instructions for easy installation.



Once the adhesive Modellos are burnished in place, the transfer tape is removed. The transfer tape can be dampened with a large wrung out sponge to loosen its adhesive for easy removal.



If desired, small Japan trowels or "Faux Fingers" can be used to apply different colors in the various design areas. Here, tape has been applied where applicable to keep the Winter Olive green color in its place. Another advantage and option with

SkimStone is that you can use different tint strengths (colorant into the polymer solution) to achieve different opacities with the color. The Winter Olive here uses a lower tint strength (2-ounce) so that more of the underlying Florentine Clay color shows through.



Additional colors are applied in other areas using the Faux Finger tools. The basic technique is to "blade" the colors in using short staccato strokes. Changing directions with your hands will add nice movement and texture, even in smaller areas.



This particular carpet design, Chavall, is actually done with multiple layers. Here the Rainy Day Blue color is being troweled into the corner areas as a base for another layer of pattern.



As you finish each section, remove the Modello pattern to reveal a clean

and perfect design. Occasionally the Modello's adhesive may remove small areas of the previous layer of SkimStone (known as delamination). This would most often occur if the surface was improperly prepped or the previous layer had not dried. If it occurs, you can simply fill the base color back in with a small trowel.



The final detail layer of design is filled in. Here a layer of Winter Olive is applied over a base layer of Florentine Clay to achieve the same shade of green as in the center panel.



SkimStone will accept glazes and toning layers. Modello Dye Stain (Fawn) was diluted with water and brushed and ragged on to tone down the vibrant colors slightly and add richness and "age."



The exotic finished Istanbul carpet "lies" in the room's entry. The

floor area around the carpets was finished off with two layers of Minoan Red, followed by a Mocha/Dark Slate mix. SkimStone's floor sealer is simply applied with a paint pad in four to six layers. An additional coat of floor wax would provide a soft luster and create a "sacrificial seal coat" that can be reapplied annually. TFF



Melanie Royals is the creative force behind Royal Design Studio, an industry leader in the art of stenciling. Melanie continues to pursue the advancement of stenciling with the decorative painting industry by offering sophistication, inspiration and education to decorative paint professionals. For more information, call (800) 747-9767 or visit online at www.royaldesignstudio.com.

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