

Out on the tiles

Have a little fun and dare to mix 'n match patterned tiles in unusual ways to create an eclectic on-trend look.

Compiled by Simone Borcharding
Photographs: Francois Oberholster and supplied



Shot on location at Kikka 021 872 0685, kikka.co.za



In the mix

Magdel van der Walt, owner of TinTown, was at a loss with what to do with the cracking cement floor in her living area, until inspiration struck: 'I had lunch with a friend at the High Road Brasserie in Chiswick about three years ago – it had been decorated by British décor guru Ilse Crawford and had the most beautiful floor I had ever seen!'

Back home, Magdel came across Stucco Italiano and Moroccan Warehouse, and began to recreate the patchwork effect, handpicking the colours and patterns to get the look just right.

'I had to physically lay out the whole room on the veranda so that the tiler could cement it row by row. You cannot believe how incredibly difficult it is for something to appear effortlessly random,' says Magdel of the new floor that perfectly suits her eclectic taste.

*Now... what should I do with these tiles?
- Simone, stylist*

Magic carpet

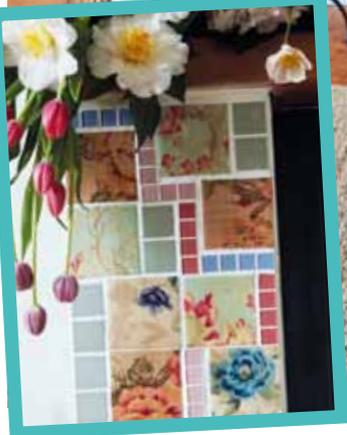
The original wooden floors at Kikka café in Paarl (left) were removed by the landlords because they'd rotted and were then replaced with cement floors. But owner Karike Conradie wanted something more unique. 'Our inspiration for the tile inlay was to repeat the beautiful original black and white tiles at the entrance to the building and reference our corporate colours,' says Karike, pointing out the tiled area 'rug' that defines the space.



Heike put a long oasis on the mantel and created a living artwork with flowers!

In full bloom

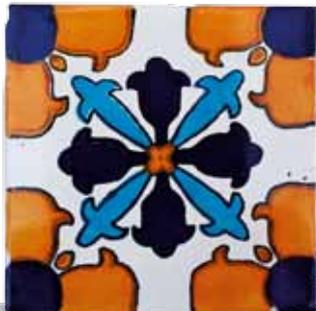
The original mustard and brown fireplace in this lounge looked dark and out of place after Heike le Cordeur, owner of Fleur le Cordeur in Paarl, gave the walls a fresh lick of mint-green paint. Motivated by an article on how to make your own tiles, Heike decided to try her hand at tiling both sides of the fireplace while keeping the original 120-year-old ones intact: 'I covered plain white tiles with glue, fabric and a type of enamel that makes the tiles water- and heat-resistant. The fabric I chose was fun, but at the same time still had the feel of a Cape Dutch home with a large garden full of flowers – the perfect combination for the house,' says Heike. >>



In style tiles

Intricately tiled surfaces date back to the ancient ruins of Egypt, Babylon and Greece, but continue to inspire modern day tile manufacturers. With so many gorgeous patterned tiles out there right now, it's hard to choose, but here are a few of our favourites...

Moroccan lantern tiles POR, Southern Art Ceramic Design



Simone's favourite!

Customised embossed tiles POR, Southern Art Ceramic Design

Top tile tips

Industry professionals share their thoughts on working with decorative tiles:

- ‘Plan your tiles from the beginning and design around the patterned tiles. That way, you will eliminate cutting at the edges,’ explains Gerrit Oosthuizen from Southern Art Ceramic Design.
- Jacqui Charles from Mosaic Works notes that when using a detailed pattern tile, it is important to lay your tiles out before installing them to ensure that the pattern layout is correct.

‘Use a non-abrasive grout when working with decorative gloss tiles to ensure that the surface of the tiles does not scratch,’ adds Jacqui.

- Clementina van der Walt from Clementina Ceramics believes mixing and matching patterns is a matter of personal taste, but suggests selecting contrasting colours balanced with interspersed patterns, faces and text.

- Consider your surroundings, and even bring some sample tiles home to see how they work in your space. It’s important that the tiles reflect the atmosphere of the area in which they are mounted.

- Be daring! ‘These tiles can work in so many different ways,’ points out Kundra Bowley from Moroccan Warehouse, who has the following suggestions: Have one pattern only; create a pattern with a border; mix all the patterns together for a patchwork effect; or group colours together like blues and greens, blacks and greys, or earthy colours.

- Jasmin Kraneveldt from Bathroom Bizarre proposes using tiles as a built-in headboard – another innovative and modern idea. ‘A permanent tiled headboard can add an interesting element of design to any bedroom,’ says Jasmin.

- ‘Remember to choose smooth glazed tiles for fireplace surrounds as porous tiles, such as natural stone cladding, will end up absorbing the soot, and it is nearly impossible to clean the soot from a porous surface such as this,’ points out Jasmin.

- Jasmin adds that a tiled feature wall is a perfect way to alter the ambience of a space, especially in smaller rooms where tiling a wall will add an element of style without cluttering the space. ‘Feature walls not only add interest to a room, but they can also draw attention to pre-existing architectural elements in your home.’

- Kerry Toy from KT Tiles likes to stick to a theme such as a combination of Moroccan, Persian, and Arabic designs – otherwise, she loves to mix and match, creating a punchy, contrasting effect.

Scattered series tiles POR, Southern Art Ceramic Design



Handmade ceramic tiles available in various patterns and colours from R35 each, KT Tiles



Vintage tiles R90 for set of four, Mosaic Works



Vintage Glamour tiles R90 for set of four, Mosaic Works



Gingham and Roses tiles R90 for set of four, Mosaic Works

Casa tiles available in various patterns and colours from R25 per tile or R600/m², Moroccan Warehouse



Handmade ceramic tiles available in various patterns and colours from R35 each, KT Tiles

Casa tiles available in various patterns and colours from R25 each or R600/m², Moroccan Warehouse

Did you know?

The Latin word ‘*tegula*’ and its French derivative ‘*tuile*’ are directly translated as ‘roof tile’. The word ‘ceramic’ comes from the Greek word ‘*keramos*’ meaning pottery and is related to an old Sanskrit root meaning ‘to burn’.

Source: designboom.com 🏠

STOCKISTS Bathroom Bizarre 0861 555 000 **Clementina Ceramics** 021 448 3203
Fleur le Cordeur 082 621 7455 **KT Tiles** 082 853 7481 **Moroccan Warehouse**
 021 461 8318 **Mosaic Works** 021 552 4870 **Southern Art Ceramic Design**
 083 232 9238 **Stucco Italiano** 021 982 0006 **TinTown** 021 426 2226