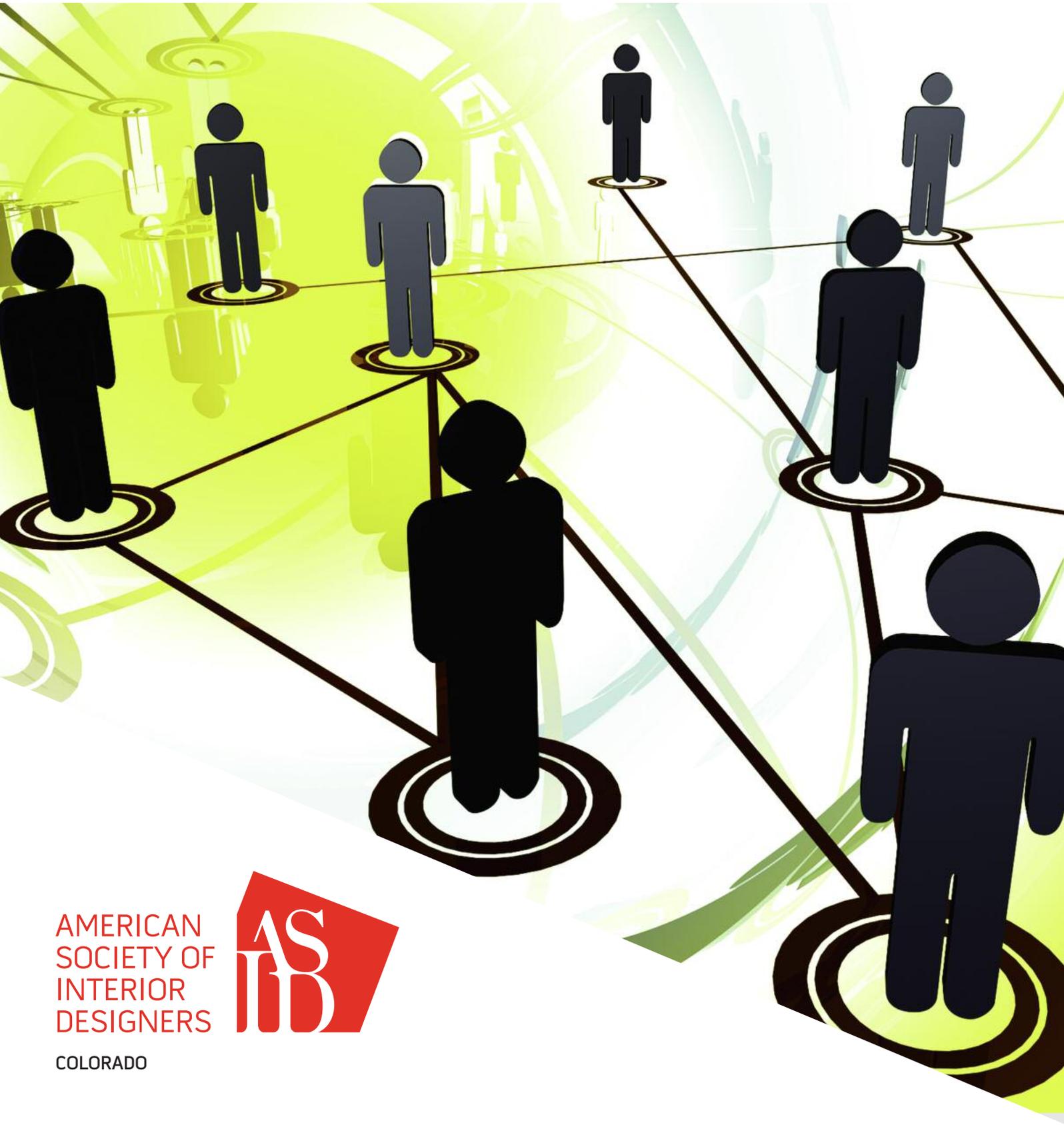


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Latest and Greatest for 2011 & 2012

Submitted by Philosophy Communication

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In a world where a trend may be a flash in the pan, it is important to stay current and know what the next hit is and what fad will fizzle before the year is over. Especially when it comes to such permanent and lasting tile and stone features like backsplashes, vanities and floors, choosing wisely is crucial.

One of the best places to learn what's hot and what's not is at Coverings, the only comprehensive tile and stone expo that sets the precedent and delivers the inside scoop on the most cutting edge designs and technology. After attending this year's show, we learned what we can expect in the years to come. Large-format rectangles, dimensional carved stone, geometry and texture, and new applications of slab glass round out the future of stone, tile and ceramic.

Large Format Rectangles

In the past, especially in the United States, tile has been used to accent and embellish a room, but by no means as a primary material for covering surfaces. Today, we're seeing large-format rectangles being used to provide a sleek and unified feel that can be difficult to achieve with standard-sized tiles.

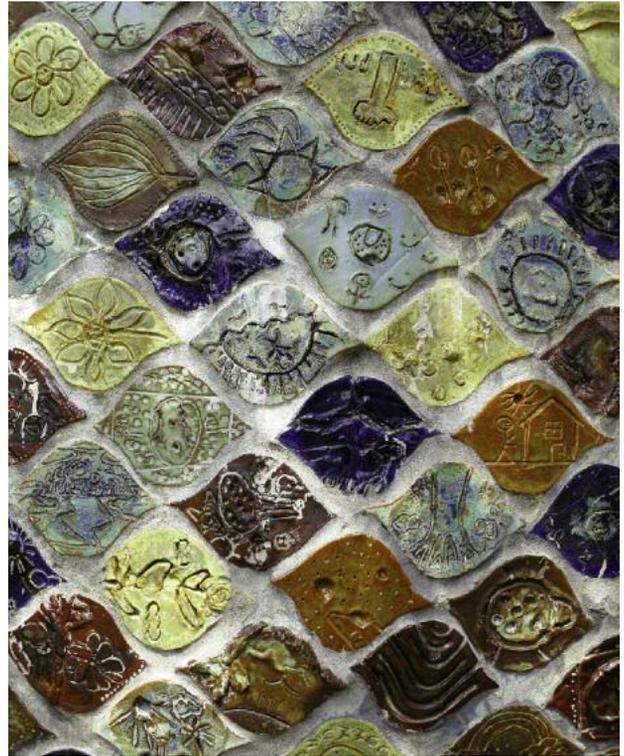
With large format tile options ranging from 12"x24" and 18"x36", the options are limitless. One of these stunning options is the barely there SLIM. This imported Italian porcelain is only 1/8" thick and has a fiberglass back that provides a smooth and seamless flooring option, without the freight cost. While U.S. designers have used tile on a dainty scale, the Italians have been using tile and stone as a main decorative feature for centuries. The large tile options coming out of Italy are breathtaking.

Dimensional Carved Stone

Today, when we think about tile, we now think "touch." The tile being developed today is so enticing to feel that you're instantly compelled to touch it. A great example featured at Coverings, Ziva won the 2010 Best of the Year Award by Interior Design Magazine. It is available in several stones with a hand carved sculptural undulating pattern, allowing individually crafted pieces with depth and exclusivity in each piece.

Geometry and Texture

Prepare to be bold. Interior designers are looking to use tile as a statement, and they are beginning to select the tile first and design the rest of the room around the artistic pattern. Geometric and textured wall and floor tiles are installed to create the unexpected. The patterns have shifted from traditional squares and rectangles to rhomboids, interlocking shapes, convex and concave tiles, trapezoids, and ellipses with the emphasis being on a sinuous elongated pattern.



Slab Glass

Glass tile is still hot but with a slightly new take - colorful recycled glass slabs up to 12 feet long! With a recycled content up to 100 percent, slab glass is the perfect sleek, modern element for any home or office space. Highly customizable with 15 different color options and a Ribbon or Crushed option, slab glass offers many design choices.

At the recent Coverings Expo, tile or stone took on a bolder, more prominent role in design. So the next time you are designing a room, think about how you can add texture through tile and stone. You'll be sure to achieve that aha moment from your client.

About Margot Hampleman

Founder and CEO of Decorative Materials International Limited, Margot Hampleman created Decorative Materials with the notion that stone and tile didn't have to be narrowed down to only three or four options. From there, Margot set out to look for designs and materials that were not being represented in the stone and tile world. In short order Margot had found artists from Oregon and Ohio and began marketing their products in Colorado. Over the past 22 years, Margot and Decorative Materials have evolved from a few samples on a felt and Velcro board to a thriving business with locations in Basalt, Denver and Edwards, Colorado.