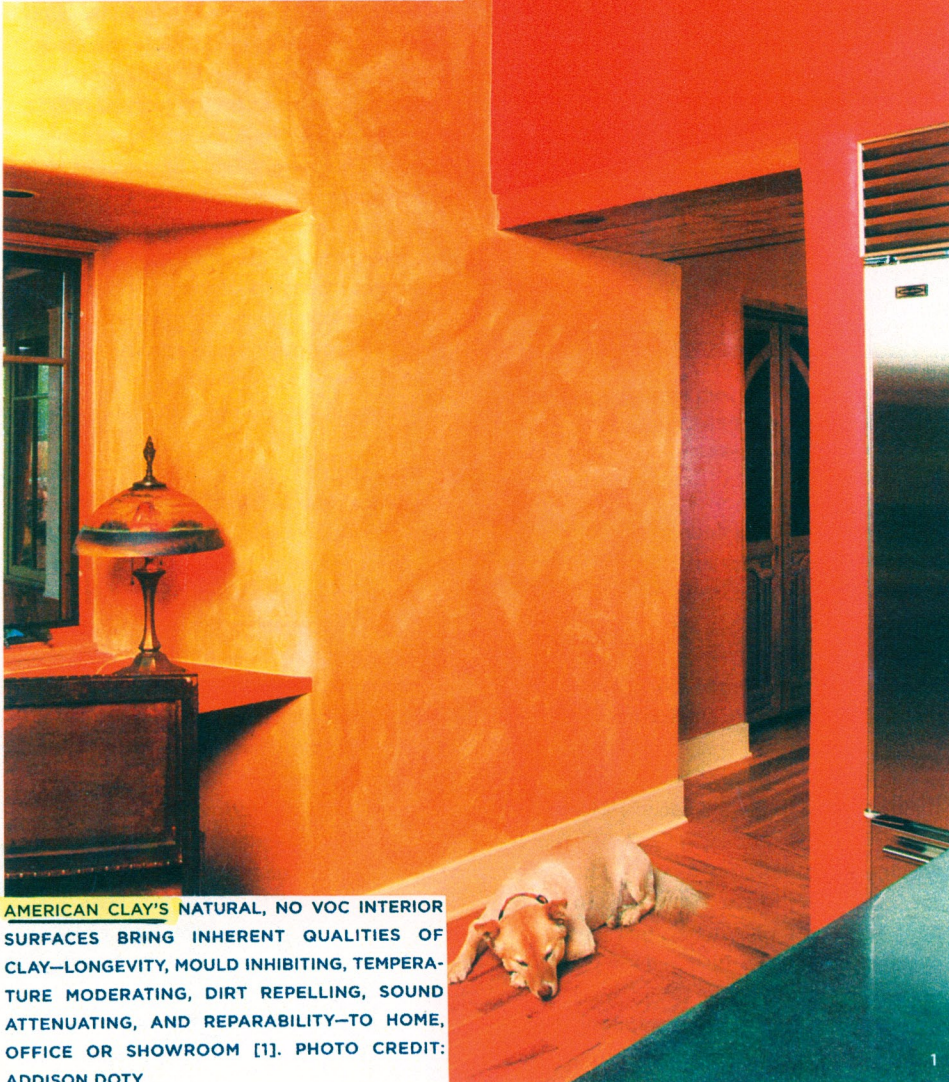


INTERIOR FINISHES

Products new and re-invented for healthier interiors

WALL AND CEILING FINISHES

American Clay Plaster is a natural clay plaster for interior walls and ceilings. Its ingredients include clay, marble dust, natural pigments and in some cases, oyster shell fragments. It is manufactured by American Clay Enterprises, LLC, Albuquerque, New Mexico. www.americanclay.com



AMERICAN CLAY'S NATURAL, NO VOC INTERIOR SURFACES BRING INHERENT QUALITIES OF CLAY—LONGEVITY, MOULD INHIBITING, TEMPERATURE MODERATING, DIRT REPELLING, SOUND ATTENUATING, AND REPARABILITY—TO HOME, OFFICE OR SHOWROOM [1]. PHOTO CREDIT: ADDISON DOTY

“The ideal is a future where all materials in the built environment are safe and replenishable and have no negative impact on human and ecosystem health.”

*Jason McLennan - Cascadia Chapter
CAGBC Living Building Challenge*

JIM TAGGART >> We're not there yet, but the recent rapid growth in the green building movement, heightened awareness of the health benefits of better indoor environmental quality, and the prospect of more stringent environmental legislation, have encouraged the manufacturers of many traditional finishing materials to reformulate and re-engineer their products to achieve lower levels of toxicity and off-gassing of VOCs.

At the same time, new materials and products have begun to emerge [or re-emerge] that, because of their naturally benign environmental characteristics, are inherently more sustainable. Still others have taken a new look at the processes of production and consumption, creating closed loop manufacturing systems and new products fashioned from materials previously considered waste.

The environmental issues surrounding materials are numerous and complex. In addition to health and toxicity [which are the primary focus of this article], they include embodied energy, pollution and resource depletion - all of which merit consideration when selecting and specifying interior finishes.