



# The Latest in Tile

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Photo: Courtesy of Saloni (www.saloni.com)



## Add Style with Tile

Make a color **POP**. Create a **3D effect**. Add a **bold** accent wall. **Brighten** a basement floor. These are just some of the uses for tile, an amazingly versatile building material that is waterproof, durable and easy to maintain.

At Atlanta Design & Build, we incorporate tile into four out of five of our remodeling projects. Kitchens, bathrooms, sunrooms, basements—any part of your home can be enriched by the vibrant look of tile!

Tile is most often used in bathrooms because it is waterproof. However, tile offers a wide variety of other advantages, including:

- **Non-Fading and Durable.** Tile outlasts paint, carpet and wood flooring and will look sparkling new for years with regular cleaning. Resistance to fading is especially advantageous when you add tile in a sunroom. You can even add wood-look tile to blend with wood flooring in an adjacent room.
- **Decorative.** The pleasing, geometric color patterns made possible with tiles add eye-catching accents to any type of room. A common example is the backsplash above the base cabinets. Modern homeowners have moved the idea into other areas of the home, from foyers to bedrooms. Bold colors can be used as trim, and mosaics can add stylish detail and depth.
- **Brightening.** One contemporary trend is to cover faded concrete flooring in basements with tile featuring vivid designs, to brighten

up rooms with few if any windows. Another popular idea is to replace dull or faded brick or stone around a fireplace with more vibrant-looking tile.

- **Protective.** Replacing carpet or wood flooring with tile can protect your floors against water leaks and other types of damage such as scratching.
- **Easy to Clean.** Tile can look new for years if you take care of it on a regular basis. We provide each client with "Use and Care" recommendations, and we explain ratings for wheelchair use or standards for exterior use.
- **Warming (literally!).** We often install underfloor radiant heating in tiled areas, a healthy way to heat a space that feels wonderful underfoot. This type of heat is very popular in bathrooms and for sunrooms during the winter months. People enjoy it, and so do pets!
- **Exterior or Interior.** Tile is a wonderful way to add color to exterior spaces such as an outdoor living or dining area, since the sun's reflection can add another layer of attention-grabbing flair.

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Tile has always been a versatile product, but its versatility has been increasing steadily over the last several years because of new technology. Tile of Spain presented global design trends at CEVISAMA 2018, the International Fair for Ceramic Tiles and Bathroom Furnishings in Valencia, Spain. Coverings 2018, the largest international tile and stone show in North America, also featured amazing innovations in tile. Here are some of the exciting revelations brought out during the shows.

Due to the latest 3-D digital printing technology, tile has taken on the convincing look and form of many other materials that are three dimensional—from vintage stone slabs, terrazzo, and cork to industrial-look concrete, rusty Cor-Ten steel, and rough hardwood boards. It is difficult to see the difference between the tile and the material it mimics, but the advantages of choosing tile are many: it is durable, hypoallergenic, mold and mildew resistant, and easy to clean. Tile can also be used in locations and for purposes that were previously unimaginable.

Some of the new fashionable statements tile is making today include: small, square, rustic tile in place of subway tile; glossy ink added to terrazzo-look tile to make the chips glossy with a patina around the edges; wallpaper inspired tile designs on large-format thin slabs that can reach from floor to ceiling; cleaner, less-distressed concrete looks that are more refined. Artisan craft tiles offer no two pieces that are alike—different chemicals are added to each tile so the radiance of the finishes are distinct. Metallic effects on tile, such as gold and platinum, are still very popular. A “sinking ink” process produces a heightened result in tile with relief.

Marble and stone looks for tile continue to be in style, but the appearance is more natural and realistic than ever before. The veining in tile that perfectly mimics the look and feel of marble is getting softer, finer, more diffused and more sophisticated. Multiple finishes are available, going beyond the usual high gloss.



Photo: Courtesy of Natucer  
([www.natucer.es/en/index](http://www.natucer.es/en/index))

Unlike actual stone, the benefit of porcelain tile is that it can be used for any application since it is nonporous and stain resistant.

Internationally, the classic tile colors of white, gray and black are still very much in style. In addition, saturated earth tone colors—ochers, terra cottas, blues and greens—are on the upswing in Spain and Italy, some of the major tile manufacturers that import to the U.S. It is expected that these colors soon will become popular among designers and homeowners in our country as well. Creamy, off-white tones are on a comeback as well.

The technologically advanced manufacturing processes allow tile to combine function and efficiency. For example, large porcelain tiles are now designed to be used as floors, wall surfaces and countertops—an all-in-one surface for kitchens and bathrooms. The tile is produced in a variety of thicknesses, since walls, indoor flooring and outdoor flooring have different requirements. A smooth porcelain countertop can serve as an induction cooktop when an induction warmer is mounted under the surface. There is no resin in the tile, so this same countertop may be used to prep, cook and eat food.

Anti-slip technology allows safe placement of tile on floors in kitchens, bathrooms, high traffic areas and outdoor spaces. For a smooth transition between indoor and outdoor spaces, the tile colors can be identical—it is simply the texture that changes. New anti-slip technology allows the tile to feel quite smooth when it is dry. The tile feels fine on bare feet; not the harsh sandpaper feel of traditional anti-slip tile. However, when the tile is wet a change is created in the body of the tile. The hydrophilic properties are changed in water so that the tile achieves a higher slip resistance.



Photo: Courtesy of Aparici (<http://www.aparici.com/en/>)



Photo: Courtesy of Vives ([www.vivesceramica.com](http://www.vivesceramica.com))



Photo: Courtesy of Ann Sacks ([www.annsacks.com](http://www.annsacks.com))

# Island of the Future

An island is one of the most highly desired features homeowners want in their remodeled kitchens. This new Monogram Kitchen Island concept is a multifunctional glass-ceramic surface that will provide plenty of space to cook, eat, connect, and party all in one elegant and expertly engineered unit. The luxury appliance will launch by 2019.

The Kitchen Island includes a 36-inch Monogram five burner induction cooktop with built-in glide-touch controls concealed beneath a 94-inch by 43-inch sheet of black glass-ceramic. Glass-ceramic is a unique material that is easy to clean, cool to the touch, and with near-zero thermal expansion. An optional wireless cooking probe is available for sous vide cooking. A warming zone in the Kitchen Island can warm appetizers or keep chocolate at the perfect temperature for fondue. The glass-ceramic also has wireless charging capabilities in spots throughout that can power cordless countertop appliances, as well as charge mobile devices.

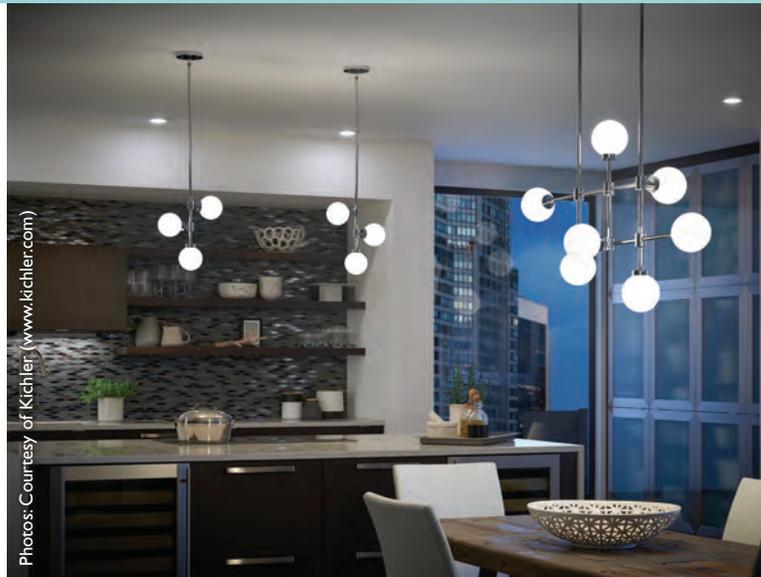


## DECORATIVE ISLAND PENDANTS

One of the most important aspects of your kitchen is the lighting. Without appropriate lighting, it is difficult to perform the prep work, cooking and clean up that your busy kitchen requires. Be sure to include overall general lighting that brightens the kitchen, eliminating dark corners. Recessed ceiling lights, as well as natural daylighting from large windows and skylights, perform this function. Under cabinet energy efficient LED strip lights, along with pendants installed over the island, focus directly on the tasks at hand—illuminating your work space.

Beyond functioning as task lighting, island pendants also add a decorative touch to your kitchen. They provide you the possibility of personalizing and transforming the space, making a statement that enhances your existing design. Today's light fixtures are designed to appeal to a multitude of tastes—ranging from updated traditional and mid-century modern to vintage industrial and contemporary. Current innovative trends in decorative lighting fixtures feature bold asymmetrical and mixed-metal designs (especially natural brass and black), and rich gold finishes. Depth, dimension and geometric interest come together to give these light fixtures an uncommon style.

"We're continuing to see formal spaces in the home phasing out and consumers morphing large gathering rooms together," says Tia Bahr, senior product manager at Kichler. "This allows an opportunity for them to tap into their personal style with unconventional lighting options—the use of larger linear chandeliers or oversized pendants—in these spaces."



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Island of the Future

Decorative Island Pendants



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Enriching Lives*

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## Choose from Many Types of Tile for Your Home

Atlanta Design & Build uses different types of tile to create showpiece rooms, always matched to the client's needs. Major tile types include:

- **Ceramic tiles** consist of a coating over clay, which is then fired. These tiles offer a potpourri of color and design. They are used in bathrooms, kitchens, and niches and on floors, walls, and ceilings. Manufacturers are starting to create ceramic tiles with characteristics similar to porcelain tiles.
- **Porcelain tiles** are currently the most popular type among homeowners. They are harder, solid through the body, impervious to water, impact resistant, and require less maintenance. Our clients tend to choose porcelain in place of natural stone because it can so convincingly imitate the look of wood and stone.
- **Natural stone tiles** such as travertine, quartzite and marble are typically used in smaller tile shapes. Natural stone is accent driven—used in small pieces in bathroom niches, backsplashes, accent walls, and fireplaces.
- **Glass tiles** have an unusual shine, depth, and texture, and they impart a contemporary look. Glass tile is used in smaller batches for bathroom walls and backsplashes—not on floors because it can be scratched.

Ceramic tiles used to be limited primarily to 4-, 6-, and 8-inch squares. Today's homeowner may choose from among far larger sizes including 16-, 20- and 24-inch squares. Larger squares not only offer more design choices, they also minimize grout lines and cleaning. Other tile types also come in larger sizes today, including wood-look tiles for floors and subway tiles for backsplashes.

When it comes to using tile to add style to your home, you are limited only by your imagination. Homeowners today enjoy an unprecedented breadth of choice among colors, patterns, sizes, and types of tile. We encourage you to start thinking about all the different ways you can use versatile, vibrant tile to turn areas of your home into spectacular focal points for the eye!

