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# The New Language of Tile

Interior designers are using tile in bold new ways. Decorative Materials' Kaitlyn Budzynski breaks down the trends shaping 2026. by Zoe Tanner

**T**ile is no longer playing a supporting role in interior design. Across the industry, architects and designers are using the material more boldly—covering entire rooms, introducing richer colors, and leaning into the character of natural stone.

Few people have a better view of these shifts than Kaitlyn Budzynski, marketing director at Decorative Materials, one of Colorado's leading luxury tile and stone retailers. Here, Kaitlyn shares the tile directions designers are embracing now—and where the material is headed next.

## BEYOND KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

According to Kaitlyn, tile is “increasingly being embraced throughout the home,” creating opportunities to introduce texture, pattern, and architectural presence in spaces that once relied primarily on paint or wood.

→ **Decorative Materials' collaboration with F&M Architects showcases the ever-evolving trends in the tile industry.**

## COLOR DRENCHING AND PATTERN

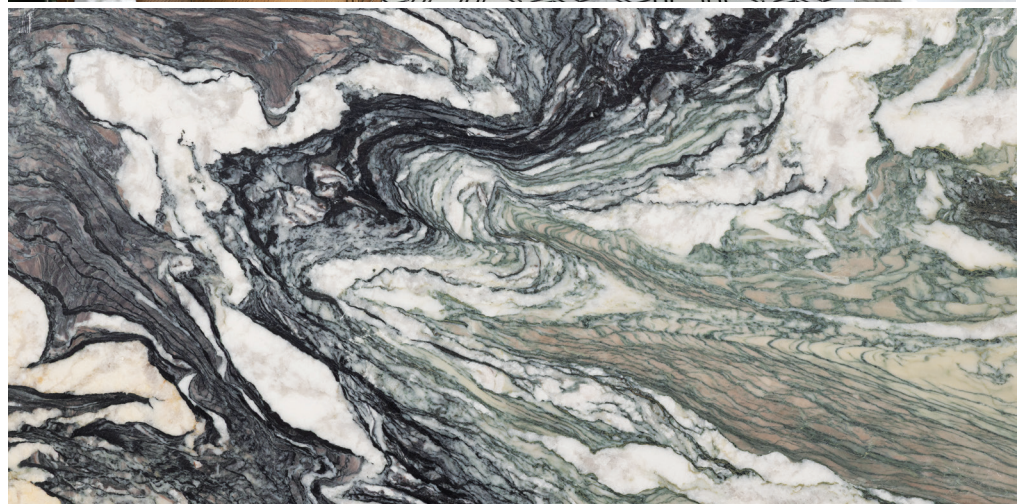
Rather than limiting tile to small applications, stylists are embracing it on a much larger scale. Designers are “color drenching” entire spaces and enveloping rooms in bold patterns or richly veined stone. The effect transforms tile from a practical surface into a visual experience.

## NATURAL STONE TAKES CENTER STAGE

Kaitlyn notes that artisanal craftsmanship and high-quality materials are increasingly driving design decisions. Natural stone in particular continues to gain momentum, appearing in a wide range of finishes. “We’re seeing a notable resurgence of tumbled surfaces,” she says, reflecting a broader interest in texture and organic character.

## COLOR MAKES ITS MOVE

While classic neutrals remain a staple, designers are beginning to experiment more confidently with color, offering new ways to introduce personality without sacrificing sophistication.



## A REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE

A recent collaboration between Decorative Materials and F&M Architects demonstrates how these trends come together. For the project (pictured), Decorative Materials consultants sourced a full wall of veined marble paired with an intricate mosaic floor. Polished brass hardware ties the composition together, creating a bathroom that feels calming, chic, and boldly expressive—an example of how tile can shape the entire narrative of a space.

## CHOOSING TILE THAT LASTS

For homeowners hoping to explore these trends themselves, Kaitlyn offers simple advice: choose pieces you truly love and invest in quality. “Tile carries a sense of permanence—unlike paint, it isn’t easily changed,” she explains. “Investing in timeless materials ensures both lasting beauty and long-term value.”

### DECORATIVE MATERIALS

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