

The Latest in Tile

Article on page 2

Photo: Courtesy of Saloni (www.saloni.com)



PEAK CONDITION



Wine Cellar by Glaze Design/Build

Wine, unlike most food, is alive. It is constantly breathing and changing as it reacts to its environment. Some wines are best enjoyed while they still have their youth and freshness. Others need to age gracefully in order to reach their potential of full-bodied flavor. For that reason those who really care about their wine collections, whether large or small, will want to provide the ideal conditions for storing their wine, allowing it to improve and then keeping it at its peak for years to come.

Having a wine cellar is an option for today's homeowners. Many people value the convenience of having their wine collection stored adjacent to the kitchen or dining room. If your collection consists of just a few choice bottles, then a refrigerated wine cabinet might be ideal for you. These cabinets also function well as secondary units to a wine cellar, providing a short-term storage option for bottles you plan to drink in the near future.

For larger collections, consider installing a self-contained walk-in storage unit or building your own custom wine room.

These rooms can be insulated, ventilated, and refrigerated to provide ideal wine storage conditions. When properly stored, your wine collection can give you and your guests many years of pleasure and satisfaction.

The Latest in Tile

Tile has always been a versatile product, but its versatility has been increasing steadily over the last several years because of new technology. Tile of Spain presented global design trends at CEVISAMA 2018, the International Fair for Ceramic Tiles and Bathroom Furnishings in Valencia, Spain. Coverings 2018, the largest international tile and stone show in North America, also featured amazing innovations in tile. Here are some of the exciting revelations brought out during the shows.

Due to the latest 3-D digital printing technology, tile has taken on the convincing look and form of many other materials that are three dimensional—from vintage stone slabs, terrazzo, and cork to industrial-look concrete, rusty Cor-Ten steel, and rough hardwood boards. It is difficult to see the difference between the tile and the material it mimics, but the advantages of choosing tile are many: it is durable, hypoallergenic, mold and mildew resistant, and easy to clean. Tile can also be used in locations and for purposes that were previously unimaginable.

Some of the new fashionable statements tile is making today include: small, square, rustic tile in place of subway tile; glossy ink added to terrazzo-look tile to make the chips glossy with a patina around the edges; wallpaper inspired tile designs on large-format thin slabs that can reach from floor to ceiling; cleaner, less-distressed concrete looks that are more refined. Artisan craft tiles offer no two pieces that are alike—different chemicals are added to each tile so the radiance of the finishes are distinct. Metallic effects on tile, such as gold and platinum, are still very popular. A “sinking ink” process produces a heightened result in tile with relief.

Marble and stone looks for tile continue to be in style, but the appearance is more natural and realistic than ever before. The veining in tile that perfectly mimics the look and feel of marble is getting softer, finer, more diffused and more sophisticated. Multiple finishes are available, going beyond the usual high gloss.



Photo: Courtesy of Natucer
(www.natucer.es/en/index)

Unlike actual stone, the benefit of porcelain tile is that it can be used for any application since it is nonporous and stain resistant.

Internationally, the classic tile colors of white, gray and black are still very much in style. In addition, saturated earth tone colors—ochers, terra cottas, blues and greens—are on the upswing in Spain and Italy, some of the major tile manufacturers that import to the U.S. It is expected that these colors soon will become popular among designers and homeowners in our country as well. Creamy, off-white tones are on a comeback as well.

The technologically advanced manufacturing processes allow tile to combine function and efficiency. For example, large porcelain tiles are now designed to be used as floors, wall surfaces and countertops—an all-in-one surface for kitchens and bathrooms. The tile is produced in a variety of thicknesses, since walls, indoor flooring and outdoor flooring have different requirements. A smooth porcelain countertop can serve as an induction cooktop when an induction warmer is mounted under the surface. There is no resin in the tile, so this same countertop may be used to prep, cook and eat food.

Anti-slip technology allows safe placement of tile on floors in kitchens, bathrooms, high traffic areas and outdoor spaces. For a smooth transition between indoor and outdoor spaces, the tile colors can be identical—it is simply the texture that changes. New anti-slip technology allows the tile to feel quite smooth when it is dry. The tile feels fine on bare feet; not the harsh sandpaper feel of traditional anti-slip tile. However, when the tile is wet a change is created in the body of the tile. The hydrophilic properties are changed in water so that the tile achieves a higher slip resistance.



Photo: Courtesy of Aparici (<http://www.aparici.com/en/>)



Photo: Courtesy of Vives (www.vivesceramica.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Ann Sacks (www.annsacks.com)

Island of the Future

An island is one of the most highly desired features homeowners want in their remodeled kitchens. This new Monogram Kitchen Island concept is a multifunctional glass-ceramic surface that will provide plenty of space to cook, eat, connect, and party all in one elegant and expertly engineered unit. The luxury appliance will launch by 2019.

The Kitchen Island includes a 36-inch Monogram five burner induction cooktop with built-in glide-touch controls concealed beneath a 94-inch by 43-inch sheet of black glass-ceramic. Glass-ceramic is a unique material that is easy to clean, cool to the touch, and with near-zero thermal expansion. An optional wireless cooking probe is available for sous vide cooking. A warming zone in the Kitchen Island can warm appetizers or keep chocolate at the perfect temperature for fondue. The glass-ceramic also has wireless charging capabilities in spots throughout that can power cordless countertop appliances, as well as charge mobile devices.



DECORATIVE ISLAND PENDANTS

One of the most important aspects of your kitchen is the lighting. Without appropriate lighting, it is difficult to perform the prep work, cooking and clean up that your busy kitchen requires. Be sure to include overall general lighting that brightens the kitchen, eliminating dark corners. Recessed ceiling lights, as well as natural daylighting from large windows and skylights, perform this function. Under cabinet energy efficient LED strip lights, along with pendants installed over the island, focus directly on the tasks at hand—illuminating your work space.

Beyond functioning as task lighting, island pendants also add a decorative touch to your kitchen. They provide you the possibility of personalizing and transforming the space, making a statement that enhances your existing design. Today's light fixtures are designed to appeal to a multitude of tastes—ranging from updated traditional and mid-century modern to vintage industrial and contemporary. Current innovative trends in decorative lighting fixtures feature bold asymmetrical and mixed-metal designs (especially natural brass and black), and rich gold finishes. Depth, dimension and geometric interest come together to give these light fixtures an uncommon style.

"We're continuing to see formal spaces in the home phasing out and consumers morphing large gathering rooms together," says Tia Bahr, senior product manager at Kichler. "This allows an opportunity for them to tap into their personal style with unconventional lighting options—the use of larger linear chandeliers or oversized pendants—in these spaces."



Peak Condition

Time to Upgrade Your Kitchen

The Latest in Tile

Island of the Future



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Time to Upgrade Your Kitchen?

If your home is still in excellent condition, but your kitchen is outdated in appearance and function, contact Glaze Design-Build for a kitchen upgrade. Our project approach is practical and efficient, and our clients have all been favorably impressed with each phase in the process, from our initial planning phase right through to the final construction phase. We begin with your vision for the space. We then develop a comprehensive plan, taking into account your vision, the realities of construction and the amount you have to spend for the project. That plan, developed at the very beginning, becomes the basis for your project's budget, making it so that the entire project remains within your price range.

You may have spent years cramped in your kitchen at meal prep time, isolated from the rest of the family's activities. Removing a wall, for example, could open up a million new possibilities for interaction with your family and better efficiencies in the entire food preparation process. This simple move could provide the opportunity to lay out the cabinets differently to better meet your needs. You could even incorporate an island where your family can gather and help during meal preparation and other family activities. During the process you'll also have the opportunity to include on-trend updates, such as subway tiles for the backsplash, an undermount kitchen sink with a single handle pull-down spray faucet. LED task lighting mounted under the wall cabinets will illuminate the countertop to help with food prep.

After the planning phase, our remodeling work will proceed according to plan and timetable. The end result will be a kitchen more beautiful and functional than you have imagined! Contact Glaze Design-Build for a positive remodeling experience.



Beautiful Kitchens by Glaze Design/Build



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