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Ceramic: Making the most of mosaics

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By K.J. Quinn

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The latest varieties of mosaic tile options provide even more creative freedom than ever before as some coordinate with traditional tile products while others allow designers to match virtually any theme.

"Tile companies are expanding the décor options in their collections to provide a whole range of coordinating tiles for one project," said Vittorio Borelli, chairman of Confindustria Ceramica, the association of Italian ceramic tile and refractory material manufacturers. "With decorative trends becoming softer and lighter, mosaics are the perfect accent to complement plain tiles."

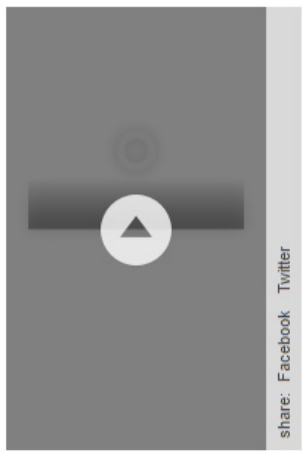
Mosaics—made from materials such as porcelain and glass, which are then mounted on a backing for ease of installation—are now utilized to create works of art on walls and floors. "Designers are being given more input on the creativity of the tiles they select and even have the ability to design their own mosaics," noted S. Lee Wright, owner, S. Lee Wright Holistic Interior Architecture, New York.

Traditional mosaics were made in 1 x 1 and 2 x 2 formats and available in solid color tiles. These days, manufacturers are starting to explore a wide variety of shapes and sizes. "We are seeing combinations of glass, porcelain and natural stone that coordinate with a wide variety of porcelain and ceramic products," said Angie Clarkson, registered interior designer at LWPB Architecture, Oklahoma City.



Allure is a ceramic mosaic from Appiani, made using the monopressocottura technique or 'single-press' firing.

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