

MANSION GLOBAL

DESIGNER'S CORNER

Go Bold With Patterned Bathroom Tiles

Whether modern or traditional, detailed tiles pair well with solids in the same color scheme, plus more pro design tips

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Each week, Mansion Global tackles a topic with an elite group of designers from around the world who work on luxury properties. This week, we look at designing with patterned bathroom tiles.

While countless baths feature unfussy backdrops, more bathrooms are embracing patterns--and through tile. Tile can be as attractive as it is functional, and much like a collectible piece of art, handmade rug or decorative wallpaper, it can spruce up an otherwise lifeless room. Designers select patterned tiles for floors, showers, accent walls and backsplashes, adding panache to baths.

"There are many types of patterned tile available, from ceramic and stone mosaics to concrete and Moroccan clay tiles," says Liz Caan of Liz Caan & Co., a full-service interior design firm in Newton, Massachusetts. "They make a bathroom unique, add a lot of character, and hide a multitude of sins."

But designing with pattern is no easy feat and often left to the experts for that reason. To elevate your bath with patterned tiles, take advice from these design pros:

Decide Between Traditional and Contemporary

"Patterned tiles work in every style; the difference lies in the type of pattern and the colors used. There are a fair number of classic pattern options--some examples include Alhambra and four-leaf clover. And you'll notice geometric and simpler patterns in contemporary homes. Either way, if you choose an uber-modern pattern or a traditional pattern, make sure you love it before it's installed. To be sure, order four samples of each deco tile so you can see the pattern together. On a side note: most deco tiles have multiple pattern options depending on how you lay the tiles out, so play around with the options.

"If you dream about the tile or if you're so excited about the look that you have to tell a friend, then you know it's the right fit. If it's a bold pattern, look at inspiration images online of how others have installed the tile, then see what emotions those images evoke."



Patterned tile above a vanity creates a unique backdrop in this bath designed by Etch Design Group.
Cate Black Photography

— Stephanie Lindsey, Etch Design Group in Austin, Texas