

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Bringing Hotel Styles Home

(NAPSA)—Four-hundred-thread-count sheets, faucets embellished with semiprecious stones and gorgeous marbles, porcelains and granites may sound like the stuff of grand hotels, but increasingly, they're becoming commonplace in American homes.

That's the word from designers who say that many homeowners who have stayed at boutique or luxury hotels around the world have developed a sort of "hotel envy" and have found ways to bring some of their favorite hotel design elements home with them.

"Elegant hotels, small and large, are informing many of the decisions we are making in our homes today. Especially in the intimate rooms, like the bath and master bedroom, which are being turned into divine retreats," says Ellen Cheever, ASID, CKD/CBD, author, and owner of Ellen Cheever & Associates.

Cheever explains that unique finishes are key to making these spaces extra special. She suggests looking into new types of ceramic products being developed in Spain because they provide both form and function.

For instance, Tile of Spain ceramic tile makers now offer products that are at home in the hospitality world and in a house.

New technologies now allow elegantly "tufted headboards," extra-durable wainscoting and easy-to-clean, "wood-inspired" floors and walls to be created out of ceramic tile. These looks can



New types of ceramic tiles from Spain are bridging the gap between hotel chic and at-home style.

help bring the style of a specialty boutique hotel to life in residential bedrooms, baths, libraries and dining rooms. Plus, they offer the added benefits of longevity and easy care.

"One of the most popular design trends for boutique hotels around the globe has been the incorporation of ceramic wall tiles," says Cheever. "Now we are seeing a resurgence of this medium in residential spaces. Ceramic tile is desirable not only because it's extremely easy to clean and therefore more sanitary than other wall applications, but because its design possibilities are nearly endless."

For more information, visit www.spaintiles.info.