

Dear Karl

Congratulations on your well deserved award for painting our house. The judges' description of your work as a "visual masterpiece" is certainly accurate. Our friends are stunned as soon as they enter the front door and see the beautiful walls and the magnificent "marble" fireplace you created. Then they see the mural and the ceiling roses and they want to know all about you, in awe of your talents and your attention to detail. Even our light cords and air conditioning vents match the wall finish!

This is such an incredible feat when you consider the state the house was in when you arrived. No sealant had been applied to the walls when the house was constructed, which meant the paint peeled off like cardboard in some sections but would not budge in others. When I tried to remove the paint, much of the plaster was dislodged. I was organising to have the walls replastered when you arrived and insisted you could fix them. And indeed you did. It is hard to imagine how bad they were when you look at them today.

We really appreciated the way you took so much time to paint sample boards for us so we could see the colours and techniques we had chosen before we started painting. Your advice on colour and style was always spot on – even if we were a bit slow to realise this at times!

To watch you work using traditional methods of painting has been a fascinating experience. Even after viewing the spectacular effects, no-one could possibly appreciate the amount of work involved as you applied layer after layer of paint to the walls with fabric to give them a finish with fluidity and depth. The effect is magic and enhanced the French style we have endeavoured to create. Our favourite room is our bedroom with its deep blue base and gold finely woven through to match our bed and lights. The room changes throughout the day with the changes in light highlighting the gold in different ways.

Karl, we have never seen anyone work so hard – six days a week and back at nights with spotlights to find and fill any hollows in the plaster. Some days you worked 6am to 6pm in your determination to finish sections of the house on schedule. In addition, you were so patient when tradesman after tradesman and a number of leaks in the roof managed to damage your work and you had to redo it.

We cannot thank you enough for a truly magnificent job, Karl. Having painted some of our antique furniture for in previous years, we knew you would do a brilliant job but you have exceeded all our expectations. Our house is a piece of art and a tribute to your incredible skills as an artist.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bryan Pearce  
Dr Michelle Pearce