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ALL-OUT GLAMOUR

*THE RETURN
of COLOR!*

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surfaces: what the pros know

Hardworking materials with looks to spare are the experts' new favorites



STEVEN GAMBREL, designer

"I use Grove Brickworks Field Tile in kitchens, especially in country houses. They're clay-based subway tiles that are rough in texture and coated with a glossy glaze. They come in different colors. I like the contrast that these tiles have between rugged and refined." Grove Brickworks Field Tile, left; waterworks.com.



AMY LAU, designer

"Heath Ceramics makes tiles with hand-applied glazes in its original 1950s factory in Sausalito. The tile has a three-dimensional feeling and comes in saturated colors—from misty green to bright red or blue—that really grab the light. I've used their tile for a bar backsplash and on fireplace surrounds." Heath tile, left; heathceramics.com.



CARL D'AQUINO, designer

"We've been using a lot of resin, especially in kitchens. It comes in every imaginable color, and you can embed it with almost anything. We've used crushed clear glass and gold-leaf sheets. Resin can also be cast in any shape, from counters to sinks. My favorite resin fabricator is Atta Inc." Custom-made resin tub, left; attainc.com.



JAMES BIBER, architect

"Ceramic tile now ranges from the size of a Tic Tac to a sheet of plywood. It's a stunning development that allows more varied applications." For a micro mosaic tile, try I Frammenti by Claudio Silvestrin for Brix; www.brixweb.com. Slimtech's superlarge tile from Patrick Norguet's Lines and Waves collection for Lea Ceramiche, left; ceramichelea.it.



LAURA KIRAR, designer

"I love the soft, earthy quality of cork and have used it on counters, floors, and walls. It's beautiful, durable, and great for sound absorption. For a wall covering, I like Innovations' cork, which comes in many colors. I used it in a powder room with my Vir Stil bath collection for Kallista." Metallesence Cork, left; innovationsusa.com.

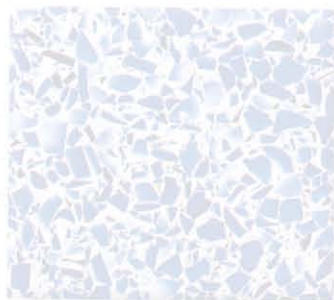


RED HOT

For a jolt of color, try Rosso Monza, left, the new lipstick-red hue in the Silestone Life! series palette. The shade was inspired by bold European contemporary design, says Lorenzo Marquez, vice president of marketing for Silestone's parent company, Cosentino North America. An engineered stone, Silestone can be used for countertops, vanities, backsplashes, or even on a wall (silestoneusa.com).

GLASS MENAGERIES

Besides being good for the planet, recycled glass has given rise to striking surfaces for the home. Vetrazzo, right, a material made of recycled glass, has the mosaic-like look of terrazzo (vetrazzo.com). IceStone, recycled glass in a cement base, can be used for countertops, vanities, and shower walls (icestone.biz). Bendheim's Restoration Glass looks antique but is newly made from recycled materials (bendheim.com).



FOOT WARMERS

Heated kitchen or bathroom floors take the edge off frigid fall mornings. But where some radiant floor systems can be spotty, with warm and cold areas, Nuheat's prebuilt in-floor heating technology offers evenly distributed heat. The system—which can be installed under tile, stone, and laminate or engineered wood—comes in more than 60 standard room sizes and can be custom ordered to fit under any size floor (nuheat.com).

SKIN DEEP



skin deep

Counter surfaces are key players when it comes to a kitchen's style and function

ELLEN CHEEVER, designer: "I'm seeing white countertops, whether Corian's Designer White or engineered quartz. Consumers want simpler, minimalist kitchens. Countertops are either very thin, ¾ inch, or very thick, from 2½ to 3 inches. Color and pattern are still players in backsplashes. And

combinations of materials are popular." A good example: a kitchen that Joe Nahem designed, combining lacquer, stone, wood, and antique tiles, above.

KAREN WILLIAMS, designer, St. Charles of New York: "White marble is classic but people are looking for more durable options. Concetto is hand-made from semiprecious stones and comes in brilliant colors. We create custom pewter countertops, which get a patina as they age. Lavastone is heat, stain, and scratch resistant." Visit concettous.com or pyrolave.com.

ALICE MIN SOO CHUN, professor at Parsons, New York: "There are more composite surfaces made of natural materials. PaperStone is a hard countertop made from recycled paper. It comes in many colors and is very green. Stone Source's TorZo looks like stone but is actually recycled wood. GreenDepot.com has a great selection of sustainable surface materials."