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FABULOUS floors

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TM

Finishing Touches Revealed

Legends For The Fall

Exotic Wood, Porcelain Tile, Wool Carpet,
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Tile Is Trending

Marble. Oak. Granite. Walnut.

Designing with tile has reached a dimension heretofore unimagined. Thanks to digital technology, you can have the luxurious aesthetics of hardwood, ancient marble or fossil-strewn stone with the practical benefits of porcelain ceramic tile — carefree maintenance, environmental sensitivity, peerless durability and a healthy increase in the value of your home.

And then, there are the mosaics. Responding to homeowners', interior designers' and architects' recognition that contemporary tile mosaics are accessible to all, mosaics have moved from the palazzo into our homes. Whether you choose a traditional hand-made selection like Lilywork Tessellation or the latest shimmering blends of Oceanside Glasstile Tessera, mosaics are an affordable design element that updates and elevates your décor. To help you visualize your dream mosaic, tile companies have tools that lead you through the mosaic design process. >>



As realistic as stone with all the benefits of tile, here are Marazzi Tile's Archeology large-format tiles in Crystal River. Background: Crossville's Bluestone tiles work well with organic room elements.



Made for
TILE



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- Waterproof to protect your subfloor
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The **Schluter®-DITRA Installation Handbook** is your comprehensive resource for tile installations over various substrates.

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What Lies Beneath... and Between the Lines

The relationship of glass tiles to color and light is complex and part of their charm. Quality glass tiles achieve visual resonance through internal texturing and clear color, permitting light to move within glass' structure and color, providing visual depth and dimension to the transparent glass.

If the most beautiful glass tile is installed with the wrong materials, all you are going to see is a waste of money.

To keep your glass tile installation looking its best, make sure the correct adhesives and grout are used. Due to the popularity of glass tile and the installation products it demands, Laticrete has developed a specific glass tile adhesive.

LATICRETE® Glass Tile Adhesive is a one-step, adhesive mortar that is specifically formulated for use in glass tile applications. LATICRETE Glass Tile Adhesive has great workability and produces an ultra white finish that enhances the look of glass mosaics, glass tile and most any translucent tile or stone.

In addition to containing Microban® antimicrobial protection, LATICRETE Glass Tile Adhesive is GREENGUARD certified for low VOCs.

Once the glass tile is placed, the right grout finishes the look. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Premium Grout is a high-performance epoxy grout which offers excellent color choice and uniformity, durability, stain protection and beautiful, full grout joints in an easy-to-use formula. This grout is stain proof, inhibits mold and mildew, and is tough, durable and crack resistant. And it comes in high-fashion colors with the unique SpectraLOCK Dazzle component. >>



Above left: Interceramic's Slate Supremo tile in a contemporary installation. Below left: Oceanside Glass Tile's jewel-like blends create a spa atmosphere. Below: Laticrete grout works well in bathroom areas.



Report from Cersaie

Every September, the Olympics of tile are held in Bologna, Italy at the Cersaie exposition. Tens of thousands of tile industry leaders from 144 countries flock to the exposition halls where manufacturers from around the world showcase their tiles and tile products. Within a few weeks, tiles spotted at Cersaie will be at your local tile retailer.

At Cersaie, interior designers, journalists and retailers find out what's new in tile for the upcoming year. Like car and haute couture fashion shows, some of the tiles at Cersaie are prototypes and fantasy designs, presented to raise eyebrows and start a conversation.

Just as you wouldn't necessarily want to wear some of the avant garde looks featured on high-fashion catwalks, a new look from Calvin Klein or Versace might prove irresistible. It's the same with Cersaie; the majority of tiles shown will look fabulous in any home!

Let's see what's all the rage in tile for 2012 ... The top tile trends for 2012 at Cersaie are:

Thin tiles. Digital glazing affords the possibility of lowering the profile of tile to as thin as 4 mm. Marazzi's ZERO.4 offers all the benefits of fine color-body porcelain stoneware in a tile 4mm thick. Offering the same performance as traditional tile, thin tile offers environmental benefits from manufacturing (using fewer materials) to shipping (because it weighs less and requires less energy to transport).

Handmade styles. Artisanal, handmade-look tiles are indistinguishable from the genuine article thanks to the high-performance technology used in fabrication. For example, an unglazed terracotta tile needs constant maintenance and sealing, but is a classic look. The same look can be achieved through advanced technologies applied to ceramic tile. You get the look of hand-made terracotta tile with the durability and ease of maintenance that is the hallmark of porcelain ceramic tile.

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Here: Lamosa's Crema Maya floor tile lends a warm and contemporary feeling to this room. Left: Marazzi Tile's Archeology tile laid out in a creative pattern. Bottom: Paon, or peacock in English, is a beautiful handmade ceramic tile from BonTon Art Tile designs. Inspired by vintage stained-glass windows, this Art Deco piece will enhance your space.



A “wood” floor made of TILE?

Come Fall, can any floor be more appealing than one with the look of vintage hardwood?

How about the look and feel of hickory, maple, oak, olive or walnut in a medium that surpasses wood in many respects? How about a “wood” floor made of TILE? From Florida Tile comes a new line called Berkshire, evocative of East Coast Americana from which the name is derived.


Berkshire is what is known as HDP or high-definition porcelain, which uses a precise digital printing process combined with an intricate surface texture to achieve an amazing wood look in tile that’s virtually indistinguishable from the real thing. With its rich colors and hand-scraped texture, Berkshire looks and feels like panels of desirably hand-tooled flooring or perhaps lumber that’s already lived a lifetime.

This is also a “Color Body” porcelain tile for both floors and walls. Color Body means the color of the tile, just as with wood, is throughout the plank and not merely a surface treatment. Over the long haul, this pays off as your “wood” floor experiences life’s ups and downs and a unique patina evolves.

Available in today’s popular wood dimensions, 6- x 24-inch planks, the five aforementioned décors (hickory, maple, oak, olive and walnut) are among both the most contemporary and traditional looks used in both residential and commercial applications today.

Florida Tile designed the palette with American tastes and lifestyles in mind. You can install your new wood looks in porcelain tile in high-traffic and wet areas — even in areas that transition to the outdoors, areas where a natural wood would never hold up.

With 40 percent recycled content and carrying GREENGUARD and Porcelain Tile certifications, the line meets or exceeds virtually all green-build criteria. Complete the installation with a matching 4- x 24-inch bullnose.

Want to know more? Visit floridatile.com 

Left: Berkshire Oak. Below: Berkshire Hickory

