

Decorating Trends

New Tiles From Spain Are Very Far From Plain

(NAPSA)—Durable and easy to clean, today's ceramic tiles are no longer small, single-colored squares. They have grown in size, gracing floors and countertops, and can be molded to fit practically any shaped surface.

The most recent advancements in ceramic tile design capture the visual appeal of wood, steel and stone, and merge their looks with the durability of ceramic tile.

The result is a ceramic tile that has the look of wood, but is not threatened by water damage, and a ceramic surface that looks like steel or stone, with greater durability and longevity.

Spain continues to be the world leader of manufactured ceramic tile, with more new stylish and innovative products than anywhere else. Tile of Spain, Spain's ceramic tile industry brand representing over 220 ceramic tile manufacturers, has led the world's ceramic industry in incorporating natural beauty with the benefits of tile. They call this trend "Solid Inspirations."

One such manufacturer from Spain—Tau Ceramica—recently introduced the Metal Stone series from their Tau Metallica collection, a collection of metal-and-stone-inspired ceramic tiles. These slabs of modern tile take on a natural look with oxidized-looking tiles with orange and brown hues, dark gray tiles with hints of lighter gray shades, and beige-colored tiles resembling polished concrete.

"Fabulous Fabrications" is a trend that re-creates the comfort and style of classic fabrics and luxurious animal hides onto the surfaces of ceramic tiles. Plaza Ceramicas, a Tile of Spain Manufacturer, has created a beautiful example of this trend with tiles resembling



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classic men's suiting fabric, in dark grays with subtle detailing.

"Tactile Tiles" plays upon light with grooves and reliefs etched into their tiles, adding visual and tactile appeal to the tile's surface. The effect created is a modern, fresh and colorful tone perfect for bars and restaurants, as well as modern homes wishing to add light and contrast.

Tres Estilos' Ecology Dimensions Collection introduced a 12" x 12" tile slab that held a series of smaller tiles on its surface. Each small metallic tile was beveled to show texture and reflected light to give any room instant modern appeal.

Another innovation is the ability to create slip-resistant tile surfaces for the food service industry, exterior patios exposed to the elements, and other similar areas. For instance, Roca has its Millennium series—rectangular tiles with grooves in the surface creating a rough, slip-resistant surface.

For more information, visit www.spaintiles.info.