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Case Study:

A Ceiling That Raises Eyebrows



Photos courtesy of LP Beauty Loft, except as noted

LP Beauty Loft in Oak Forest, IL, uses a black ceiling of Ceilume three dimensional decorative tiles to add elegance and drama to a broad, light-filled space.

GRATON, CA, 2024-February-13 -- After four years of working out of her home, Lorena Perez made the leap into opening her own place of business. Perez creates permanent makeup, specializing in lips and eyebrows, but LP Beauty Loft was her opportunity to work on a larger canvas, shaping an entire environment and creating an image, and she designed it from the heart. She'd long had her sights set on, one day, having a dark ceiling, and it turned into the hit feature of her business' design.

Located in a small commercial building in Oak Forest, IL, a suburb 30 miles southwest of Chicago, the space was a former beauty salon and barbershop. When Perez took possession, the room was fully functional, but looked uninspiring.

“It was pretty much move-in ready,” Perez recalls. “Everything for electrical and plumbing was pretty much in place. It had new flooring. But I wanted to try to change it up, just so it wouldn’t look so boring. So right away, I thought, I want to change out this drop ceiling. It had those old tiles in place, the really ugly ones that shed dusty stuff. I see them everywhere, in basements, in businesses. The majority of the time, my customers are laying down. Procedures take one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half hours. When they look up, the ceiling is the only thing they really see. I want it to look nice. So, I looked up at the ceiling, and oh! that ceiling has to go! So I did some research...”

Searching on Tiktok and Pinterest, Perez found Ceilume thermoformed ceiling tiles that could supply just the look she wanted. On the company’s website, she found a ceiling tile calculator that not only let her figure out how much tile she needed, but showed her what the ceiling layout would look like with any of the patterns and colors she wanted to try. “It was a super-quick way to calculate the square footage” Perez recalls, “and I ordered those right away. That was really the only thing I did to the place, other than cosmetic work, painting, installing new sinks and stuff...”

Perez selected the very popular Stratford pattern in black. “I’ve always been more into neutrals, but I love the aesthetic of a dark ceiling,” she explains. “I feel like it opens up the room a lot more. I don’t think I would have gone with black, except that I have a lot of natural light coming in. I have four huge windows, so enough natural light comes in that it doesn’t make the room dark.”

Building the business was a family affair. The entire renovation, including the ceiling installation, was done by Perez and her husband, Rafael Abrego, with occasional help from her parents.

Her partiality to neutral tones is reflected in much of the décor, with a white closet system, black and brown furniture, lighter wood utility drawers and reception desk. Her other design goal was to evoke her family’s Mexican heritage. She is especially fond of the classic floral pattern used in Talavera pottery, and has sprinkled it around the room in various accents and accessories.

The result has been a successful business. Perez has 700 clients in her database, and a junior artist as well as a receptionist to help handle the flow. “You have no idea how many compliments I get on the ceiling,” she relates. The reaction started even before the studio was opened. “The owner of the building came in while we were doing renovation, and right away, he said, “Wow, your ceiling looks amazing.” He has a lot of properties he’s redoing, and he’s going to consider those ceilings for his next project.”

About Ceilume

Ceilume is the leading manufacturer of thermoformed ceiling and wall tiles and panels. The company’s roots go back to the pioneers of modular ceilings, when “Mid-Century was Modern.” The family-owned business is located in California’s wine country and occupies a historic apple-packing warehouse. With an eye on the future, Ceilume’s research and development continues to improve interior finish systems to meet changing environmental, performance, and aesthetic needs. For more information, see ceilume.com/pro.

Media Contact

Steve Miller, pr@ceilume.com, 1-818-399-6596

High Resolution Images: ceilume.com/pro/press.cfm



The old ceiling – mineral fiber acoustic tiles – was the only major element that Lorena Perez felt needed to be changed when she took over her new business space. She and her husband, Rafael Abrego, installed the new ceiling themselves.



Photo courtesy of Ceilume

This black Stratford 2x4 panel is lightweight, washable, stain-resistant, mold-resistant, and Greenguard certified to protect indoor quality.

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Clients of LP Beauty Loft sometimes lay staring upwards for more than 2 hours at a time, so owner Lorena Perez wanted them to have an attractive ceiling to look at.

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The studio design includes numerous evocations of Mexican culture, including this floral pattern closely associated with Talavera pottery.

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