

Taking tiles to a whole new dimension



KATE DAVIDSON
INSPIRED
LIVING

Shape has become a trending tool in the designer's arsenal. It's everywhere, from patterned textiles and wallpapers, to flooring and finishing touches.

As a designer, tile is among my favourite elements to work with. Aside from being practical and beautiful, tile is also ultra-versatile. From its simple square origins to wild variations in geometry and size, tile has evolved over the centuries into a modern must-have.

I return to it time and time again; with all the different options available, there's a style suited to every taste and budget.

Here are some tile trends that play with shape to create mood in your home.

The appeal of retro

There's something so trendy about tradition, and what's really trending these days is certainly steeped in history. I'm talking subway tile. The three-by-six-inch subway tile has enjoyed a big revival as of late. From its beginnings in the New York City subway system in the early 20th-cen-

ture, to a big revival in 2000s that's still strong today, this three-by-six-inch piece of history is gritty, utilitarian and authentic. You simply can't deny the appeal of retro. (In fact, keep your eyes open for the comeback of the classic six-by-six-inch tile!)

Micro-mosaics

Shape and pattern go hand in hand. When incorporating shape into your tile selections, think "small." The result is an intricate, richly detailed effect. Popular favourites include micro-circle mosaics. While these are more typical on walls as backsplashes (like a high-end wallpaper!), they look amazing as floor tiles as well.

These pair well with a larger-scale, straight-edged tile. Think square, rectangular or even very popular now is the hexagonal, to balance the weight of micro mosaic's pattern and visual noise, and offset its round shape.

3D tiles

As long as we're thinking outside the square-shaped box, let's take this a step further and take it to the next level — or should I say, the "third dimension."

I'm talking about 3D tiles. These look amazing on walls, adding an ultra-modern, sculptural element to any room. Light and shadows play on their surface, for an ever-chang-



Come see Kate at the National Home Show, Saturday, March 16 at 5 p.m. on the Main Stage where she will talk about "Creating a home you'll love to come home to." For more information, visit <http://nationalhomeshow.com>.



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— **Kate Davidson is principal designer for Kate + Co. Design inc., a multi disciplinary interior design firm providing complete residential and commercial design services. Go to www.kateandcodesign.com and Instagram: [kateandcodesigninc](https://www.instagram.com/kateandcodesigninc).**

ing look that's ever the focal point.

One great city resource for tiles is CIOT with it's tile line that's modern without being over-the-top. Opt for a single colour for a clean, modern aesthetic, or think multi-coloured extremes in dark carbon, or crisp classic bright white and off-whites

Tile is an investment, and your

choices must reflect your style preferences, while providing enough longevity for interiors that inspire and excite, for years to come.

With that said, have fun with your interior finishing and decorating options. At the end of the day, the only people who really need to love your home, is you!

Dear Jane: Give us the black and white on colour



JANE LOCKHART
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We all love colour. Think back to when you were young, and you could choose any colour you wanted when you were drawing a picture.

Today, when it comes to surrounding yourself with colour there are no rules. Decide with your heart. Here now, are some common questions I get asked about colour, using Benjamin Moore's colour palette for the answers.

Dear Jane,

To make my rooms feel bigger what's better dark or light colours?

Cramped

Dear Cramped,

It's not colour, the issue is contrast. High contrast is when you put black up against white, like a tiled floor. The more contrast you have, the smaller a space feels because your eye has to work harder to distinguish contrast. So, low contrast would be white with white, or cream with cream, for instance. That's what you might choose for a light and airy feel. The only danger of low contrast rooms is it can get boring, pretty quickly, so add in accent colours or colourful accessories.



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Speaking of contrast, if you want to highlight light colours (like cabinetry, etc) you can make it look lighter and pop out more by adding a deep colour behind it. For example, honey oak kitchen cabinets will look lighter with a deep chocolatey — colour like Marshlands (CC-512), Davenport Tan (HC-76), or Alexandria Beige (HC-77) behind it.

Dear Jane,

I have a lot of dark furniture; can I lighten up my room by painting the walls a light colour?

Underwhelmed

Dear Underwhelmed,

We don't get a lot of year-round light in northern climes, and in winter the amount of daylight we get is limited. Lightening the walls only will create a lot of contrast (see above), you may want to consider adding more sources of lighting, and replacing or painting the furniture so it blends. Walls don't have to be white to be light. Look at a taupe/beige like Benjamin Moore's White Down (OC 17) or if you still want a crisp white that is still warm, try Oxford White (CC-30).

For a brighter room you may want to look at colours with yellow in them but are not necessarily yellow, like Monterey White (HC-27). My go-to selection of light colours with some action in them are Stonington Grey (HC-170), Revere Pewter (HC-172) and Edgecomb Grey (HC-173), they tend to look good with everything.

Dear Jane,

My happy place is by the ocean and I want to bring that feeling into my home. I'm drawn to seafoam

and teal colours but find them too bright for my very, Canadian home. Any suggestions?

Beached

Dear Beached,

Ocean-colours are beautiful. You can achieve that look without the brightness with blues and bluey greens like Benjamin Moore's Mount Saint Anne (CC-710). It looks great with all wood tones.

Dear Jane

I love the look of a dark, painted accent wall. Is that out of style?

Confused

Dear Confused

Let's end the confusion. Accent walls are very popular and look fantastic if you have something to accent. I like to accent one wall and put something fabulous on it like a great mirror. My favourite accent wall colours are deep, rich and dark, like Kendall Charcoal (HC -166), Hale Navy (HC 154) and Willow (CC-542). Alternatively, wallpaper is back in style and makes a great accent wall statement.

Whether you want to make your front door stand out, or brighten up the inside of your home, do it with colour!

— **Jane Lockhart is a celebrity designer, TV personality and leading expert in the world of design. Visit www.janelockhart.com.**