

Debra Berger

Integrating Art & Architecture

I am sensitive to my surroundings and enjoy being part of transformation ~ remodeling or remolding an area, turning it into a place that feels above all welcoming.

It's about a state of being and appreciation of life. Functional Art, woven into what we see, feel, touch and use everyday. Integrating art into architecture.

You will see ceramics in almost everything I do. I find a certain integrity in making something using just my hands and our precious earth. Aesthetics and natural elements play a fundamental role as does the collaboration with people who also love what they do. When working with others, I look for a free flow of inspiration and creativity, like music with solid materials.

Private Residence Mulholland Drive

Beverly Hills, California

Sculpted Vase

36" x 30" gres 1050 c



Terrace inside10th century wall Private Residence Andalusia, Spain



Rodeo Drive

Architect Paul R Williams

Beverly Hills, California







Detail of centerpiece Hand sculpted Kai porcelain



"EARTH" Porcelain, mosaic & plaster

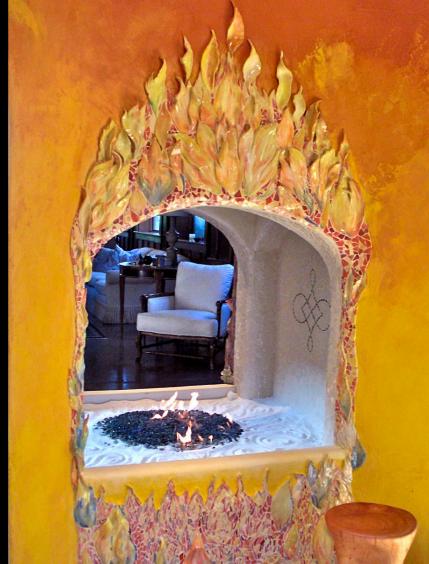
Carmel, California



"WATER" Marble dust, mosaic & plaster



"FIRE" Porcelain flames, mosaic & plaster





Detail inside fireplace Sand, mosaic and glass detail inside fireplace Gas fire Hotel Punta Sur Restaurant

Tarifa, Spain



Garden Entry

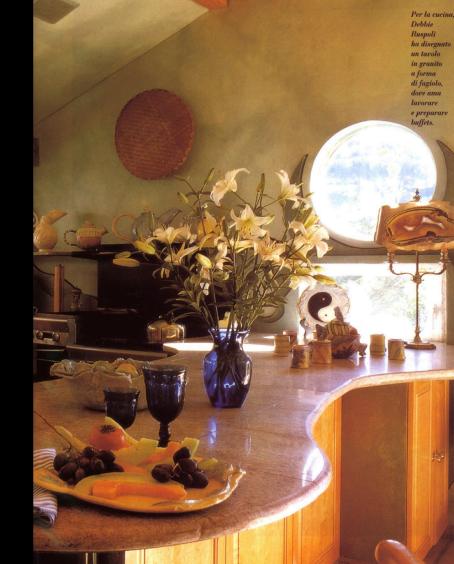






Private residence Mulholland Drive Beverly Hills, California

VILLE & CASALE



Private Residence Vejer de la Frontera Andalusia, Spain

Trompe l'oeil artist Bertrand Guilleau

TTTT THE REAL

Private Residence Mulholland Drive

Beverly Hills, California





Mulholland Drive

Beverly Hills, California



Model of jacuzzi Clay, bark & flowers

scale 1 x 1000

The New York Times

A Journey of Reclamation Reaches a Peak in Spain

August 10, 2006

"Ms. Berger's personal masterpieces, however, maybe her own houses...

...the most inspired touches are her ceramic installations; otherworldly fireplaces, headboards and window treatments concocted of marble dust, marble lime and glue inlaid with mosaic tile that she makes by hand. They look almost as if they are blooming, bringing feminine balance to what might otherwise feel like an overly linear space.

...it's like a fairytale"

Read the full article at www.debraberger.net

A Journey of Reclamation Reaches a Peak in Spain

By PAIGE WILLIAMS

<text><text><text><text><text><text><text> VELTER DE LA ERCOTERA Societ

Mami. Ms. Berger's personal masterpieces, how

Max the second matrix process here ever, may be the form of home in the second work of hyperbolic terms of the second work of

cool in the summer. They took into account how the sur moved, how the wind blew, where the animals were."

The second secon

damp truck. — levi's just sky Mis. Berger is a very pa-tient, persistent worka. ¹⁴ gol lacky because I ran out of manya a couple of finos, see new things.²⁵ To solid hink about the finos, see new things.²⁵ Of the original structure, Mis. Berger saved only the lood-bearing walk, the classic terrar-cettar nord indisen-ties the original structure, Mis. Berger saved only the lood-bearing walk, the classic terrar-cettar nord indisen-ties the original structure of the same structure of the saturbation corrantic floor tilles, which is the reused. A cognitivated alteriative one structure of the same structure of the sa tows, country and, at night, the distant lights of Tangier. Ms. Berger found many of her materials in flow materials and scooland blows. So hough the antipac-ness coast, for what today would be about \$381, From a reliable distance of the state of the state of the state index dealer the bought a cache of 100 glass thes in the bahrrooms and in the Panta Say 1800. An 640 woodwarker is trom here dher kitcher decorative celling beams by hand. The castom cabined ry was mander, rubbe with white pant, researded and

matching them with new ties. A centryrate database new connects a ground-floor bedroom, half-bath, kitchereste and art stable with the kitchen, datage room, jot-tyte den and sleeping alcove in the account from. The master suite comprises the value third floor, with ateps to the rootop terrane, while third floor, with ateps to the rootop terrane, while stretches between castle turrets and overlooks



10.0

the state

IN ME

?

26

AT.

A.S

SRANISH STEPS Debra Berner above. has built a career restoring buildings in the ancient town of Vejer de la Frontera, Spain. She painstakingly restored her own home, salvaging ceramic tiles in the dining room, bot-

tom right, and hiring an ironsmith to forge the stair rail in the living room, above. The courtyard staircase, reflected ST.4 in the mirror at right,

connects the groundfloor bedroom and art studio with the kitchen and dining room on the second floor. At the Hotel Punta Sur, in nearby Tarifa, she

designed the lobby, below left, and the tiled fireplace in the restaurant, left,

> 彩口 中

waxed. Ms. Berger did much of the work herself, with a wared. Mo. Berger did much of the work herself, with a multinational crew of artistans. Device in wyro werk. "Basically the secret to all their things is choor ground," the said, hand walfache and the stark which any strength of the said of the said of the stark which will be theread a cost of the said of the said of the stark which etheread a cost of the said of the said of the choice truth for the Morth at Archies – and here als shufters. Other truth for the Morth at Archies – and here als shufters to pain a seascape maral in the sineping pook. The most implied touches are be corranic installations', other working frequence, heldboards and window treatments concoccied of mathematic data, markle in an algabi, failad



Init. Ms. Berger was 17 when she began living with Rus-poli, who was known as Dado. He was 49. "He captivated me," she said. She and the prince shared an optum habit. Their older son. Tao Russoll. 30, is a filtermaker is Los Ameeles

enter son, rao reuspen, so, sa e rummater si Los Angeues, who is married to an accress, clives Wida. His 3000 doc-umentary "last Sy Roos" explores this parenti and drugs, including, in his mother's case, heroin. His terchi-ec, Barticomer Rougoll, 27, also Briss In Los Angeles, where he works for an organization that add homeloss people and in marries to Allen Angeles, and heroits the Getty fortune.

CB. A time constrainty investment is for a taget to a significant of the second sec

"It's like a fairy tale," she said.

<text><text><text><text><text> <text><text><text><text>

N F5



Chicken and

Hurricane Hotel Tarifa, Spain



Porcelain place setting



Porcelain sconce hand sculpted porcelain



LA LUZ Magazine Valdevaqueros Hotel

Tarifa, Spain



An American upbringing, life with the Italian glitterati and a spell in Bangkok have all left their mark on actress-designer Debra Berger and her work, as she tells **Jenny Kean**

Above: Dohan Berger works with other artists to create individual pieces of work like this freptace at the Valdewaqueros hotel near Tarifa. Opposite: Clockwise from top left: Warm terracotta waits in the bedroom; Debra had the iron staircase made specially by a local artesan (detail bottom left); a tomps froat mural by Bertrand Guliou in her apartment in Vejc



The first time Debra Berger visited

Vejer de la Frontera, she drove into the maze of narrow streets and parked her car next to the Puerta Cerrada in the old Jewish quarter, "I stood outside what is now my house, looked up at the ancient archway and thought: I'd love to live here." It took me two years to realise this was my house," she says with a laugh.

Her artival in Vejer seven years ago was just one stop along a journey that had taken her far from her native America – including to an Italian renaissance castle where she lived with the renowned Prince Dado Ruspoil (the aristocrat who inspired Fellini's film "La Dolce Vila"), and to Bangkok where she gave birth to one of the two sons she had with Dado.

"I've been lucky enough to live in some beautiful places," says Debra, "but I immediately fell in love with Vejer. It is unique. I love the worn stretest that tell their own story, the food, the people, the music in the streets, the welcome that you get here. There's also wonderful creativity, so much potential to build and to create. Thats the Andalusian way, using the wealth of local materials. So although I lived in tay for many years, I didn't find that same inspiration and creativity."

As an actress, potter and interior designer, creativity is important to Debra and she found a carvas for that aristic talant in her house in Vejer. Buying it was a long drawn-out affair as it belonged to many different people. "At one point, I had to find birth certificates for people who didn't know when they were born," she recalls.

The house was also a ruin, the walls raindamaged and what is now the kitchen had a dirt floor and a trough for feeding animals. "The challenge was to find the original structure, to reveal the flow of the house." Several years on, the result is a home that is in keeping with its traditional roots – sandwiched between the ancient town walls – and yet one that has its own unique imprint.

So Debra has kept the steeply pitched roof that was once typical of houses in Vejer but which have mostly been replaced in favour of fat roof terraces. She found a plasterer, Aurelio Jover, who gave the walls their irregular, rounded surface rather than the more uniform straight lines of today's workers. From gypaise in Marbella she picked up an old studded wooden door which fitted exactly the non-standard opening to her kitchen.

Yet overlying these traditional elements is a palette that is all her own. The bedroom walls glow with a terracotta wash; a honey-tinted archway frames a pair of turquoise painted doors; a set of 1920s coloured glass tiles





B HOMES & INTERIORS



picked up in a flea market adorns the downstairs bathroom; and everywhere the soft colours and contours of her ceramics and decorations; "There are almost no straight lines in nature," she explains.

The staincase that curves across the top of the main stilling room is a good example both of Debras thoughtul use of space and of hier desire to work with other entises and artists. She wanted to put in a miszanine affect but dich't want a supporting post to cut hint the ground space baneath. She was fortunate to find Alen Angelo, a blackmith who had brought his simily from France to Spain in a horse and buggy. He came up with a system of madewai-site wall of their own accord.

It was Alten who solved another problem too. Detern had suffered a branch- in via her root terrator, and filtends told her she vould simply nave to install a security grille on the doorway leading from her badroom to the terrator. Dismayed at the idea di bara across the sky. Debra skothed out an anched door with a carving design based on this medieval symbol of well-being. Alter turned the design Into reality and also came up with an ingenious security lath- I vice that doorway now. It's a good example of a something that was a broblem becoming a lewel," says Debra.

Porhaps it was this philosophy that Inspired her trademark fregioaces, bedheads and wail decorations – curitrg plaster tendrils of lime and marble dust inkaid with mosaics. "I've aiways coved functional art," explains Debra. I'v as after the big earthquake in Los Angelos where I was living at the time, and a lot of my pols had failen of their sheves and been broken. I needed a fireplace so I used the broken sheats to make a fauture of it."

Since then, Debra has worked with other artists and designers on a number of hotels along the Costa de la Luz, including the Punta Sur and the Hurricane Hotel in Tarifa, where she has just remodelled one of the bathrooms. The other outlet for her creativity is the clay from which she fashions huge pots and sculptural ceramics.

"I'm influenced by Dall and by Gaudi," she explains, "but also by the ocurtifies and civilisations I have come across. My father, William Berger, was a film actor so I spant time with him on location In thay and In Egypt, Whan I was 15, 16th home in t os Angeles and went to pick grazes in Sicily. From there, I hichhiled through North Africa, and then back to France where I was offered the lead in Marcel Carrols *Sim*, "The Advenceus Visit".

Debra anded up in Rome where she met and fall in love with her handsome prince and became part of the beautiful people immortailsed by Fellini. She shows me a photo of her and Prince Dado taken by Jack Nicholson at Roman Polanski's house. She acknowledges the encomeus influence of Dado and her time with him. "I think we complemented each other vary well. His renaissance castle at Vignanalia and the formal titaling gradens were so beautiful," she recalls. "It's all been a huge inspiration to me."

Debra still travis a lot -- to tialy, to the States where her sons live, to London. "It's ain goon your eyes and ears to other places, other lives, "ine says. She is now selling the Vajer apartment she lived in until her now house was firshed, and is looking to the future --more interior design work, she hopes, helping people to create living spaces "that are both creative and functional". And possibly community projects using natural oliments and stath-ability.

But she's not making any firm plans. "I think overything that's nappened to me in my life has happened because I was open to it. Like coming to Vigor- I hadri't planned that, it just happened. Rather than seeing where and when, I know more what I'm looking for. Its a question of going with your insolation."



Address Book

INTERIOR DESIGN

Debra Berger is happy to take on individual rooms or larger projects. See debraberger.net or e-mail debra@debraberger.net

HOUSE RENOVATION

 José Manuel Sánchez Anel. Tel: 956 451 605 or e-mail jmsanel@hotmail.com
Aurelio Jover lime plastering. Tel: 629 937 490 or 639 870 914

IRONSMITH

Allan Angelo. Tel: 617 212 063

ARTISTS

 Sophie le Gros painted the trompe Icedi clouds mural in Debra's living troem. Tiels 6x9 219 728. E-mail lacubatilia@hotmail.com Tadeus Michalski is a stone mosaic artist who worked with Debra on the windsuffing freplace at Valdevasqueros. See morziki-bez-granic.pl or e-mail tmichalski@moziki-bez-granic.pl e Bertrand Guillou created the trompe loadi mural in the apartment on Calle de la Fuente. Tel: 625 395 428 or e-mail bertrandguillou@granil.com Terracotta Vase Hurricane Hotel

Tarifa, Spain





www.debraberger.net email: debra@debraberger.net