

MAITLAND-SMITH

LA BARGE

Andalucía

Maitland's newest collection of home furnishings is named for the southern region of Spain and incorporates references and motifs from both Spain and Portugal. "Moorish" (Arabian & North African), Moroccan and Mediterranean influences can also be felt. Decorative elements are strong in religious iconography, as the area has a diverse religious background. What began as a Muslim society was later bequeathed to France and converted to Catholicism in the 15th Century. The blending of these religions created a hybrid architectural style known as "Mudejar" unique to the area. Moorish architecture utilized horseshoe arches combined with pierced carvings, rich tile mosaics, clay tiles and intricate stucco work. As Christians began to assert both their faith and influence, the architecture changed to incorporate Gothic (pointed arches), Roman (colonnades and classical pediments) and Baroque (complex stone carving) influences. Combinations of these styles are common to the architecture in Andalucía. Additionally, the Iberian Peninsula was the original gateway between Europe and Africa by way of Gibraltar and Morocco, as well as the only area to border both the Mediterranean and Atlantic waters. The combination of all of these factors created an iconic style, exclusive to the geographic region.

The furniture is made of a combination of walnut veneer (native to the area), iron and leather surfaces. Their finishes are named for locations within the area:

- ∪ Córdoba: A city whose name is the Phoenician for "rich and precious", describes the darker of the dominant finishes, a warm, hand-rubbed grey-brown finish. Lightly distressed but still transparent enough to see the character of the veneers.
- ∪ Alhambra: Built in the 13th century, this palace was the ruling dynasty's idea of paradise on Earth. This is a medium toned finish with much of the same physical characteristics of Córdoba, and meant to blend effortlessly.
- ∪ Cádiz: The coastal portion of Andalusia opposite the strait of Gibraltar has been described as "sparkling with African light". Executed on iron and wood, this is an ebonized finish with gold leafed rub through and highlights.
- ∪ Sierra Nieves: Named for the national park home to the majestic mountain range, this black-brown leather accents many items in the collection.

Decorative elements, like intricate veneer patterns and inlays reference the tilework of the area. Accessories are representative of cultural icons like bullfighting and flamenco dancing. The lighting has historical references to ogee dome shapes, lanterns and carved patterns.

All of these characteristics combine to bring a fresh representation of Andalusian history to life.