

# Modello Transitional Borders™

## Bridging Spaces with Design & Decoration

**S**ince starting Modello Designs two years ago, I've enjoyed constantly exploring and experimenting with new ideas and ways to use pattern and design "differently." One of the most exciting aspects of Modello Decorative Masking Patterns is that they offer the option of working in the positive design area or negative space surrounding the design—depending on which areas of the pattern are removed and which are left masked. If the design itself is removed you are working through the "positive" areas, similar to traditional stenciling. If the areas around the design are removed, leaving the design area itself masked off, you are working in the "negative" areas.

Transitional Borders allow you to do both! By choosing or devising borders that include both positive and negative portions of the design, we can now offer a whole new genre of decorative pattern—Modello Transitional Borders. Some designs are simple single-

edge masks, some simply split a mirrored image in half. Other, more complex designs combine ornate, detailed patterns. What they all have in common is that they allow you to change colors, techniques or mediums on your surface at the point of the pattern, offering solutions, new ideas and artistic opportunities for typical "design challenges."

### Transitions as Chair Rails

Transitional borders can provide a decorative substitute to the traditional devices used to define wall spaces



Example: Transitions as Chair Rails



Example: Deep Decorative Friezes

at chair-rail height such as moldings, solid painted bands or straight-edged stencil borders.

In the example shown below, the Transitional Border was used at chair-rail height to provide a decorative transition between the smooth Bella Fresco finish above and the crackled Grossezza finish below.

### Deep Decorative Friezes

The standard approach to enhancing the space where the wall and ceiling meet is to utilize crown moldings, a stenciled border, or simply nothing at all.

Transitional borders allow for the creation of a seamless visual connection between the wall and ceiling finish and the ability to incorporate both finishes into the design itself. They can be particularly effective in high-ceiling rooms where it may be desirable to create a wide decorative treatment with more visual impact such as the Jade LusterStone and gilded treatment shown above.

Begin with one finish on a wall and use a Modello Transitional Border to create a natural and artistic transition to a finish that completes and extends to the ceiling, or even wraps the corner and continues onto the ceiling or soffit area.

For an even more unique look, apply the transitional border and dual techniques to the ceiling itself and allow the outer finish to turn the corner and trail down the wall.

Another design challenge can be working in a room with very high ceilings. Many times the homeowner or designer will want to bring the focus down to the actual living space. Rather than cut the space suddenly with a straight edge transition, you can now use a softer more integrated approach by providing a visual design break with a transitional border. This can be done at a normal ceiling height at 8 feet to 10 feet or to bring the focus even lower by creating a transitional chair-rail finish.

### Floor Transitions

Transitional borders can be used on floors treatments as well to provide an interesting transition between rooms or to define different “living areas” within a larger space.



**Marquetry Sample**

Both oil and water-based gel stains for wood can be used very effectively with Modello to enhance wood floors,

ceilings and beams, paneling and furniture. The marquetry sample shows a Transitional Border that is mirrored from a positive to negative image at the midpoint, allow the colors to “flip” as you see fit.



**Curved SkimStone Border**

SkimStone, an integrally colored overlayment for concrete is another ideal medium to use. In this case, the border design was created as a curve for a more contemporary look that would be ideal for a transition to “bridge” living spaces in an open floor plan.

### A New Twist on Stripes



**Pietre Dure**

Mirror the positive and negative spaces of Modello Transitional Borders across a wall space to create a one-of-a-kind wall finish that will

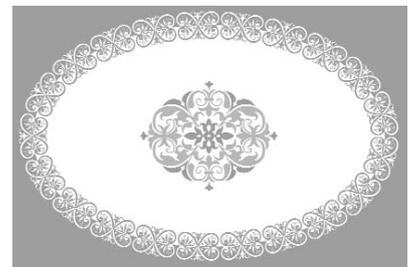
leave everyone guessing! For this wall finish each design strip was placed so that positive and negative portions of the design faced each other on every other stripe, adding stripes within stripes and design throughout.

The Pietre Dure finish is created by troweling multiple layers of Lusterstone through the Modello and then backfilling it with a lighter color to unify the finish—all made easy with the Modello decorative masking medium.



**Pietre Dure Detail**

### Design in the Round



**Oval Designs**

Veer even more off the straight and narrow path with arced, circular and oval borders.

Have your transitional border designed as a circle for a tabletop or entry floor treatment. Oval designs can be devised for ceilings and can coordinate with central medallions, providing the potentially perfect treatment for a dining room tray ceiling. This design setup shows just one possibility. The darker areas represent those areas where the masking medium has been removed and

## A Step-by-Step Transitional Border Project

This project features ShimmerStone™, a soft metallic plaster medium from Modern Masters Inc.



**Step 1**

Mix a dark tint strength of ShimmerStone by using a combination of Black Sapphire and Wet Concrete color concentrate into the Tintable Base. Trowel on a thin layer through the Modello Transitional Border. Note that the ShimmerStone would extend up to the ceiling or beyond and that tape has been placed below on the Modello to protect the Teal Metallic Paint background there from receiving any plaster.



**Step 2**

Mix a dark tint strength of just Wet Concrete and roll it randomly over the surface using a damp sea sponge roller.



**Step 3**

Knock this down lightly with a trowel held very flat and parallel to the surface.



**Step 4**

ShimmerStone can also be tinted with Modern Masters' Metallic Paints. Here the same Teal color is used for tinting that was used to base paint the background. Roll this mix again on randomly and knock down with a trowel as above. Special note: Allow metallic base coats to cure a minimum of two days before applying any Modellos.



**Step 5**

To pull the finish together, add some Nu-Antique Gold mica powder to MasterClear™ (satin urethane topcoat) at a rate of approximately one teaspoon to one cup. Brush or roll on and immediately pull over it tightly with a trowel. This time use a high angle on the trowel to pull the MasterClear off, leaving the mica just deposited mainly in the recessed areas.



**Final**

The finished technique with the Modello removed shows a truly unique wall treatment that would be ideal for a bedroom, bath or dining room!



**A sample of Modello Transitions**

through which you can apply your decorative paint, glaze, plaster or gilding treatment. **T&F**

*To learn more about the possibilities for applying and incorporating Modello Transitional Borders, visit the Modello Web site at [www.modellodesigns.com](http://www.modellodesigns.com). Melanie Royals will also be offering special workshops on these techniques at the Modello and Royal Design Studios in San Diego, Calif., and at the 2006 Stencil Artisans League Convention in Chicago, July 18-22, and the 2006 Faux Event, Oct. 16-22 in Boca Raton, Fla.*



**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](http://www.royaldesignstudio.com).**

**For more information, call (800) 747-9767 or visit online at [www.royaldesignstudio.com](http://www.royaldesignstudio.com).**