

# Tile

## Trendspotting in 2019



by Sara Bederman

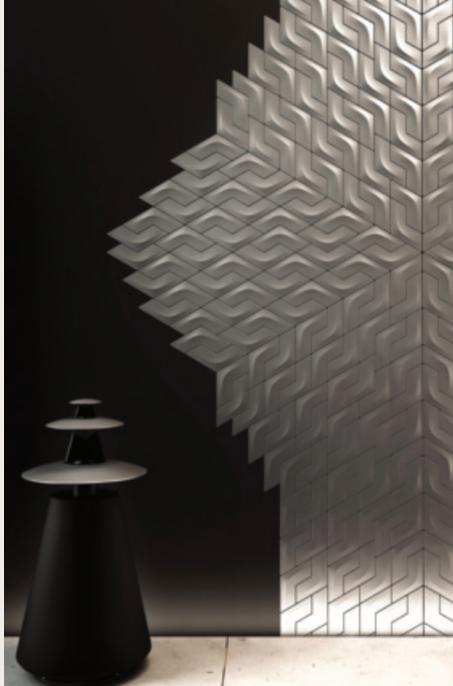
**T**ile has become one of the year's most under-rated decorating trends, and it's only picking up speed. Tile is equally beautiful and practical as a finishing option for floors, walls and even ceilings – and what a striking statement that makes! But one mention of tile, most people's thoughts turn to the traditional square tiles in kitchens and bathrooms. As a designer, I challenge everyone to think outside the square-shaped box – literally. Here's how tile is playing out in some unexpected ways.

### Look forward... to throwbacks!

Subway tile has become an interior mainstay in the last decade or two. Inspired by New York transit stations from the early 20th century, the trend is a clean and simple aesthetic ideal for kitchens and bathrooms. To take this look to a new level, look at subtle variations on the classic rectangle form. The *Sfumature* By Quintessenza Ceramiche collection is an elongated hexagon that creates a trendy honeycomb pattern when laid out. It's different enough to get your attention but subtle enough to work with your existing finishes.

When selecting multiple tiles for a single space, I like to combine different scales, shapes and layout patterns to achieve balance and create visual interest. In a recent project, I created a feature wall by framing out a section of wall behind this beautiful pot filler, which was then tiled in a sophisticated herringbone pattern, and surrounded by a more neutral selection, such as subway tile.





## Beyond two-dimensional

For a future-forward aesthetic, three-dimensional tiles are a wonderful option for many of us. Versatile Arc 3d Tiles feature raised patterns with a decidedly modern aesthetic. Depending on how light and shadows hit their surface, these tiles create an ever-changing, arresting focal point for the room. Short of sculpting your actual walls, these tactile, high-profile tiles will transform any surface into a true work of art.

## Down to the details

When finishing your projects we all understand that the details count. Don't let the "little things" fall by the wayside. I have two words for you: "metal inlay." This is one of my favourite tile trends and a great way to up the ante when it comes to luxury. It's sleek; striking, yet subtle. The really beautiful thing about these tiles with metal inlay is their versatility. It offers many benefits from the pattern play of the inlay, without committing to courageous shape or colour that might be played out in a few years. Metal-inlaid tiles are

neutral and they certainly have staying power.

Many designers, like myself, like to use tile at every opportunity. What other product out there offers this much by way of function and fashion? Add to this the diverse range of styles, materials and price points now today and you'll find it is a great product to use and offers many benefits you just cannot go wrong. Think outside the box, get creative and don't be afraid to try some of the latest offerings ahead to create further textural interest. **od**

Photos courtesy of SS Tile and Stone



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