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COOUTURE WALLS

Bespoke craft techniques, such as relief plaster, cut leather and beading are transforming wallcoverings into works of art



At chef Ollie Dabbous' new Mayfair restaurant Hide (above), guests can be forgiven for letting their gaze wander beyond the table: the venue's bespoke wall finishes command attention. In the upstairs dining room, London artist Rachel Dein's handmade plaster mural is adorned with a floral relief pattern, formed using casts of real foraged plants. In the bathrooms, Venezuelan artist Jeanette Ramirez of Twig By The Clorofilas has studded walls and ceilings with preserved moss, mushrooms and lichen. 'The idea was to treat the walls as large-scale installations,' explains Rose Murray, director of These White Walls, the design studio that led the project.

The walls at Hide are just one example of a new wave of handcrafted finishes that are as finely embellished as couture gowns. More adaptable than off-the-peg wallpapers, they can be customised to fit the shape of your space or to tell personal stories: the mural at Hide contains treasured objects hidden amid the flowers, including a necklace from Dabbous and one of Murray's brooches.

For a private home in Hampstead, London, designer Daniel Heath created bespoke bird-and-vine panelling that's tailored to flow across the bathroom walls, snaking around fixtures and door frames (far left, from £500 per square metre; danielheath.co.uk). 'The look is delicate, yet luxurious,' says Heath. ▶

From top The stunning mural at Hide restaurant, London. A closer look at Hide's plaster relief wall. Bespoke wall design by Daniel Heath