

## His Signed Wall Murals a Inimitable Sight for the Eyes.

The American architect whose watercolors foresee the future.

He says he has a hybrid identity: American, better yet Californian, whose habits he wears like a second skin (the classic rite of barbequeing, his love for Mexican food, and football, for which he's still an avid fan), and Italian, better yet Pugliese, with his familiarity of the colors of certain landscapes that end up directly into his watercolors. John Duggan is an architect illustrator. For 20 years he has made architectural illustrations, a field in which he is an affirmed name with publications and shows. His work is better seen than described verbally, but we can make an effort. Starting with rendering.

He is a true master. His drawings depict how an architectural project will appear, very useful for architects and developers that want to communicate to the public how their projects will appear once completed.

"It's a type of illustration that I enjoy drawing," says John, "because it allows me to enter a project in the initial design phase and to communicate not only the personality but also the atmosphere of a proposal." Then there are the illustrations, executed with a technique of watercolor and tempera; they are then reproduced in pamphlets, newspaper and magazine articles, websites...

But if there's one thing that characterizes his work, it's his decorative murals. John Duggan is a painter of trompe l'oeil, and he adds a sophisticated and modern technique to the classic profession. The result is that the walls and ceilings that he signs become a cult. It's enough to think that a few years ago he completed the arduous task of painting the rooms of the Patria Palace Hotel, Lecce's oldest hotel situated in front of the Santa Croce basilica.

His ability is such that when a job is finished, he leaves the impression that the ceiling or wall has never existed before without that decor, creating a harmonious effect that appears to have always been there. "The objective is truly that: to avoid the idea of something applied at a later time." His brushes are very much in demand. He has decorated the ceilings of historic residences in Puglia and southern Italy. As also with public buildings and schools: as is the case with a private school in Lecce where, citing the most famous fairy tales, he wanted to represent "the journey", that essential experience in the lives of everyone. His is a journey that brought him where he is today. From Sacramento, where his family lives, to Florence where 22 years ago he met Angela, a young Pugliese who today is his wife. They were both students. "The first time to Puglia, to my future in-laws house, was decisive for me" recalls John. "I still remember the trip from Florence to Manduria in a small Renault 4 like it was yesterday: for an American who hadn't seen much of Italy until then, finding himself immersed in a particular architecture and culture was amazing."

Margaret and Francesca, their daughters, are 13 and 15 years old. It goes without saying that they both held brushes in their hands before holding forks.