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# PORTERA DOORS: OPENING UP TO A WHOLE NEW LOOK

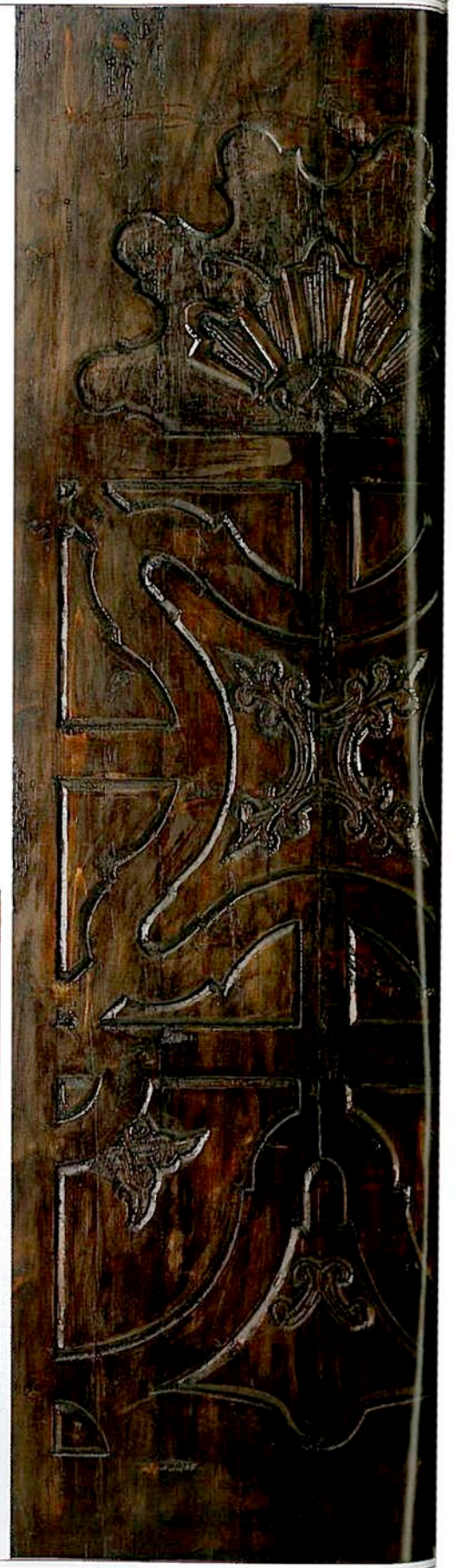
— By Christopher Joseph Lento

If you are a homeowner looking to make a statement before your guests even cross your threshold, a new company based out of Pasadena may be the answer to your prayers.

Portera, the exclusive distributor of antique Spanish doors in the United States, offers an extensive and distinctive collection of traditional antique doors that are catching the eye of interior designers and homeowners alike. Perfect for a wine cellar or a grand entryway, the Portera doors are not reproductions; they are functional antiques from nearly every region in Spain, many of which have seen service for hundreds of years.

From doors gathering dust for decades to doors abandoned during modern-day remodels, Portera has rescued and lovingly restored thousands of traditional, hand-carved masterpieces that they are offering to the distinctive homebuyer. Spanish craftsmen go over each piece carefully, stabilizing and reinforcing as necessary to maintain functionality, and then polishing and refinishing in order to preserve the door's unique charm and character. Doors are available for interior or exterior use, somewhat surprising considering that the collection includes doors that are hundreds of years old. The oldest pieces available are marquis Sacristy convent doors from Seville dating back to the 15th Century.

John Simpson, co-founder of Portera, was restoring his new Spanish-style home in San Marino when the idea for the company was formed. Unable to find what he was looking for in the States, and unwilling to settle for the reproductions on the market, John traveled to Spain in search of an entryway that would match his home's unique architecture. Realizing that there was a void in the U.S. market for this type of accent, he and Portera co-founder Soraya Dancsecs began importing these antiques in 2006, and the company was born. In that short time, Portera has grown to become the largest collection of Spanish antique







doors in the world. With a careful eye toward preserving this unique architectural aspect of Spanish culture, the doors are not removed from architecturally significant sites, but rather purchased or salvaged from owners who are renovating and modernizing residences throughout every region of Spain. Instead of ending up in antique stores as curios, the doors are refurbished and the history and regional origin of each one is cataloged.

Clients can browse the showroom or search the catalog of doors, and then, working with a handpicked design team, choose the door that matches their home's unique character. The doors are packaged and shipped to the delivery site within four weeks. Because the collection is so extensive, Portera is able to offer doors in almost any size or configuration that the client desires, and the collection includes single, double, arched, and hand-painted pieces.

If you are looking for a one-of-a-kind entryway and love the idea of maintaining the authenticity of a historic home, Portera may have exactly the door you are looking for. The showroom in Pasadena is open to clients and designers by appointment. More information can be found on their website [www.PorteraDoors.com](http://www.PorteraDoors.com) or by calling 626-639-2130. ❖

