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Designer's Own Space Gets a Classic Ceiling



All Photos courtesy of Rêver Design Company, except as noted.

This interior designer's office reflects the company's taste for simple, practical elegance, elevated by a luxurious coffered ceiling.

GRATON, CA, 2024 June-18 -- There are at least two reasons to have an attractive and architecturally interesting office space. One is to make a good impression on clients and potential clients. The other is because you have to live in the office the majority of your waking hours. If you're an interior designer, both reasons are doubly important. For Taylor Zack and her interior design business, Rêver Design, moving into a new office space was an opportunity both to show off her design sensibility and to enjoy its results. One of her most important choices was to select a ceiling that not only blended with the decor but enhanced it, a decorative, three-dimensional thermoformed ceiling from Ceilume.

When Rêver Design acquired their new office space in San Juan Capistrano, CA, company president Taylor Zack knew, "it needed a lot of work. We started work on renovation before we even got the keys," she recalls. "Major renovation. There was blue carpet. There were terrible mineral fiber acoustic tiles on the ceiling. They were old, they were water damaged, turning brown and yellow... not really the look we wanted for our clients who are coming in and out. They're

spending a lot of money with us, redoing their homes. We have a certain aesthetic we want to uphold even in our office.”

Zack designed a setting of white surfaces contrasted with dark and blond woods. “We typically design our clients’ homes to have a modern organic kind of aesthetic, but we want the overall design and feel to be very warm.” The office needed to reflect that sensibility, but still be a place of business. It also needed to be built within a modest budget.

“We changed out the flooring for something that was warmer, and had more of a residential look. We couldn’t do hardwood, so we got luxury vinyl plank in wood look.” The caned wooden chairs were another element with a warm, residential feel.

“I knew changing out the ceiling was one thing we definitely wanted to do. We explored exposing the ceiling – taking out all the T-bars, giving it more of an industrial kind of look – but that was extremely expensive. It would require changing out the HVAC system above to one that was up to code to be exposed. It was going to cost anywhere from \$8-10 thousand and upward, so we opted not to do that.”

Zack and her team found the right ceiling by pursuing the same process they use when designing for clients. “We like to use small businesses, businesses that not a lot of people know about. That’s what we focus on for our clients, products that are harder to find, local type products. We’re very active on Instagram, seeking out vendors we can use. We found Ceilume on Instagram, we started communicating, someone on their end responded relatively quickly, and we started chatting about our office.” Ceilume is a family-owned business located in the California wine country, where its products are manufactured.

Zack went in the opposite direction from an exposed ceiling, choosing a classic ceiling structure: coffers. Ceilume’s Madison pattern creates the formal coffered ceiling style that has been popular since the time of the Ancient Romans. She selected the Sandal Wood faux wood finish, complementing the wood-grain elements throughout the space but contrasting nicely with the dark wood floors. A shallow-relief style, Oxford, was used as a border tile at the perimeter of the room, and another square pattern, Cambridge, for tiles that have fire sprinklers protruding through. In a room with numerous square and rectangular objects throughout, the bold statement of organized squares across the breadth of the ceiling helps bring the separate elements of the space together into an intentional whole.

Since the ceiling panels are impermeable to water and highly stain resistant, Zack does not have to worry about the kinds of discoloration and water damage suffered by the previous mineral fiber ceiling. They are also environmentally friendly, Greenguard Gold certified to protect indoor air quality and made from 98% recycled material. Zack was able to keep the original T-bar suspension system. She changed the color of the grid to work with the coffered panels by covering the grid bars with Ceilume’s EZ-On Grid Covers. These rigid vinyl strips snap over the T-bar, providing a new, clean appearance to old grid. They are available in six colors that complement most of the color and finish options of Ceilume thermoformed tiles.

The redesigned office was a success even before it was completed. Rêver Design moved in while some of the furnishing and finishes were still being installed. “We love it,” Zack reports on her team’s response to the new space. Moreover, it is having the desired effect on others, demonstrating the firm’s style and taste. “We get compliments on it from all of our vendors, all of our clients.”

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.

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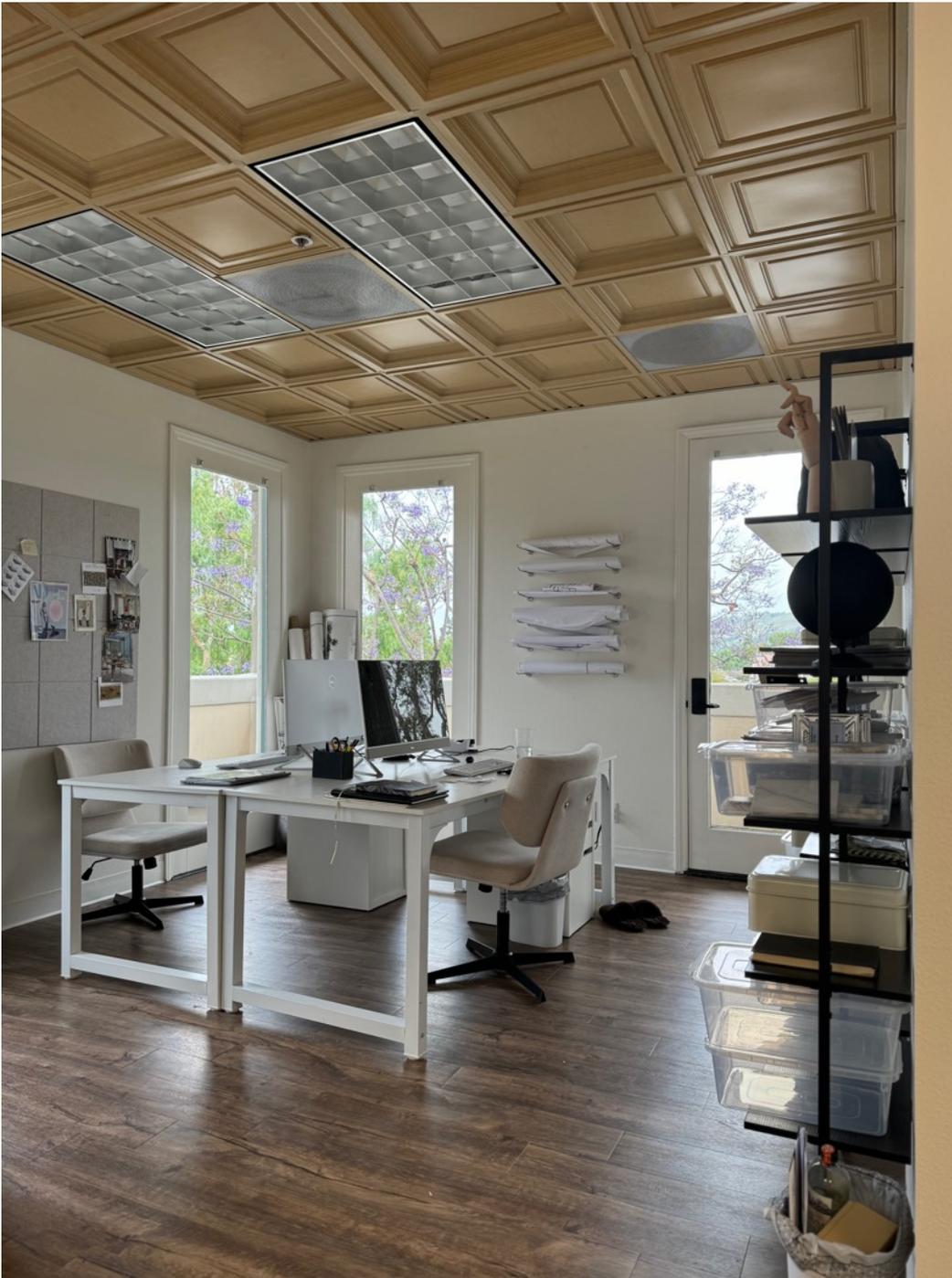


Photo by CREDIT

LEFT: Designer Taylor Zack created a setting based on white surfaces contrasted with dark and blond wood grains.

RIGHT: The space before renovation.

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The coffered ceiling, Ceilume's Madison tile in Sandal Wood finish, with a border of shallow-relief Oxford tile, dropped into a standard 2x2 T-bar grid, with Oat-colored EZ-On Grid Covers between the tiles that complement the wood finish and minimize the presence a grid.

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Photo by Ceilume

Ceilume's Madison style coffer tile in Sandal Wood finish is made from 98% recycled material and Greenguard Gold certified to protect indoor air quality. Oat color EZ-On Grid Covers help the T-bar grids blend in with the tiles.

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Despite their appearance of heavy wooden structures, the ceiling tiles are lightweight and flexible enough for easy installation. They are made from 98% recycled material and Greenguard Gold certified to protect indoor air quality.

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