

Remodels of the Year 2003

BEST HISTORIC RESTORATION:

The Restaurant at the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe

Lilian Rice — refreshed



GAIL OWENS

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: **Steigerwald-Dougherty, Inc.,
Solana Beach**

INTERIOR DESIGN: **Kristine Smith Design Studio
Valley Center**

BEFORE



OPPOSITE: Booths were added, recessed niches and handpainted motifs created and the ceiling raised and given a coffered treatment in the main dining room of the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe.

RIGHT: Another corner of the restaurant was updated with new carpeting, paint, fireplace façade and decorative iron details.

Finding inspiration was the easy part in the renovation and restoration of the restaurant at the historic Inn at Rancho Santa Fe.

Details designed by original architect Lilian Rice were replicated carefully to create an ambiance consistent with the building's historic nature. These include hand-textured plaster walls, decorative wrought-iron work and handcrafted tiles through the renovated restaurant, which is called The Dining Room.

Built in the early 1920s as a guest home for prospective land buyers, La Morada, as it was known then, housed just 12 guest rooms. Through the years some 90 more have been added.

Completed in eight weeks at a cost of about \$600,000, the project began with the gutting of the dining spaces.

The bar was relocated from the main dining room to an area off the entry and a new doorway was created to link the bar to the Inn lobby, known as the Living Room. A corner fireplace in the bar was redesigned to create more of a Spanish look and dark wood beams were added to the ceiling to echo those in the Living Room.

In the dining area off the entry, the ceiling was raised and vaulted and beams added. Louvered partitions separating the dining areas were removed for an airier feeling. In the

main dining area booths were added at the back wall along with recessed niches and handpainted motifs.

The coffered ceiling now is adorned with an intricate gridwork of beams and wood trim accented by more handpainted details. The dining area known as The Library maintained its original form but was refreshed with new carpet, paint and granite fireplace façade.

Finally, The Patio dining area received a new flagstone-and-brick floor, fountain and landscaping.



GAIL OWENS



BEFORE