

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Living etc

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INDIA EDITION

HOUSE OF THE MONTH

Designer **Siddhartha Tytler's** bachelor pad that has a pool in the living room!



Huzefa Rangwala & Jasem Pirani design a Mumbai apartment with a glass kitchen

DESIGN PROFILE

Ar. Samira Rathod on her newest venture Big Piano

TRAVEL DIARY

Ar. Rooshad Shroff finds inspiration in Miami

TREND ALERT!

Bring home **Denim** and **Tribal** designs

LUXE
MODERN
HOMES

BUYER'S GUIDE INTERIOR TILES AND THEIR LATEST AVATARS

Buyer's guide to
**INTERIOR
TILES**

When it comes to interior tiles, there's always something fresh and new to look forward to. We bring you an array of designer and decorative choices. Take your pick!

Words/ Vanita Arora



The H&R Johnson Porcelano Royal Care Slabs are large format slabs with anti-microbial properties. The tiles are non-toxic and made using Johnson's Germ-Free technology, which curbs the breeding of bacteria and fungi, reducing the possibility of stains or odour due to mould.

Be it aesthetics, durability or functionality, tiles have revolutionised the home decor world over the years. The choices are umpteen with tiles for every corner of your house that will suit your mood. With a plethora of styles, patterns, shapes and colours, their application on both floor and walls instantly uplifts the look of your space. As a handmade product, the beauty of tiles lies in its design flexibility, cost-effectiveness, ease in installation and maintenance. Also, tiles are considered vital in promoting a pleasant and hygienic environment. A breakthrough in technology and mastering the art of innovation, the new age designer tiles are today a must for every home.



Floor tiles from Bharat Floorings and Tiles' Heritage collection.

PLANNING

Choose the right tile "There are no specific rules to follow," says Architect Israel Nottes. The most important thing is to keep the porosity of the tile in mind. According to Sapna Aggarwal, Creative Director, Ansa Interiors, "Less porous tiles are apt for wet areas while others can be used for general flooring and walls. You must also consider that some tiles bleed their colour when exposed to sun and tiles which absorb stains easily should not be used in wet areas. It is also important to take note of the roughness and smoothness of the tile surface. Whereas very rough tiles can turn out to be difficult to maintain on floors, smooth ones will make the floor very slippery."

"Try to avoid using rough textured matt tiles for kitchen flooring as the kitchen is an area where a lot of spillages occur. The flooring here needs to be easy-clean, satin finish or glossy," says Rajan Goregaoker, Principal Architect and Director, GA Design.

Design Wise "When you choose a tile with a natural print, such as

concrete or stone, make sure that the print is different from each tile to the next. This will make sure the result will look more natural and not to "busy" on the eyes," says Israel. Try to mix and match – experiment with 2-3 tiles to give a different look to the entire space. "For floors, you can take two complimentary tiles; for walls, use multiple tiles to create interesting patterns. Playing with different colours and styles of tiles can easily lift the look of the space," says Ramesh Bhandari, Director, A-Class Marble India Pvt. Ltd.

"The size of the tiles should be determined according to the feel and design you wish to have in a space. Personally, I prefer to use tiles as big as possible in order to get a clean feeling, especially when it comes to flooring," shares Israel. "For an industrial look, try using concrete tiles – they give the look and feel of a concrete floor but are much faster to fix than making actual concrete IPS flooring. Also, cement tiles with their different colourful patterns and designs can make a space look eclectic or bohemian," says Rajan.

According to Sanchit Arora, Studio Head Architect, Renesa



Dublin Antique Matte — Design No. 22 tiles from Keramos.

Architecture Design Interiors, “For a raw look, you can work with the pigmented concrete tiles as well as the corten steel finish tiles and copper glazed tiles. While doing some other typologies, the custom graphic printed tiles are hot sellers and the terrazzo finish tiles are apt for a clean, minimal and monotone look.”

The Right Installer If you choose to work with extra-large size tiles you need to remember that the smallest crack or break in the tile could render it completely unusable. This is at times very costly. Therefore make sure that the person installing it is a professional who has experience with these kinds of tiles. If you are planning on cutting the tiles and installing them in positions that will show the cut side of the tile, make sure that the tile you choose will be “full body” - meaning, that the colour of the tile’s façade will be identical to the inside of the tile. For different types of flooring, you might need to do layering, so it is important that the installer is experienced enough to create your chosen style. “Even when it comes to installing mosaic tiles, it requires a special skill set as they are available in

different materials and in very small sizes,” says Sapna.

TYPES

Ceramics When it comes to classics, the age-old ceramic is the most popular and economical choice. Made from fired clay and finished with a glaze these go well with both walls and floors. As the material is extremely durable, waterproof and fireproof, it is best-suited in kitchens and wet areas. “Giving a fresh and exclusive approach to big ceramic surfaces is our most popular Fuoriformato style of ceramic. This range is appropriate for highlighting walls that significantly stand out in any space,” says Ramesh.

If you are looking to incorporate varied themes in innovative porcelain stoneware flooring to mesmerising white clay cladding, Bisazza Ceramics collection has some unique and refined possibilities for contemporary spaces.

Continuing with their ceramic and vitrified wall and floor tiles series, H & R Johnson has come up with the Endura Hexagon Series, which are equivalent to hand-made tiles — frost-free, easy to maintain, high scratch resistance and

SIZE MATTERS

“Tiles come in many shapes and dimensions; the more we advance with technology the bigger these tiles become. If not a long time ago, tiles of natural stone of dimension of 100 X 100cm were a thing of great cost and were seen only in super high-end projects. Today you can find them in more projects and the prices are more reasonable. Other options that are very popular these days are the granite porcelain tiles that can mimic very closely natural material and can be found in sizes as big as 100 X 300 cm. These tiles are very impressive but hard to handle and work with,” says Israel.



An artistic wall cladding concept from Intersekt.



Matt-finish floor tiles from Kajaria.

fully vitrified with flexural and breaking strength.

Even, Kajaria Ceramics' exclusive range of ultra-luxurious ceramic wall tiles and floor tiles are crafted with high-end technology to produce exceptional designs. The entire collection of tiles they offer come in a wide range of colours and textures to complement bathrooms, living rooms, corridors, study rooms and kitchen.

Singola Decor is Nitco's newest range in ceramic wall tiles. Modern in design they come in a glossy finish. There are other options available in varied finishes like satin matte finish and matte finish.

Porcelain Similar to ceramics, porcelain tiles can be used in any surface. These machine-made tiles are much appreciated for their durability and density. Made from heating refined clay at high-temperature and then given a glaze – makes it water resistant. "Our 1st Tile range provides a perfect blend of natural aesthetic and contemporary charm. Crafted in India out of the finest clay using Italian technology, the flexible and lightweight slabs boast an awe-inspiring honed finish," says Ramesh.

Talking about artistic porcelain tiles, Momenti's Crazy Tile collection is cooked at high temperatures and is inspired by the elements. These are artist's impression of the life-giving earth, water and fire. Vitrified, and glazed, these tiles are apt for both floors and walls.

Marble As a natural stone, marble tiles can instantly bring luxury and high aesthetic value to your space with its application. Due to the variability of component minerals, they are easily available in almost all colours and patterns. When it comes to finishes, you can explore varied options – brushed to tumbled or polished to hone. Considered as an expensive flooring option, marble tiles do require care and maintenance as they are a little porous and are also prone to get stains easily.

Marble has been the very first material used by Sicis. Their collection goes from the classic and traditional decorations to modern patterns thanks to the cutting edge technique developed by the company. The possibilities are infinite and allow personalising every realisation, considering the taste and budget of the client.

Travertine A type of limestone, which is porous and natural, travertine is very hard and a durable natural stone. "The pits and rough texture on them are caused by air bubbles and organic matter, which makes them aesthetically appealing and also age beautifully. Considered cheaper than



Distressed veneer range from Greenlam's Decowood is perfect for wall cladding.



A collage of wooden wall claddings from Kajaria.



Lucido metalux rust floor tiles from Somany

marble, it is available in different colours and tones. As they are porous and reactive to acidic substances, it requires care and maintenance," says interior designer Deepa Juneja.

Terracotta It is an ancient ceramic tile made from special red and brown clays. "The terracotta tiles can be made in distinctive patterns but the beauty of these styles lie in their earthy hues. But, as this material is porous, it should be sealed to prevent it from stains and moisture," says Sapna. If you are planning to apply on the floor, glazed terracotta tiles can work well!

Slate A metamorphic rock, slate tiles are available in varied colours. "For walls and claddings, these can be bought in small strips for wall applications and goes extremely well with rustic or industrial interior theme. Slate tiles also work well for fireplaces, exterior window sills, and roofing as it can withstand extreme weather conditions and temperatures. When it comes to flooring, they can be used as pavers as they are durable, non-slip and very hard wearing," shares Deepa.

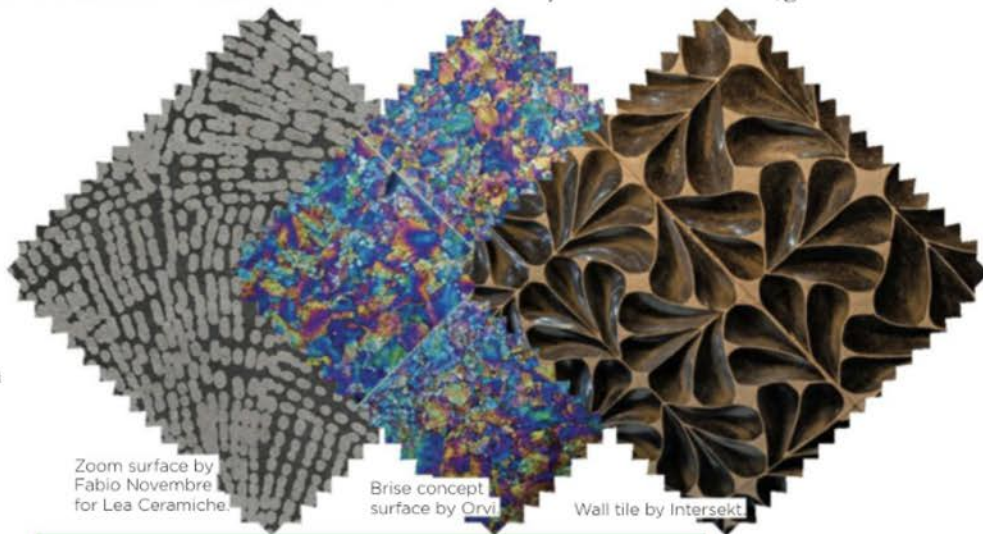
Quarry These tiles are manufactured from clay in a manner similar to bricks and are hard, mainly unglazed but now are available in varied tints and finishes. Quarry tiles are ideal for wet areas, high-traffic areas and kitchens as they

are dense, non-porous and water resistant with a low water absorption rate.

Mosaic These tiles have a sense of lavish luxury and can instantly make any room look elegant. An expensive option along with being high on maintenance, they are not recommended for high traffic areas. Mosaic tiles are available in glass, stone, wood, stone and metal – are durable and can make the most beautiful patterns.

With Elite, Devon&Devon has recaptured the traditional art of the mosaic through a premium collection of marble floorings. The new patterns feature arabesque motifs and optical geometries, including twists, perspectival cubes, diamonds, and chequerboards, and multiple elegant modular combinations can be created thanks to the contrasting and matching colour combinations of the marbles. Sicis Mosaic collection goes from the classic and traditional decorations to more modern patterns. With the Klimt mosaic collection, Sicis pays tribute to the extraordinary Gustav Klimt. The superlative technique of artistic mosaic developed by the Maison allowed the Mosaic Masters to perfectly recreate these works of art giving their own reinterpretation.

Glass According to Satinder, "An altogether different yet attractive aesthetic, glass tiles



Zoom surface by Fabio Novembre for Lea Ceramiche

Brise concept surface by Orvi

Wall tile by Intersekt

KNOW YOUR BUDGET

CHOOSING AND INSTALLING TILES IS AN INVESTMENT. IDENTIFY FIRST THE AREAS YOU WANT TO TILE AND THEN DO THE RIGHT SELECTION BASED ON ITS FUNCTION AND AESTHETICS. THE OTHER FACTOR THAT WILL DETERMINE YOUR COST IS THE FACT THAT HOW MANY TILES YOU NEED AND WHETHER YOU ARE TILING FOR THE FIRST TIME OR RE-TILING. TRY TO GET THE SPECIFIC PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT, WHICH WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO COMPARE AND MAKE A FINAL SELECTION. WHEREIN, PORCELAIN IS MAINLY AN AFFORDABLE OPTION, THERE ARE CERAMIC AND STONE TILES WHICH ARE LOW-PRICED.



Topstona's Entwine collection has a series of twines and twists translated into stone surfaces, perfect for wall cladding.

Topstona's Entwine tiles are crafted in travertine marble.



are resistant to stains, mildew, allergens and are easy to clean. Available in a range of aesthetically pleasing colours and patterns, these can be ideal for walls, bathroom walls, kitchen and any space that can use some additional light."

Amidst varied breakthroughs, the new Sicis architectural glass line – Vetrite, will now be available in tile formats. Vetrite laminated glass tile uses a unique proprietary artisan technique in a myriad of standard tile sizes and custom patterns to capture the look of textiles, metallics, leather, luxury wallpaper, calacatta marble, and fresh modern interpretations of Venetian glass and antique mirror, all with stain-resistant glass surface. The new tile formats are particularly suitable for residential bathroom and kitchen surfaces.

Onyx An amazing stone, onyx tiles are apt for indoor walls, light traffic walls and even counter tops. They are translucent and each onyx tile varies in colour. A dry layout should be done before installing them. Stonex India has some exquisite designs in their collection to choose from – Feather Onyx, Black Onyx, Spectrum Onyx, Leopard Onyx and much more.

Metal Considered to be extremely durable and hard-wearing, metal tiles are mainly made of aluminium and steel. "Metal can be used in small 12" x 12" tile forms or even in mosaic form for the floor, as well as the wall in coding and treatments. They come in different colours and finishes like gold, copper, platinum and many more," says Rajan.

Laminate Tile formats are available today in laminate flooring. The top quality laminate floors have tile designs in wood and ceramic and due to the ease of installation and their scratch resistance, they are one of the most preferred options for bedrooms and living rooms.



Somany's calcutta white marble tile.

Evowood tile made with Persian lilac.

Evowood tile made with walnut and white oak to create this weave design.

Somany's Belgium stone Nero tile.

MAINTENANCE

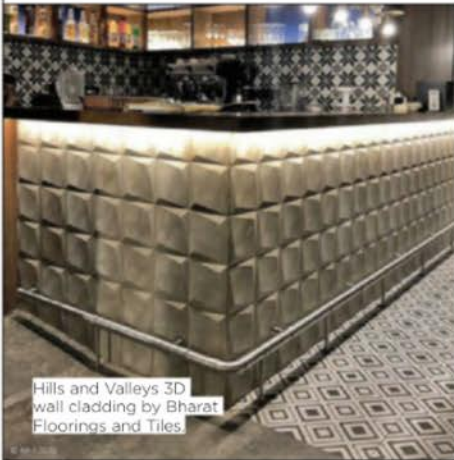
Use water: Regular mopping with plain water is the key to keeping all types of tiles in great shape. You can use white vinegar with warm water, which does not react with tiles. Avoid detergents to retain the sheen.

Grout lines: When it comes to cleaning tiles – be it floor or walls, it's important to take care of the grout as well. For all that dust and grime that makes enough space to stick in the grout and spoil the entire look of the tile, you can start by spraying the grout with hot water, followed by scrubbing with a grout brush and then cleaning the surface. "You can even use a baking soda and water mixture with a toothbrush to scrub the grout," recommends Sapna.

Avoid scrubbing: "Never clean your tiles with a hard scrub as it may give more harm than benefit to the tiles. You can use an old towel or a soft cloth to wipe them clean," she cautions.

Cover or seal: If you have porous tiles, it is advisable to seal them using a floor sealer to prevent them from becoming too porous.

Cement and concrete “These tiles are not frost proof; they are most suitable for indoor floors with high traffic and can be used to cover walls, floors and roofs. They are extremely durable, stain and waterproof. Mostly handmade, a lot of design and shape customisations are possible,” explains Deepa. Bisazza’s Cementiles collection with designs from India Mahdavi, Jaime Hayon, Tom Dixon, Paola Navone and many more — bring breathtaking new possibilities to interior design. Modern geometric designs to classic motifs — there is a lot to choose from!



Hills and Valleys 3D wall cladding by Bharat Floorings and Tiles

Bharat Flooring’s Heritage tiles and floors are custom-designed to create stunning floors to suit eclectic tastes. Each cement tile is individually hand-crafted from the finest, carefully selected ingredients, aesthetically blended to create a high-quality tile of rich and glowing colours. The timeless elegance and durability of these tiles make them works of art and an invaluable part of the country’s architectural heritage.

Craft Beton’s collection Escher, Ocean to Sky is carved in the image of a bird in flight. This unique tile symbolises a seamless flow of ideas and time, both on the floor and the wall. Dutch artist M.C. Escher’s woodcut print of 1937, called Metamorphosis I, reflects the transition of one form into another.

Wood Faux, Hardwood and Engineered, wooden tiles mainly go well with flooring as they are easy to install and accentuate warmth in the space applied. “The hottest trend in the market, wood tiles are for luxury spaces where you want to make a statement. Available in a wide variety of options, these are the ultimate in classiness and are easy to maintain and quite durable as well. Ideal for living areas and bedrooms, with changing seasons, they maintain a

comfortable temperature to walk barefoot on,” says Satinder.

Also, EvoLumber wooden tiles by Evowood, are extremely versatile and can be used for wall panelling as well as flooring. Having the warmth of solid wood, they are available in various patterns with a mix of woods. Bisazza wood collection is yet again a spectacular oak parquet floor, which is available in five sizes, ten contemporary colours and a collection of chic designer patterns. Duragres Planks, a range of faux wood tiles by Somany are exceptionally durable and designed to cater to a wide range of tastes. The biggest advantage of these faux wood tiles over real wood planks is the ease of installation along with durability, resistance against natural wear and tear and vulnerability against chemicals. In addition to it, the luxuriant range of tiles is not only developed and chosen carefully to complement various patterns, but also offers exclusive, customized and state of art finishes.

Leather These tiles are exuberant, add warmth to the area and can be used in modern as well as traditional environments. “In terms of application, they are best suited for bedrooms and dressing rooms,” says Satinder.



Marquina Black Luxe tiles from Panaria Ceramica



Dublin Antique Matte
— Design No. 53 tiles
from Keramos.

TRENDY STYLES

The natural charm “There is increased focus on rustic realistic designs with warm natural looks, and distressed finishes are getting more popular. It brings in a homely and cosy feeling while giving you the easy maintenance and durability of tile,” says Rahul.

Go Slim According to Rahul Bhugra, Director of Antica Ceramica, “Slim Tiles tiles are in vogue as these are exquisite and the designer patterns merge well with architectural spaces. Having a strong element of modern design, these tiles are easy to install and require less maintenance.”

Shimmering Surfaces Watch out for the Brisé collection which is rooted in age-old glass-making traditions from central India. “Large sheets of coloured glass are broken into small pieces, and then painstakingly reassembled, section by tiny section, for an overall effect that recalls the glass-tiled mosaics of Europe’s medieval churches and cathedrals. Belying the precise composition and skilled craftsmanship required to create these shimmering surfaces, the resulting patterns seem almost organic in structure. From single colour designs to tone-on-tone

and multi-coloured collages, each one shines with understated elegance, embellishing any space with an iridescent, kaleidoscopic quality,” shares Sanjeev Agrawal, Founder & Chairman ORVI

Shades of grey When it comes to flooring, the beauty of Grey cannot be denied as it compliments most colours — especially brighter and bolder accent colours. “Seen across all ceramic and vitrified tiles, grey does work exceptionally well with the harsh Indian heat and is a very good choice for smaller spaces and rooms,” adds Rahul Bhugra, Managing Director of Antica Ceramica.

3D Tiles According to Manish Maheshwari, Director, Ventura International, “Wall decoration is completely evolved over the years. The “3d wall” Panel Systems is a unique range of three-dimensional decorative wall panel designs. Crafted with highest quality materials and built to last with time — it is easy to clean and can add visual interest, texture, visual interest and depth to any space.”

Even the Pent tile, which is a multi-purpose 3D quartz tile unveiled by Sternhagen, is the ultimate culmination of organic harmony and refined artistic design. Available in eight different vibrant colours, the Pent collection derives its inspiration from geometric shapes.



The H & R Johnson's Spanish Care collection is the first of its kind in India which is made by Johnson's germ-free technology.

White-washed "The ceramic and vitrified tiles have an ashy white-washed look with the natural wood grain still being clearly visible from underneath. So you do not lose the charm and beauty of natural wood; it is just packaged in another style. The beached and blanched trend is popular in modern urban decors—especially in homes where industrial decors and futuristic rooms are in demand," explains Rahul.

Faux Leather "Casa Panels are made up of high-grade faux leather, which is anti-aging, anti-fading and wear-resistant. They do not have any unpleasant odour and are resistant to water, oil and static. It uses the Fire-Retardant PVC Board as a base and is easy to install and maintain. They can last for a longer period of time in wet, dry hot and cold environments," shares Manish Maheshwari, Director, Ventura International

Fabric "Inspired from colours and textures of natural fibres, these are beautiful and a durable option. These are best suited for bathroom walls, study room or living room too. They can successfully replace the need of carpet," says Satinder Chawla, Managing Director, Span Floors.

Designer Surfaces Bringing innovation

in the ceramic tile industry, FCML has collaborated with India's top fashion designers - Abraham & Thakore, Péro by Aneeth Arora and J J Valaya, Made in India, for its discerning clients. The Ceramic brass collection in the category complements the tile's thickness and finish seamlessly. It is easy to use, quick to install with no extra work to maintain. Because of these special properties, these brass-like inserts perform better giving a perfect emulation of brass.

Innovative Surfaces Orvi's Exotica Tressage collection by Intersjekt artfully combines key aspects of two different lines – Metal Magic and Solid Stone – this stunning collection is inspired by traditional basket weaving techniques. Certain portions of the natural stone are carved and hand-finished with great precision to create a bas-relief surface, into which metal is then meticulously inlaid by hand.

Terrazo Terrazzo tiles collection by Bharat Floorings is used for floor and wall decorative finishes. It is a composite material either poured in place or precast or hydraulically pressed as tiles. It consists of marble, quartz, granite, glass or other suitable chips; sprinkled or unsprinkled, and poured with a binder that is cementitious, chemical or a combination of both.



**NEW AT SOMANY...
ABHISHEK SOMANY, MD**

TRADITIONAL TILE CONCEPTS: From ancient forms and 18th century patterns to tiles inspired by charming places seemingly stuck in time, designers are finding creative ways to make the old feel new again.

SURFACE AND APPLICATION: Newer finishes and textures, designed for aesthetics as well as functionality, are coming up now.

BIG PATTERNS: Artistic design patterns have been rendered on porcelain slabs to create an alluring effect of wallpaper and murals, with the technical benefits of ceramic as a material.

NEWMARBLE DESIGNS: Moving beyond common varieties of stone such as carrara, statuario and travertine, the brand is scouting quarries throughout the world to find obscure marble, full of colour and character, or digitally manipulating the look of natural stone to create something that is unique.

ADHESIVE: Tile laying is an important procedure, it is very important to hire properly trained tile masons, so that your favourite shades don't get damaged. Somany Ezy Fix ISI Tile Adhesive is a great adhesive for floor tiles, both for exterior and interior application. The adhesive has been formulated specifically for Indian conditions.

MAINTENANCE: Somany tile being alkali and weather resistance need minimal care, but to clean and maintain it for longer time, always clean tile with mild detergent or branded floor cleaner (Somany offers Ezy clean, a specifically made formula that is tile friendly and also doesn't harm grouts) with household mop preferably fluffy dust mop (avoid using metallic or rough mops). Another way to clean the tiles are using vacuum cleaner.



Bharat Floorings and Tiles' Butterfly Florette pattern tiles in blue lagoon, mint green and buttercup yellow.